

UFO

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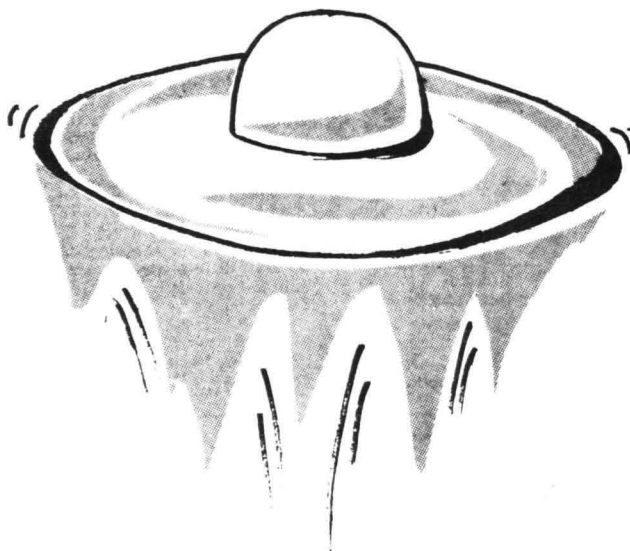
PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

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BEACON, Cannon Falls, MN - March 3, 1988



Plonsky confident what she saw was a UFO

by Jane Peterson

It was Friday, Jan. 15, but it's as clear in Debbie Plonsky's mind as if it had happened yesterday. Debbie saw what she is sure was a UFO.

She was driving about a mile and a half north of White Rock on Co.Rd. 8 when she saw it, fluorescent pink and glowing as it hovered on top of a hill. The time was about 7:40 a.m.

"It was the shape of the spaceships you see in cartoons, with a cap on top. There was nothing fuzzy or blurry about it," Plonsky said.

It was as long as two barns, she estimates, and so she stopped the car to get a better look. As soon as she did, her car radio went out as if something had suddenly affected the signal.

She looked at it for about 15 seconds, and then it was gone, without a sound, moving straight up and leaving a

vapor trail. Then her radio came back on.

Debbie took her children to the babysitter and headed to work at RAM Center. Her employer, curious about the sighting she described, went back with her later that morning to look for marks, but they found none.

They did see an airplane circling directly over the site as if looking for something. A nearby neighbor hadn't seen it, reporting that she hadn't been awake that early.

Her daughter, nearly 5, saw it too and drew a picture of it that day. She drew the same disk-shaped object as seen by Debbie, but colored hers a bright orange.

She kept the event quiet, or so she thought. But you don't have to tell very many people, she found out. What seemed like 50 people approached her the next day to ask about it.

PIERCE CO. HERALD, Ellsworth, WI
April 27, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

UFO sightings, suspicions reported around county

A mysterious object with flashing white, red and yellow lights seen over Ellsworth early Friday morning and strange lights and a humming sound seen and heard near a quarry outside Elmwood were reports logged as possible UFO's by Pierce County Sheriff's dispatchers.

Ann Steele, East Ellsworth, called police about 2:30 a.m. Friday, to say she'd witnessed an object, slightly smaller than a hot air balloon, hovering over the east end of town.

Steele described the object as having a flashing white light on top, yellow and red lights along the sides and was spinning when she observed it. Two friends of Steele's were walking toward Steele's apartment from Broadway Street when the sighting occurred and although the other women didn't see the object, both told police they "felt strange—as if they were in slow motion," according to police reports.

Shortly after 3 a.m., Saturday, Anthony Place of Elmwood reported seeing peculiar lights and a humming sound coming from near the Elmwood quarry. Place called again within the hour but investigation by deputies indicated the commotion was caused by a rock crusher operating at the quarry.

PIONEER, Brandenburg, KY - March 8, 1988

UFO sightings in Battletown continue on

By MARK BANDURKE
Staff Writer

People from the Battletown community are still seeing the same things they were two weeks ago — a white, unidentified flying object with different flashing lights.

Up until last week, the people of Battletown believed that they were seeing UFOs.

The object came into the sky, hovered above the treetops for about 15 minutes and then took off, leaving no trace as to what or where the object went.

Monday, Anita Johnston called this reporter and said she figured out what the people of Battletown were seeing.

"I went to the Haynes Cemetery and saw an object down at the river. A neighbor told me that the object was an impact crusher," the Johnston lady from Battletown said.

The object is covered with sodium deposits that leave the object glowing, Johnston said. Also, the crusher sits 20-30 feet off the ground so the barges will not hit it.

The crusher also has different colors that surround the machine to protect it from low flying planes and helicopters.

Johnston said that the object could be seen from the parking lot

at the Cold Spring Baptist Church.

On Monday afternoon, Rose Smith from Harrison County, Indiana, told the paper that the 'bologna' about the crusher was a bunch of bull as far as she's concerned.

She contends that she was lying on the sofa in her Indiana home when she heard this noise like she's never heard before.

"I've heard helicopters, planes, and about everything else in the world and it definitely didn't sound like anything I've seen," said the elderly woman.

The object came slowly across

the field with a very wide light flashing on the grasses.

The ship was round in shape, had different colored lights, and made a rustling noise.

This lady says she's seen the crusher across the river and it wasn't anything like it.

Smith said she never believed in UFOs before but seeing the object has put doubts in her mind.

Johnston said the sightings have become such a regular occurrence that people are now trying to get photographs of what they see. The object appears in the evening hours between 8 and 10 p.m.

PIERCE CO. HERALD, Ellsworth, WI
March 9, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

Strange lights, craft seen near Bay City Saturday night

BAY CITY—A close encounter with a fast moving, brightly lighted aircraft of some sort left a Bay City teenager and her friend frightened and questioning just what it was they witnessed Saturday night.

The 17-year-old girl, who asked her name be kept confidential, said a large object with two bright white lights on one end and a flashing red light on the other hovered directly over her vehicle before disappearing, about 10:30 p.m.

"It was about 20 feet above me with two lights right next to each other. We didn't hear anything so we know it wasn't an airplane or a helicopter," the girl said.

The girl first noticed the object high in the sky in the direction of Plum City or Elmwood shortly after she picked up a friend outside Bay City. Intrigued by the sight, they drove toward it to try and identify the object. But when it started moving her direction, the girl said she turned the car around and headed back toward Bay City. Within moments, it was hovering about 20 feet above the speeding car, she said.

Frightened, the girls tried to ignore the object and headed for Red Wing. Upon returning home, one told her mother about the sighting. The woman called the Herald Monday to ask whether anyone else had reported a similar occurrence Saturday night.

"She's a B student—really with it," the woman said of her daughter. "She does not tell stories like this."

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department didn't receive any reports of sightings or similar events over the weekend, a dispatcher said Monday.

REPORTER DISPATCH, White Plains, NY - March 18, 1988

Ultralights spark reports of UFOs in area

By David Flores
Staff Writer

Look, up in the sky, it's a blimp, it's a UFO...it's an ultralight aircraft.

A small group of ultralight aircraft with blinking lights were probably to blame for a rash of Unidentified Flying Object reports that jammed the switchboards of police departments in Westchester and Rockland counties between 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. yesterday, police said.

"I probably got 50 to 100 calls," said Peekskill state trooper Greg Porteus.

Other area police departments averaged between six and 10 calls while some 20 calls came into Gan-nett Westchester Newspapers reporting a large, round object with red and white or green lights floating over their communities.

According to Porteus, ultralights are small, quiet, open bodied, aircraft that can move at very slow speeds. A group of ultralight fliers from nearby Stormville Airport in Dutchess County have stirred up this type of commotion before, he said.

"The majority of residents

know who they are," Porteus said.

However, an employee who answered the phone at Stormville Airport said he didn't know if any ultralights took off from there last night.

Whatever it was, people in many parts of the county were left guessing and gaping.

"It just sort of stopped, it was hovering," said Cindy Alayne of Mount Vernon, who spotted it near her home. "You could see it was circular."

"Your classic type of saucer-looking thing," said Bobby Peters of Yorktown.

Peters said he was driving north on the Taconic Parkway in Yorktown with his brother Nicky about 10:10 p.m. when they saw the lights. "It was just such a perfect formation," he said.

Other motorists also stopped to see the sight.

"It was hovering and there were lots and lots of blinking red lights," said Mary Anne Morris of South Salem.

Morris said she saw whatever she saw between 9:45 p.m. and 10 p.m. while heading north on the Saw Mill River Parkway in Thorn-

"It was hovering and there were lots and lots of blinking red lights."

— Mary Anne Morris

"Your classic type of saucer-looking thing."

— Bobby Peters

wood. She said it was about 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the ground.

Bobby Peters said he wasn't quite ready to start believing in UFOs or little green men. However, he's not convinced that they're ultralight aircraft, either.

"They gotta be pretty darn good to fly in that formation," he said.

Porteus said that the after-hours flying aces are a nuisance, causing undue mental anguish to area residents.

"It's dangerous," he said. "Some people get very upset about it."

Unusual sightings cause stir in Foreman

By DOUG MYERS
Of the Gazette Staff

FOREMAN, Ark. — Eula French was sitting in a living room chair late Tuesday, talking on the telephone, when she said she first spotted the bright colored lights.

"I first thought it was a car," said Ms. French, 19. "But when it (the light) turned green, I screamed. I went to bed. I covered my head. And I didn't go back to sleep... I was too scared."

Some in this city of 1,377 people believe Ms. French was describing an unidentified flying object. They, too, say they have seen the unexplained light flickering across the sky around Foreman and Ashdown.

Others, however, believe Ms. French saw only a bright, twinkling star and that some of their neighbors are letting their imaginations run away with them.

But whatever it is, it has caught the attention of people in this part of Southwest Arkansas.

More than 100 residents gathered along a rural road about four miles off of state Highway 32 east of Foreman Friday night, hoping to locate a flying object with pulsating lights.

J.R. French, 31, said he saw a bright red flashing light "come close" to him on Anderson Lateral Road, about six miles east of Foreman, on Thursday.



Margaret Sharp, 23, attempts to relocate a light which she says chased her and two friends down state Highway 41 at about 10:15 p.m. Tuesday night. As Ms. Sharp describes the light, Robbie and Belinda Taaffe also try to locate the UFO in the sky.

"I couldn't tell the shape, but it (the light) came close and it was bright," he said, adding that he and a friend, Dale Gillihan, 30, traveled on horses and three-wheel motorcycles into a pasture Friday searching for the light.

Stephanie French, 23, another

member of the French family, said the lights have moved close to Foreman's Southwestern Arkansas Power Plant on several occasions since Tuesday.

"I think it's trying to get power," Stephanie French said. "Before the night's over, it's going

to move over there by the power plant again."

Deanna Irvan, Terri Jeanes and Margaret Sharp, all of Foreman, said the bright lights chased them when they were traveling on state Highway 41 south of Foreman about 10:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Mrs. Sharp, 23, said the orange object with pulsating red, green, blue and yellow lights appeared and disappeared after shining a white light toward their vehicle.

"It started gaining on us, and we got up to 115 miles per hour," Terri Jeanes said. "It was first behind us, then it moved to the driver's side."

"By that time, I was in the floorboard," she said. "I didn't care."

Bobby McKellar, 17, a student at Ashdown High School, said he and his friends spotted the lights and chased it, before a friend took some photographs of it. But he said the pictures had not been developed as of late Friday.

A Dallas-based group that investigates reports of unidentified flying objects is expected to be in the area today.

U.S. Air Force officials at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, La., could not offer an explanation for the sightings on Friday. But a base spokesman said the reports from Little River County would be investigated.

PIERCE CO. HERALD, Ellsworth, WI - Feb. 17, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

Close encounter frightening for Forsters

(Reprinted from the March 13, 1975 edition of the Elmwood Argus)

"I was always an unbeliever as far as UFO's were concerned," Mrs. Alfred "Bud" Forster of rural Elmwood said. "But I am not anymore."

It all started when she and her three children, Mary, 9, Ann Marie, 5, and Tom, 4, were returning home about 8 p.m., March 2 from visiting her parents in Arkansas. The Forsters live in between Elmwood and Eau Galle.

The noticed what they belived to be a particularly bright star soon after they started out and she laughingly said they even sang "Star Light, Star Bright". As they continued homeward, she noticed the star seemed to stay right with them, but didn't think too much about it.

She went through Eau Galle and when she turned the corner toward the Jack Baier farm, the bright "star" started dipping lower. She stopped the car and considered driving in th Baier farm but told herself she was just being foolish and continued on.

As she neared the Mrs. Carl Weber farm, the "star" was drifting just over the treetops and she decided to stop at the Weber farm. Mrs. Weber's son, Roger, was there with his two children, John and Laurie, and they all observed the light. He told her that it definately was not a "star" but that it could possibly be some kind of satellite.

She was reassured and warned him not to tell anyone how foolish she was, she started for her home that was

about three miles away.

She had gone only a very short distance when the object gently settled down in front of her car and appeared to be preparing to land. She said it looked like two saucers that had been put together and was white in color with lights all around it. The lights were not intense so they could look at it and see the stick-like legs that protruded from the bottom. She said it was not large. It appeared about the size of a car but more circular.

The children were very frightened and were screaming and crying. She put the car in reverse and backed to the Weber farm. She blew the horn so that they knew something was wrong. The object then rose in the air above the trees but was still visible to the Webers when they came out of the house to see what was the trouble.

Roger Weber took his car and drove in front of hers and saw that she and the children arrived home safely. The object did not come down again but was still visible and reportedly, its lights glowed an orange color.

Mrs. Forster said she hesitated to tell anyone about her experience for fear they would think she had just imagined it. However, she has found that there have been a number of people who have seen UFO's in the area in the past few weeks.

Whatever it was, Mrs. Forster and her children would rather not have it settle down in the road ahead of them again.

HUDSON DISPATCH, Union City, NJ - March 18, 1988

ONLY AIRPLANES

UFOs over area?

Police are flooded with telephone calls

By NINA SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

JERSEY CITY—Local airports and police stations were flooded with calls about an unidentified flying object glowing with lights that was seen roaming along the waterfront coast last night.

The "UFO" was in fact eight or nine planes flying in formation, according to police officers and airport officials.

Teterboro Airport received at least 200 reports of a UFO, an official said.

Between 15 and 20 left their cars at Paterson Plank Road and Congress Street to gape at a blimp-shaped object with white and red lights, according to police Officer Harry Sandwith Jersey City, who joined the crowd with three other officers. The crowd watched for five minutes as the pattern of lights traveled up the river and disappeared, Sandwith said.

The object was "a mass of green lights with red lights flanking," police Officer James Blake said, adding that he sighted the object about 9:20 p.m. on the Manhattan side of the river. The object made a "slow wide turn" and headed north, Blake said.

Blake kept the sitting to himself when he walked into the East District until he learned that his supervisor had just gotten off the phone with a caller who reported seeing a similar object.

A long shining mass was seen on this side of the river by

Michael Wiercanski of North Bergen about a half-hour later. Emitting a humming noise, the object hovered over his house on Grand Avenue near Ninth Street, Wiercanski said. It then turned, changing into an indescribable shape, and headed upstate. Neighbors and family members of Wiercanski also reported seeing the object, he said.

Fairview police Officer John Blunt said he saw a strange mass flying directly above him at the Fairidge Shopping Plaza.

"From a distance I didn't know what it was," Blunt said. But, when it got closer, he said he saw that the mass was comprised of planes flying together in a Y-like shape. The formation was first headed south, and then turned back into the direction it came from, Blunt said.

About eight or nine planes were coming from the south onto a runway at Newark Airport about 10:30 p.m., according to Lt. James McGovern of Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police. The planes had blinking lights, McGovern said.

But, Sandwith said the pattern of lights he saw from Paterson Plank Road was "moving too low and too close together" to be planes in formation.

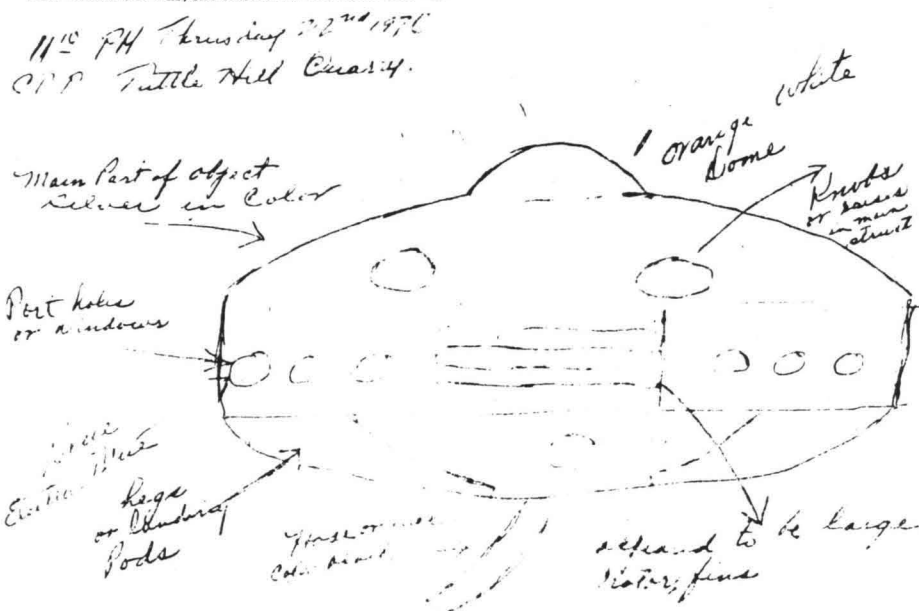
The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle received an unusually high number of calls by 10:45 p.m., according to staff member Robert Gribble. Normally, the center averages six calls a day, but yesterday 13 calls came in, all from New Jersey and Westchester County, N.Y.

But many remained unconvinced there was a UFO.

"If it was for real, we'd be getting a lot more calls," said Lt. Jack Schmidig of the Bergen County Police Department. "No one is treating it seriously yet."

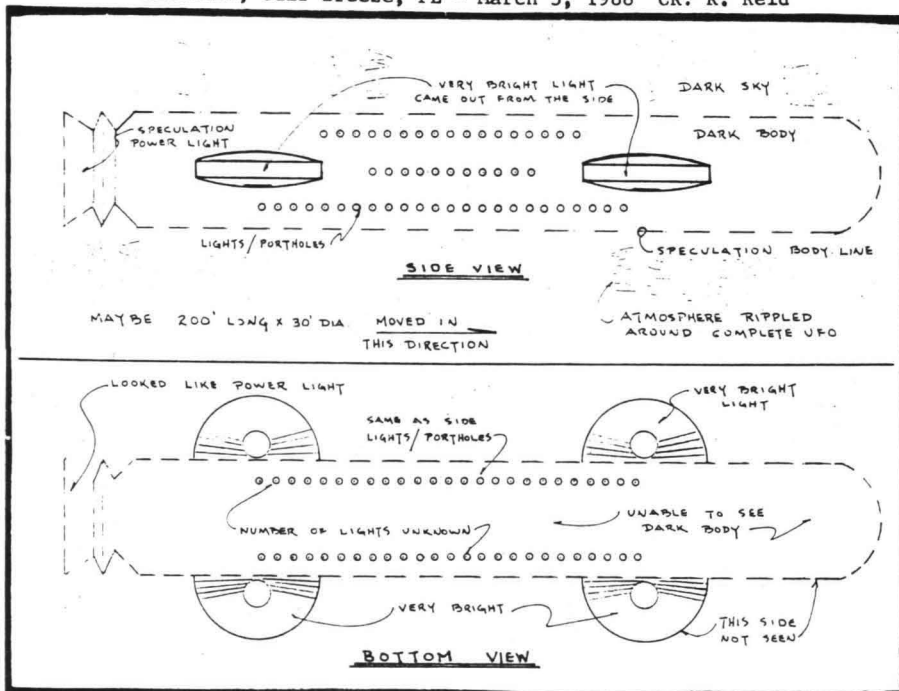
"It's St. Patrick's Day," Schmidig said. "It's somebody with a good sense of humor."

Staff Writers Walter Owen and Judy Temes contributed to this report.



THIS IS THE DRAWING scrawled by Elmwood police officer George Wheeler after his encounter with an unidentified flying object on April 22, 1975. Wheeler was

hospitalized for several days as a result of being struck by a blue light emitted from the craft.



February 26, 1988 at 9:30 p.m. at Shoreline Park South, ten photographs were taken of a UFO. The photographer used a special MUFON four-lens 35mm camera specially designed to photograph in 3-dimension. The camera was sealed and "control" shots taken as a guarantee against tampering. The camera is due to be opened by breaking

the seal with the news media present. The above drawing was made to show what the photographer remembers. "It was very dark and the lights are what showed clearly. There was also a strange disruption to the atmosphere that surrounded the UFO. Kind of a rippling effect that danced around the complete craft. It was Big - Real Big!"

UFO Update...

BY DIANA K. HANSEN

The *Sentinel* continues to receive reports of UFO sightings. It seems that in all the excitement over the Gulf Breeze sightings, everyone is on the lookout for UFO's. As we receive these calls, we will pass on the information that comes into our office.

We continue our update with these reports:

John Fletcher was returning to Gulf Breeze from the beach last Sunday at 9:45 p.m. As he drove north across the Bob Sikes Bridge, he noticed strange lights off to his right, over the sound.

"I've lived on the water all my life and I've never seen anything like this before," he said of his sighting. He described "wired golden amber lights" that made up a circle and appeared to be about 25 feet over the water about 25 yards off the north shore of the sound.

He slowed down to watch the lights and noticed that the lights seemed to spin in a slow circular motion. He saw about six complete

revolutions before the lights went out one at a time. He estimated the diameter of the ring of lights to be about 20 feet.

Last Tuesday, around 8:00 p.m., **Debra Kneff** was on her way home from Pensacola. As she passed the Food World grocery store, she noticed a "yellowish-looking light" in the sky "above the trees but not as high as an airplane. It was bigger and brighter than a star and was moving slowly across the sky," she reported. "I didn't know what it was, but I knew it wasn't an airplane."

As Debra drove east on Hwy. 98, the light moved north across the highway toward the bay. Although she was very startled by what she was seeing, she turned left onto College Parkway and drove to the end of the street where she watched until the light "vanished" over the bay.

A 15 year old GBHS student was at the beach on Friday night with several friends. A friend pointed out some strange lights that

seemed to be hovering over Gulf Breeze. The group watched the lights for awhile until they moved out of sight. The teenagers could not see any particular shape and were unable to provide more details.

17 year old **Chris Poole**, a GBHS student, was at McDonald's at about 8:30 p.m. when some friends pulled into the parking lot and reported seeing a UFO from Hwy. 98. He went outside to look for the UFO with six other GB students. They all watched a large yellow light that appeared to be hovering over the bay "pretty low to the ground."

The light grew brighter, then dimmed and went out completely. When it reappeared moments later, the light was in a slightly different location. The students watched for about 10 to 15 minutes until the light disappeared.

If you have an information regarding UFO sightings, contact the *Sentinel* at 934-1200.

Kessler Answers Questions on UFO's & Government

"Astronomics is my field of expertise. What surprised me about a lot of people is that they think these are government crafts."

Kessler, who knows several top officials and generals, has a masters degree in astronomy and has taught astronomy on a university level. He gives three reasons why the United States Government could not be involved.

"I know that we as humans don't have the scientific capabilities to accomplish the flight activities exhibited in the photos. Also we have no national defense or a requirement for something with these capabilities," said Kessler, who indicated that the top capability the US has is the special jet fighter, the Harrier, which rises vertically at a slow pace and accelerates forward.

"The Harrier is the top of capability and has been for years - these UFOs have fantastic vertical acceleration and are much smaller in size."

"Lastly, if this were a top secret project, it would never be seen out buzzing around in civilian communities and over public highways."



Dave Kessler
Retired Air Force Test Pilot

"I believe there is not the slightest possibility that it could be a government project, therefore if they are valid photos, then the source of the UFOs must be extraterrestrial."

Recent Sighting By Gulf Breeze Family

WRITTEN BY ROBIN FUCHEK
(CHILDREN...Connie 11, Loren 9, Allan 8.)

Inspired by something in the sky over Tiger Point March 4, 1988, 6:45 p.m. Here's what we saw, driving on Ceylon Drive from Sabertooth Circle to Tiger Point Blvd.

Through the tree tops appeared to be a large heavenly body of some sort. As we cleared the trees it appeared to be moving. I stopped the car to make sure, and it continued to glide across the sky-an unwavering oval orange light. We watched for several seconds and there were no strobe lights or flashing wing lights such as an airplane or helicopter might have. There

were no trees between us and the object, but it winked out and then appeared again. Then, suddenly, several lights in different colors on one side of the orange glow began blinking rapidly, and a few seconds later the whole thing winked out again. We had tickets to Disney on Ice that night, and I began driving again, saying, "Well, it's gone-let's go." As we turned on to Tiger Point Blvd., the boys in the back seat yelled, "No, it's not-it's following us." Loren said, "Oh, my gosh-it's moving around all over." They described the motion as wobbling, but still seeming to chase the car. They wanted me to drive faster to get away, but it didn't bother us.

CR: R. Reid

TIMES, Salisbury, MD - April 21, 1988

UFOs In Annapolis Reported

By SUSAN CANFORA
Of The Times Staff

ANNAPOLIS — There's something strange happening in the skies above Annapolis and some people believe that's because UFOs are visiting the area.

"People are seeing rather strange objects that have a variety of lights," Bob Oechsler of Edgewater, Md., a member of the Mutual UFO Network based in Sequin, Texas, said today.

In mid-March, about 24 unusual sightings were reported, Oechsler said.

Generally, they have been described as looking like "a distant light, quite large, with rather unusual flight characteristics," he said. "They would go up and down, left and right, faster and slower, faster and slower. They had rather uncharacteristic flight patterns, uncharacteristic of commonly-known flying crafts, such as helicopters or airplanes," he said.

Oechsler, who said he spotted a cluster of five UFOs within the past few weeks in the Annapolis area, described them as appearing to be lights, which had the ability to turn from red to green to a shade of blue and pulsate at times. "When they left, all five of them just blinked out suddenly. They were all right there then, boom, they were gone," he said.

MOST OF THE sightings that have been reported to him have been reported on the Annapolis side of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge area. None was reported close to Salisbury, although he said he has on his desk unopened mail with return addresses from Salisbury, which could contain reports of UFO sightings.

He is asking anyone who spots unusual lights or crafts to write to him at P.O. Box 2000, Edgewater, Md. 21037.

"I don't know of anything within the technical realm of our society that is capable of performing in the manner in which I've seen these craft," Oechsler said. "It's probably not from this planet. As far as where they're from, I wouldn't know," he said.

No one who reported seeing UFOs said they noticed any life form in the craft, he said.

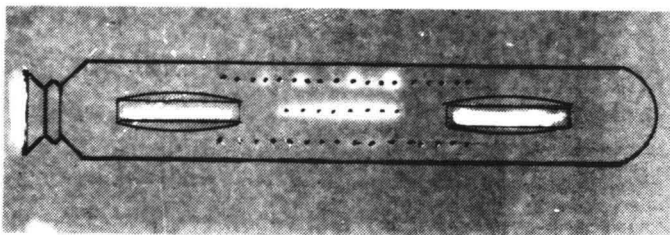
It appears that if the craft are UFOs that they are attracted to the Annapolis area because of naval experiments being conducted in the area, he said.

THERE HAVE BEEN no reports of the craft having contact with humans in Annapolis, although there have been such reports in Florida, he said.

Beginning April 5 and continuing for about one week, a satellite dish at Associated Press in Annapolis experienced evening outages, which some might suspect was caused by the UFOs. But Bill Powell, an AP technician in Baltimore who went to Annapolis when the satellite failed, said the problem was a malfunctioning dish and had nothing to do with outside interference.

A spokesman from the Bay Bridge Police said they have received no reports of UFOs.

UFO UPDATE...



Recent photograph taken with sealed MUFON camera with photographer outlining ship & Lights with pen

New "Ship" Revealed With 3-D Camera

BY DIANA K. HANSEN

The reports of the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings have become big news around town. When a press conference was called to witness the opening of the sealed MUFON camera, a crowd of about 30 photographers, writers, newscasters, MUFON members and "Ufologists" gathered in the Coast Photo shop on Barrancas Ave. to watch.

The camera was a Nimslo 3-D provided to "Ed" by the MUFON investigators. Just a few days before he had photographed what he believes to be a much larger UFO than the ones previously photographed.

MUFON international director, **Wait Andrus** addressed the press. "This is the first time in recorded

history that we've had the opportunity to work so closely with a witness as sightings are still being made...It was a one in a million chance that we could get something on film, but here we are." He added, "We don't know if anything will show up on this film. There are so many things that could go wrong."

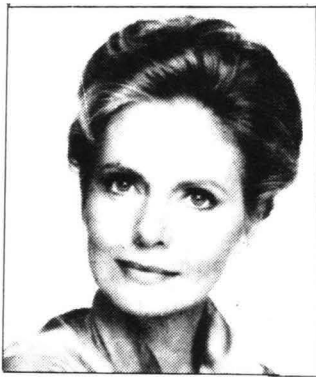
With the camera still sealed with wax, the spectators were able to witness the entire process of removal of the Kodak film, then the developing and printing.

As the pictures came through final processing, reporters were able to see small lights on the dark prints.

Enlargements were made in order to bring out as much detail as possible.

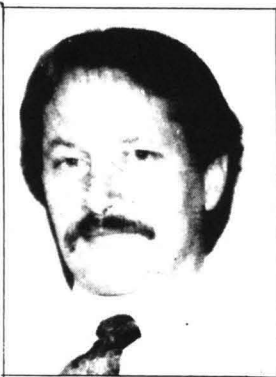
OPINION:

What Do You Think Of The Gulf Breeze UFO?



Sharon Ackerman
Actress, Los Angeles, Ca

"I believe that we are being prepared...They are trying to slowly let us get used to them. They've probably been watching us for years...I've seen UFO pictures from all over the world and these are the best."



Bill Price
Assistant Principal, GBHS

"They are interesting - but I tend to be kind of skeptical. I have a scientific background and generally work off solid evidence. The person that saw it - I'm sure he believes it with all his heart, but I guess that's what it would take to convince me."



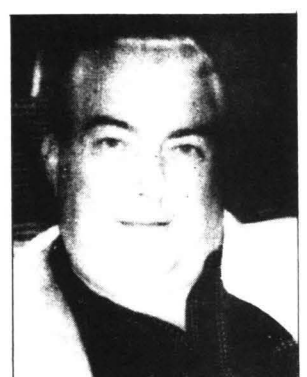
Dan Godwin, Minister of Youth
Gulf Breeze United Methodist

"The pictures look convincing and fascinating to me. I think there is definitely an unidentified flying object in the photo, but I'm not convinced they're from outer space - though there is the possibility."



Sheila Maddox
Manager of Inch by Inch in GB

"Obviously, it's a UFO. Whether it's authentic or not still hasn't been determined. I hope that for the community of Gulf Breeze this is not a hoax and if it isn't a hoax, I wish something more would come of it other than just sightings."



James P. Kerrigan
VP United Peninsula Homeowners

"I think the courage has been excellent and very effective. I think it's bringing to the surface a subject that has been shielded and hidden by many people in communities of the United States."

An abductee... Celebrity in the world of strange encounters

By NANCY L. NELSON

AGAWAM — In the world of UFOs, extraterrestrials and the paranormal, Marianne Cascio Shenefield is a celebrity.

At conferences on the "UFO experience," she is known as an abductee — someone kidnapped by beings not of this world.

Shenefield, 46, will be one of two abductees speaking at a May conference on UFOs in Waltham. Contracts have been signed for a book she recently completed with help from a Connecticut author. A movie contract also has been signed.

Her friends are fellow abductees, authors of books on UFOs, and researchers studying people like herself.

"No one believed me, so I got in touch with someone who did," she said while seated at the dining room table in her Agawam home.

She and her husband, Danny Shenefield, 32, a former aircraft mechanic with the Air Force, live in a small brick house across the street from the home in which Mrs. Shenefield grew up. On a cool spring evening, a fire blazed in the living room fireplace and a fresh pot of coffee scented the room.

A corner china closet and a collection of small spoons decorated a wall in the dining room.

In another room, toys wait for a visit from the Shenefields' grandchild.

"We don't just do UFOs all the time," Mrs. Shenefield laughed. "I'm a pretty wholesome person."

Much of the time, however, the Shenefields are concerned with what most people call UFOs — unidentified flying objects. Mrs. Shenefield refers to them as IFOs — identified flying objects.

"We know what they are," she said. Some of them are vehicles carrying beings from another world, she said.

In 1952, when she was 11 years old, she learned first hand about extraterrestrials, Mrs. Shenefield said. The experience has been the basis for her lectures.

While playing in a field near her parents' home, she was visited by what looked like a boy wearing a skin diving suit, she said.

"To me, he looked like a boy from China, with slanted eyes," Mrs. Shenefield said. The boy took her into what she described as a compartment where she was examined with X-ray-like machines.

Six months later, she began losing her

eyesight and is now blind except for some peripheral vision.

Mrs. Shenefield said she is certain her loss of sight was somehow connected with what happened to her.

"They told me I am an experiment, that I was the perfect candidate," she said. Whether they knew she was going to go blind or made her go blind, she isn't sure, she said.

Doctors said she suffered from an incurable genetic disorder that destroyed her central vision.

In 1974, two years after a second examination by strange beings outside her house, Mrs. Shenefield said she began to see in a bizarre way.

"I would see symbols and writings and different colors. I would close my eyes and see different colors," Mrs. Shenefield said. And she began to have trouble sleeping.

"It never turns off, 24 hours a day it goes," she said.

Equipped with the strange vision, she sees auras emitted by people and uses them to counsel them, Mrs. Shenefield said.

The book about her will be called "Colors in the Dark," referring to her vision.

She also has some psychokinetic power, or the ability to use her mind to perform physical feats. It is unpredictable, however, and she attributes the destruction of several televisions and vacuum cleaners in her house to the psychokinetic energy.

Mrs. Shenefield said she has learned to cope with the things that have happened to her with help from people who have had similar experiences or who research the topic of UFOs.

Her friends include Betty Hill, a New Hampshire woman who was abducted with her husband. One researcher she talked with included her in his book, she said.

To do her part, Mrs. Shenefield takes phone calls from people who have seen a UFO, or think they might have been abducted, too.

"We try to keep a low profile," she said. "The people who are interested in the UFO field know me and the people who aren't, don't."

The Springfield area is not a good place for people researching the topic of UFOs, she said.

"People call up and say, 'Please don't mention my name.' They don't want to go to the police because they're afraid they'll laugh at them," Mrs. Shenefield said.



STAFF PHOTO BY DON FONTAINE

STRANGE ENCOUNTERS — Marianne Cascio Shenefield of Agawam lectures on the topic of UFOs based on two experiences she had, the first as an 11-year-old, and the second, 20 years later. A book will be published soon about Shenefield, who became blind shortly after the first encounter with what she believes were beings from another world.

UFOs sited in Battletown

Residents of Battletown and Wolf Creek in Meade County were in a frenzy the past couple of weeks after they reported spotting what they described as a UFO. All of the sightings occurred between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Residents reported the objects to be shaped in the form of discs that rotated with rays of light spewing from the hull of the orbiting object.

Some of the Battletown residents were near the Cold Springs Baptist Church when they saw the luminous object hovering above the tree tops on the Indiana shoreline.

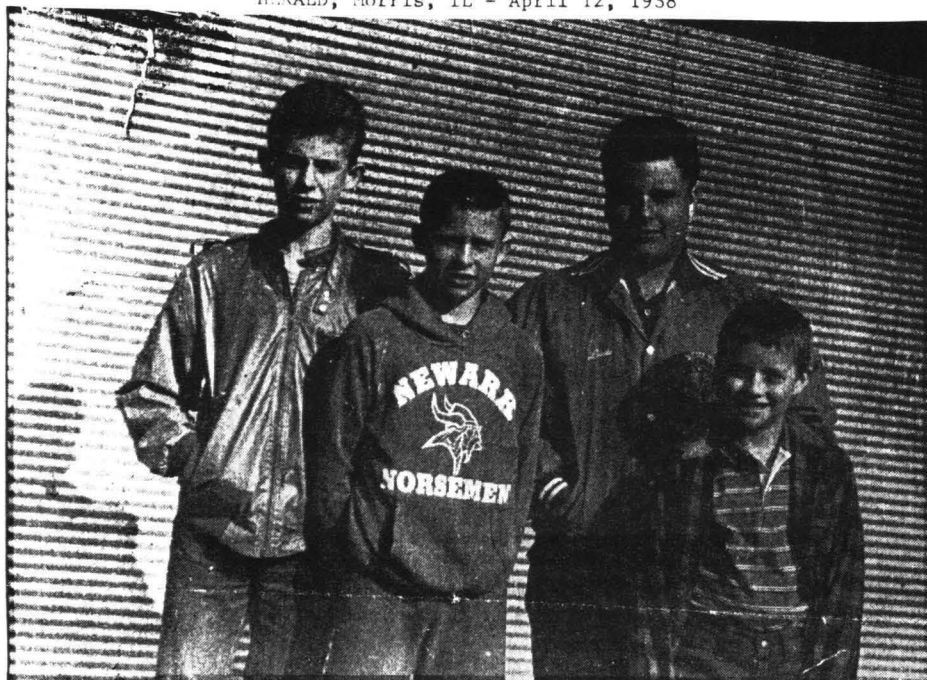
The following day, a couple of people heard that a lady's car was tossed against a tree that day after the UFO was spotted.

At least one of the spottings was accounted by a patrolman. He observed that the object had bright yellow, red and green lights flashing. Then, the object flew off in a seconds notice.

At least eight people reported sightings of the UFOs.

—Information from The Pioneer (Brandenburg)

HANCOCK CLARION, Hawesville, KY
March 3, 1988 CR: L. Whitehurst



The four pairs of eyes which saw what may have been a UFO Sunday night belong to these Newark brothers (from left) Jeff, Phil, Mike and Danny Chapman. Against a cloudy backdrop, a box-shaped spacecraft appeared over a chicken house at their Newark residence shortly before 7 p.m. Sunday, according to the boys. His curiosity plucked by the occurrence, Danny, 10, scampered to the library Monday to read UFO books. (Herald photo)

Party to an alien?

Newark brothers claim UFO visit

BY GLENN GEIGLER
NEWARK — They swear this is not fiction. It had been just another Sunday for four brothers in Newark, a sparsely populated farm community 15 miles north of Morris, when out of the blue this rectangular, silver, compact car-sized craft appeared and the boys' eyes became as big as saucers. It was just before 7 p.m. two days ago, when Dan, Phil, Jeff and Mike Chapman were outside playing baseball and, for once, according to their dad, nightfall or a sibling

skirmish didn't end the game. An unidentified flying object did. Youthful delusions? The four, for the first time since a family trip to Florida, slept together Sunday night, hours after playing earthly host to the phenomenon. Downstairs they slumbered while their second floor bedrooms got the cold shoulder. Too excited to separate, the Chapman youths exuberantly remembered as they sat in the kitchen of their home at 11238 Helmar Rd., on the day after. "I think the kids are trying to reason in their minds," their father,

Dale, said. "The more they thought about it last night, (the more) they got scared." It was over the chicken house about 6:50 p.m. on Sunday when the craft stationed itself, the boys attest. The chattering birds stopped in mid-chirp, the farm dogs, apparently oblivious, were silent inside the barn and the craft hovered, nary a noise. For 30 seconds or more, it lurked over the north end of the 230-foot long chicken quarters. There was no purr from propellers, no whir of a motor, just eerie solitude. The ship had no portholes,

no lights, no symbols or marks. As it moved south from where the boys stood with gaping mouths, it did not dart or lurch, just floated, as at least one of the brothers ran parallel with it.

Then it sailed anticlimatically over a neighbors yard, above utility poles and into the great, overcast beyond.

Jeff, 14, who momentarily believed it was a hang glider, was convinced as he approached the all-metal vehicle that this was something far more peculiar.

The fact that only 50 feet separated the brothers from the suspended craft left the youths with a lingering impression. For one thing, the UFO was tantalizingly low enough to peg with a baseball, the boys said.

Mike, 17, a high school senior, said sight of it first made him uneasy, then awestruck.

"I was kind of nervous...and then I was fascinated," he recalls.

As the brothers reconstruct the episode they are neither sheepish as they relate what they insist they saw, or overzealous in converting the skeptical. There are some gaps, some inconsistencies, like the time of arrival and whether an arm and disc extended from the top of the ship or from the bottom. Phil, 12, and Jeff agree the dish was large, six feet or more in diameter.

But it was the way the details dovetailed that put mom and dad on

the bandwagon of belief. Not that their doubts did not have to first be displaced.

After the aircraft disappeared, the boys dashed for their parents who were inside the house watching television. According to Dale, the family tried to glom another glimpse of whatever it was, combing the neighborhood by car, video camera ready to roll. Characteristically, the search was futile.

The boys apparently were the exclusive witnesses. The Kendall County Sheriff, who Dale said was amiable in accepting the Chapman chronicle of the event, had not, by Monday night, received any corroborating claims of unexplained aircraft.

The most probing inquisitors have been the boys' parents, Dale and Linda. Dale said, "We tried to pull every angle in the book."

Dale accepts that his sons' testimony of the space tale is sure to give rise to scorn and hazing. When he called the sheriff Monday morning, he began, "I know you're going to think I'm nuts but give me two seconds of your time."

Still, it is with conviction he reminded, "I know my kids. All in all I got to believe it. They saw what they saw; either that, or they should be in Hollywood because it's been one heck of a good show."

Close Encounters of an Electrical Kind

Researchers link unearthly experiences to earthquakes

A couple of researchers—a geologist and a neuropsychologist—propose that many claims of contact with space aliens may be explained as confluences of normal geological and psychological activities. "What they tell you is their sincere belief about their experience," says U.S. Geological Survey geologist John Derr. But, he adds, of the 5 percent or so of UFO sightings that can't be explained by other means, most can be explained as a combination of geophysical luminosities and hallucinations.

It works like this: It's been discovered in geophysical laboratories that when rocks are fractured, light is given off similar to what happens when you crunch wintergreen Lifesavers in your mouth. "When you fracture the rock, electrons are stripped off in a highly energetic state, excite the air around them, and that excitation leads to the emission of photons in the the rock. We can produce luminosities in the lab, but we can't scale this up to the large dimensions in the earth," he says.

However, rock strain of larger dimensions occurs regularly in areas of earthquake activity, and, curiously, in data gathered from three seismically active areas in the central and western United States, luminosities occur in synchronization with earthquake activity.

Citing data taken from seismic centers in Washington, Utah and Missouri, Derr says, "When we look at earthquakes of the magnitude of say, 2 to 5, we see that the correlations of the luminosities to the earthquakes is statistically significant, preceding the earthquakes by one to three months."

Two weeks ago, *The Creek* reported the story of a Castle Rock man who reported contacts with aliens, citing flashes of light as evidence. Derr, who believes the man is absolutely sincere in what he's saying, says it's possible the flashes could be correlated to seismic activity. Castle Rock doesn't lie in an earthquake zone, he says, but it's close enough to the Rio Grande Rift (an active zone, running through central Colorado) to experience sufficient strain in the rocks surrounding the man's house to produce the luminosities. "It's like a regular light bulb, wire and electricity source," he says. "The 'source' is the rock strain, the 'wire' is the rocks themselves, which conduct electricity, and the 'lightbulb' is the flash that is produced when electrons are split off."

This natural geological phenomenon is then interpreted as a UFO sighting by those predisposed to believe so, says Canadian neuropsychologist Michael Persinger, who has worked with Derr. "In terms of close-encounter experiences, we're dealing with the temporal lobe of the brain. This is where memory and control of memory occur. These individuals usually have a certain personality that helps them disassociate. They also tend to be very creative types who are having a lot of stress in their lives at the time of the experience."

Persinger, who also has training in geophysics, says that the tectonic strain fields to which Derr refers can occur in and around homes. "We did a field study inside a house that was reporting haunting phenomenon," he says. "What was interesting was that there was enough electricity to register on our instruments." And when geology and psychology team up like this in the life of certain people, extraterrestrials are reported, he says. "ETs have replaced the ghosts of a hundred years ago."

—AS

Expert still calls UFO hoax

Original assessment based on faulty data

By Dave Richardson
News Journal

A Maryland investigator now says bad information led him to brand photos of a UFO sighting in Gulf Breeze a hoax.

But he still thinks the sightings were fake. Ray Stanford, director of Project Starlight International, a private organization in College Park, Md., that gathers scientific data on unidentified flying objects, said Wednesday he doubted the photos were taken on the day claimed.

"If I am wrong, I will completely resign from this field," Stanford said at the time.

But on Thursday, Stanford said a National Weather Service technician had given him wrong times for wind direction figures.

The figures led him to say that the UFO photos reportedly taken Nov. 11 in Gulf Breeze probably were fabricated because of the direction clouds moved in the series of the pictures.

But after Donald Ware, state director for MUFON, passed on the Mutual UFO Network's calculations, Stanford changed his mind.

"I am now convinced that the pictures were in fact taken on that Wednesday," Stanford said.

Ware, of Fort Walton Beach, has been a leader in investigating the Gulf Breeze case.

Even though he had some wrong information, Stanford still questions the photos.

"If I were a betting man, I would bet 1,000 to 1 the pictures are not real," Stanford said.

UFO reports in Gulf Breeze have been the subject of controversy and research since photos taken by an anonymous businessman, known as "Jim," first were published last year in the Gulf Breeze Sentinel.

Jim told the News Journal Thursday that Stanford had called him to apologize for stating the photos were incorrect.

Gulf Breeze Mayor Ed Gray also confirmed that Stanford had called him to report "new information."

Stanford denied making any apology, and said "none was needed. It was a mistake by the weather people."

Gray said Stanford's report had no bearing on his conclusion that the UFO sightings and photos were a hoax. Gray said he has studied the photos extensively and also relied on analysis by others who have examined them.

He declined to name the analysts, but said they were not from the military and were not from this area.

Stanford said he still has problems with the movement of clouds in the photos, with the high-speed drift of the clouds from photo to photo, and with why it gets dark so rapidly. The photos were reportedly taken just before dark.

Stanford also questioned how an object, which appears to be 10 times the diameter of the sun or moon, could be visible for up to six minutes and not be seen by others.

Stanford said he does not plan to get much further involved in the Gulf Breeze UFO case.

But his comments, he said, have stimulated local researchers to more closely examine the case.

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL - April 22, 1988

Ware said Thursday, "There is a serious disinformation campaign going on about this case."

All major UFO cases have major disinformation campaigns going on with them."

Gary Watson, a local MUFON member, criticized Stanford for jumping to conclusions based on wrong information. "I want him to resign," Watson said, recalling his challenge.

UFO information assembled in Gulf Breeze by MUFON is based on more than Jim's photos, Watson said.

"We can throw Jim and his photos in the garbage can and still have UFO's in Gulf Breeze," Watson said, because of "others, good substantial people" who have reported sightings.

AREA NEWS NOTES

ASHLEY--When Christ Gross, Ashley, woke up at 2:15 a.m. Jan. 11 to use his bathroom, a passing glance out his bedroom window shocked him as he saw what he describes as an unidentified flying object (UFO). What he saw were seven dark stripes, each about 150 feet wide, which came from the south and spanned the sky. Gross told The Ashley Tribune that there were three stripes on either side of a longer center stripe which had a moon in the middle of it. He stood and watched the image for a while, then returned to bed, thinking "In the morning, we'll talk about it." But no one else reported any such sighting.

Gross said he hesitated reporting the incident because he thought someone else might, and he felt people would think he was sleep-walking or something. "I was just as open-minded then as I am now," he told the Tribune. As far as believing in UFOs, Gross said "I believe in what I saw, that's all."

ment agencies in court to obtain hundreds of UFO documents. The issue of the letter was brought to light during an interview with Gersten by Gannett Westchester Newspapers.

Imbrogno and Gersten admit some of the reported UFO sightings were aircraft flown out of Stormville. But in the case of the videotaped object, as well as other sightings, they are convinced it was a UFO.

"First of all, I've seen those planes fly and only a child looking for a UFO would think they were a UFO," Imbrogno said. Nowadays, Gersten said he gets about four or five calls a night on his UFO hot line describing sightings such as those reported in the early 1980s.

The UFO researchers say there are still groups of residents who gather at spots in Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Dutchess counties to catch a glimpse of the object.

"It's been the same thing all along, but a lot of people are thinking, 'Well, it's just planes, why bother?'" Gersten said. "You don't get as many official reports because it doesn't fly over populated areas any-- more, mainly around reservoirs."

further studies," he said. "Scientists are curious by nature. In fact, I think they have probably done a more extensive analysis."

In 1983 and 1984, area police departments were deluged with reports of the object. Traffic stopped on the Taconic State Parkway while motorists got out of their cars and stared skyward.

Some people said the object -- described at times as being boomerang-, oval-, or V-shaped, and as large as a football field -- hovered over homes for 45 minutes, then flitted away.

Imbrogno has spent the last five years trying to solve the mystery of the object. He has written a book, "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings."

Gersten said he was pleased with the observation in the letter and vowed to urge Jet Propulsion to conduct more analysis.

"I am pleased with the interpretation of the JPL," Gersten said, "but feel that it is important for them to engage in more study and pursue this matter based on the fact that this is not a normal blimp."

Gersten, a lawyer, has battled govern-

“We would guess the lights were attached to a rigid object. Our guess is an airship (blimp) of some sort.”

— letter from Lew Allen
director, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

ination has only been visual and I don't think we can apply the effort needed for a really quantitative analysis."

Robert MacMillan, a Jet Propulsion spokesman, confirmed the letter was written by Allen. But MacMillan stressed the observations in the letter were only "a guess" and no further testing is expected.

As to Allen's objection to studying the videotape further, MacMillan said, "Well, I think he's probably saying we don't think it's worth it."

Imbrogno disagrees.

"I can't believe they wouldn't make

ward "solving the puzzle of UFO sightings in the Hudson Valley."

"Although they are not saying this is a spaceship from another world, they are confirming this is not airplanes," said Imbrogno.

The letter was given to Gersten by a friend who submitted a videotape of the object to Jet Propulsion, a private division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in late November.

Jet Propulsion, which is affiliated with the California Institute of Technology, designs and tests spacecraft. It also serves as a base station for NASA in California.

The videotape was made by a Brewster man in July 1984 and was viewed by "several scientific folk... and we would guess the lights were attached to a rigid object. Our guess is an airship (blimp) of some sort," Allen's letter states.

That observation is at odds with the conclusion reached by police and other observers five years ago: that this particular formation of lights was the artistry of pilots flying light aircraft out of Stormville Airport.

The letter goes on to state: "The exam-

By Paul Kirby
Staff Writer

A letter from a division of the U.S. space agency has renewed suspicions among UFO hunters that oval lights spotted in the skies over northern Westchester and Putnam counties -- dismissed in 1983 as a formation of aircraft -- may have been a UFO after all.

The letter from Lew Allen, director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., suggests the lights are attached to a single, rigid object, such as "an airship."

UFO researchers Peter Gersten of Peekskill and Philip Imbrogno of Bethel, Conn., said last week they will increase their investigations into the object, which sparked a swarm of UFO reports in 1983 and 1984.

Although the frequency of the reports has declined, both men said the unidentified flying object is still being sighted in the region.

Imbrogno, an independent UFO investigator who heads a team of seven, said the letter could be a crucial element to-

Clermont man says he saw UFO

CLERMONT -- Columbia County sheriff's deputies said a Hog Trough Road resident here reported seeing what was believed to be a UFO hovering in the sky near his home Sunday night.

Walter Goldberg told deputies at 10:41 p.m. that he saw a "peculiar object in the sky," deputies said.

Deputies quoted Goldberg as saying the object appeared to be heading west.

Goldberg also told deputies a neighbor had seen the object as well, they said.

The sheriff's department said it notified

the UFO reporting center in Seattle Washington.

A check with the reporting center indicated a sighting in Clermont had not been reported and no other sightings had been reported in the Hudson Valley Sunday night.

An Albany County resident, Paul Beckers, 33, who works at Shop Rite in Hudson, also called the sheriff's department today saying he, too, saw an unusual object in the sky Sunday morning.

Beckers said he lives on a hill in Medusa near Greenville, Greene County, and at night can see the lights of the Rip Van Winkle Bridge.

A BALLOON?

Beckers said he really thought the white object he saw in the distance was a hot-air balloon, but questioned that after hearing of the UFO sighting this morning.

He said he saw the object in the sky Sunday between 8 and 11 a.m.

"I called my wife out of bed -- she was quite angry," Beckers said.

"From where I was, it was below the height of the Catskills," he said.

As it moved it appeared to be headed southeast, Beckers said.

"I'm not a general believer of the UFO," he said. "I've never seen one before."

His wife, Lori, said she too thought it was a hot-air balloon because she could discern a red light, apparently from the flame, and something hanging below the red light.

Lori Beckers said today she still did not think the object was a UFO because she associates UFO sightings with nighttime.

She said she got a pair of binoculars to see the object better but "by the time I dug them out of the closet it was that much further away."

The two seldom see hot-air balloons near their home, Lori said.

An official from the national UFO reporting center said the center receives occasional reports of sightings from Hudson Valley residents but this is not an area in which a lot of UFOs are reported seen.

C-G's Gary Levine speaks on UFO sightings in area

GREENPORT -- Is the Hudson Valley a pocket of curiosity for extraterrestrial travelers?

Or are sightings of those bizarre, flashing, unidentified flying objects simply figments of our nervous, taught imaginations?

For Columbia-Greene Community College Professor Gary Levine, UFO sightings are true and can be substantiated.

For 30 minutes Saturday night, Levine documented what he called the enormous number of UFO sightings in Greene and surrounding counties with photographs and videotapes on WTZA's "UFO's in the Valley: Special Report."

Sightings are reported in an area stretching from the Columbia-Greene county area all the way down to Westchester County, Levine said.

And data culled from Hudson Valley residents and researchers, including photographs and videotapes, seem to indicate that something is here, said Levine.

ANOTHER ONE

Conveniently substantiating Levine's hypothesis is a sighting Sunday night by a Cl-

ermont resident of a large, white circular object hovering near his residence on Hog Trough Road.

But is all of this E.T. and alien visitor hype just hogwash?

Not according to Levine.

He said all of the data he presented on Saturday's show had been validated by scientific research laboratories.

Though Levine is tapped into several national organizations which collect data on UFO sightings, he said he would like area residents who have witnessed UFO's to contact him at Columbia-Greene Community College with the information.

The veteran UFO investigator, who says he has been researching the still unexplainable phenomenon for many years, said more shows on area UFO sightings could be on the way.

But the next major step, communication with other life forms, is complicated and remains relegated to the future, Levine said.

Linguistics expert vouches for paper

By STEVE STEIN
Record Staff Writer

A top-secret government document which details the events of a fiery UFO crash near Corona in 1947 is apparently authentic, according to one of the foremost experts on linguistics in America.

Dr. Roger Wescott, director of the linguistics department at Drew University in Madison, N.J., confirmed to the Daily Record in a telephone interview that he recently examined a controversial Nov. 18, 1952, document which briefs then-President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower about the UFO crash that occurred about 75 miles northwest of Roswell.

The document also discusses MJ-12, a group of scientists and military men allegedly recruited by President Harry S. Truman a few months after the crash at Corona to study what has come to be known as the "Roswell Incident" and UFOs in general.

Wescott has enviable academic credentials. He is a graduate of Princeton, a 1948 Rhodes scholar and the founder and director of the African Language Program at Michigan State University.

He has published 400 articles and 40 books on linguistics. He recently used a branch of linguistics known as "stylistics" to analyze the briefing document which ufologists contend was written by Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, the first director of the CIA and perhaps an original member of MJ-12.

Stylistics deals with the design or syntax of written language. Wescott was reluctant to discuss his study with the Daily Record, but said he would stand by comments about the document and his academic method made by Robert Bletchman, an attorney in Manchester, Conn., who originally asked him to study the document.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6 - RECORD,
Roswell, NM - April 17, 1988)

Contacted at his home by the Daily Record, Bletchman said he was surprised to hear that Wescott was hesitant to make public comments about the document.

Bletchman, a longtime ufologist, discussed the sequence of events that led to Wescott's analysis of the document.

He said that in 1984, Jaime Shandera, a Hollywood television producer and ufologist, received a roll of 35mm film in a plain envelope that allegedly contained several frames of the text of the document.

Shandera, Canadian nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman and William Moore, co-author of "The Roswell Incident," which was released in 1980, worked for more than two years to prove the authenticity of the document, Bletchman said.

In June 1987, reports concerning the document surfaced in the Daily Record, the New York Times and on ABC-TV's "Night Line" program.

Bletchman said he began to seek out a linguistics expert after he saw Moore, an acquaintance, debate the validity of the document on Night Line with UFO-basher Philip J. Klass.

Bletchman, who was introduced to stylistics through legal research, was eventually referred to Wescott.

Klass, a frequent contributor to the "Skeptical Inquirer," which challenges claims related to UFO sightings, has stated publicly that Shandera, Moore and Friedman have no substantive documentation to prove their claim.

"It's not so," Moore told the Daily Record in an interview. He said Wescott's credentials cannot be disputed.

Wescott compared the 1952 document to thousands of samples of Hillenkoetter's writing style from the National Archives and other sources, Moore said.

On April 7, Wescott wrote Bletchman a letter indicating his conclusions on the authenticity of the document.

His letter in part said, "There is no compelling reason to regard any of these communications as fraudulent or to believe that any of them were written by any one other than Hillenkoetter himself.

This statement holds for the controversial presidential briefing memo of Nov. 18, 1952," Wescott concluded.

A copy of that document, which was secured by the Daily Record, provides an unusual account of the crash and wreckage first discovered by Corona rancher W.W. Brazel.

Military officials have always maintained that Brazel found the wreckage of a military weather balloon.

However, the 1952 document refutes the theory.

Part of Hillenkoetter's briefing to Eisenhower states, "Aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded.

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

PIERCE CO. HERALD, Ellsworth, WI - March 9, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

Cash rolling in for UFO Center

Cash contributions for construction of a UFO landing site near Elmwood have begun arriving and several people have indicated they may pledge large sums but UFO Site Center officials aren't saying who or how much.

Dave Martinek, vice-president of the non-profit group, said Monday he and others "are working behind the scenes with some people in the U.S. who want to remain anonymous. It's a very touch and go situation with these individuals. Any (publicity) could jeopardize their involvement. If I could tell (dollar amounts), I would."

UFO Site Center Inc. volunteers have established an office with telephones in Chippewa Falls to handle written and phone inquiries about the project. Martinek said mail responses to the project continue to arrive daily.

"We're a week behind in answering letters. We're getting some spontaneous donations and we're still hopeful of more," said Martinek.

Questioned about the size of the contributions, Martinek said most have been forwarded to board member Lee Horne for deposit so he didn't have exact dollar amounts, but said they "are not small contributions."

Inquiries began when Martinek and UFO Site Center president Tom Weber announced last month their dream of raising \$50 million to build a UFO landing site and international research center.

Martinek said Monday, he and Weber will join Elmwood Mayor Larry Feiler, Carole Forster, Dolores Wheeler and Roger Weber on KSTP-

TV's "Twin Cities Live" at 9 a.m., Thursday. The group is also scheduled to be the guests at a live call-in show from 9 - 10:30 p.m., Friday on WCCO-AM radio in Minneapolis.

Other callers have included Time, People and Omni magazine, radio stations in Ventura, Calif., and Bismark, N.D., along with several local groups requesting personal appearances.

Martinek said a piece gathered over the weekend in Elmwood by WEAU-TV reporter Rob Kreibich indicated local people are still enthused about the project.

Although Martinek didn't discuss it, not all press coverage has been so complimentary.

A 15-inch story published in the Feb. 27 edition of the Star-Tribune entitled "Aliens have ignored earlier landing sites", reported that four other attempts around the nation to build landing sites haven't fared too well.

Reporter Dave Matheney told of a 100-acre site erected in 1976 in Lake City, Penn., has wound up being used as a helicopter landing pad. Another 67-acre plot near San Diego hasn't had any space visitor either. A third, called "Spaceport Earth", had a visit from a flat cloud once which the founder believed contained a UFO, but the landing pad has since been abandoned.

Perhaps most ambitious was a project tagged "Starlight International" near Austin, Tex., under which an Austin millionaire installed lights, radar, cameras and other gear to record the first interstellar touchdown in 1975. It too has since been abandoned.

Another skeptical article appeared

on page two of the Feb. 17 Twin Cities Reader. In that piece, writer Adam Platt mocked Pierce County Sheriff James Hines, Black Bear Inn owner Jim Baier and Elmwood resident "Hobbs" Wilson.

"One can't help but wonder if the Twin Cities didn't let a keen development opportunity get by here. Imagine the appeal of a Galtier Plaza and UFO Landing Site. Think about the crowds that might be drawn by a domed LSGI UFO Landing Site, light rail terminal and Saks Fifth Avenue Store. It seems our quick-witted friends to the east have beaten us again," Platt wrote.

In another angle last week, the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram reported a Knapp minister believes all the talk about UFO's generated by the Elmwood proposal may be connected to events foretold in the Bible.

Rev. Cal Rumley will lead an 8 p.m. meeting Sunday to cite Scripture and what it teaches about beings who have access to Earth from outer space.

"I don't plan to talk about Elmwood in the message...but there's too many credible sightings in too many places, so there must be something to them," he told the Leader-Telegram. "And just what they are, I do not know."

Part of Rumley's program will focus on the gospel of St. Luke where he predicts that before the Lord comes, "there will be signs in the heavens...these signs will grow in intensity as we move toward the end of the age," he said.

VIRGINIAN-PILOT, Norfolk, VA - April 12, 1988

Bright UFOs hovered near home, couple say

By Judi Tull
Correspondent

CHESAPEAKE — As she prepared for bed Saturday night, Joyce Ogle looked out the window of her home on Peaceful Road. She has lived there six years and has looked out that window countless times.

This time, though, she saw something large and exceedingly bright, a glowing object in the western sky. It hovered just over the tree line. She shouted to her husband, Odie.

As he ran outside to look, Joyce Ogle called police.

The object was silent and still, similar to the nearer planets that glow so brightly in the spring sky, Odie Ogle said.

But this object seemed to give off a variety of colors — red, green, orange and

yellow. They were "like Christmas tree lights," he said, and it appeared to have a canopy of white lights above it.

"All of a sudden, a second one rose up from behind the tree line," Odie Ogle recalled. "It seemed to try to link up with the first one. They hovered together for a couple minutes. I ran in the house to get my wife."

By the time the Ogles returned to their yard, the second object had disappeared. Only the first remained, silent and still.

They stood on their lawn, transfixed by the object that hovered over the woods, as they waited for police.

Officer J.A. Widdifield, a 16-year veteran of the Chesapeake Police Department, said he was skeptical when he received the call to investigate a UFO sighting about 10:15 p.m.

"In 16 years, I've had a fair number of these calls," he said. "I figured it would turn out to be nothing."

When he left the Ogles' home about 11:30 p.m., he was less skeptical.

"I've seen a lot of phenomena, but nothing like this," Widdifield said.

He also said the biggest difference between this UFO call and others to which he has responded in the past is that "these people are not kooks. They seem sane and sober. I was very impressed with them and their seriousness."

No other sightings were reported to police. Officials at Naval Air Landing Field Fentress, Chesapeake Municipal Airport and Naval Security Group Northwest said they could not explain the sighting, which was not confirmed by pilots from any area airports or naval airfields.

When Widdifield arrived at the Ogles' house, the Ogles had been joined by David Adair, a 15-year-old neighbor who watched with the couple for more than an hour.

Widdifield said he initially thought he was seeing a bright star.

"I still didn't think it was much of anything, so I went in to call headquarters," he said.

When he went back outside, the object had moved noticeably lower in the sky.

When he returned, the object was gone.

The Ogles told him it had descended slowly behind the treeline, almost 90 minutes after it was sighted.

The Ogles were not upset by the sighting but remain curious.

"I think I may get a telescope and keep watching," Odie Ogle said. "I'd like to see if we can't figure out what this is."

LEDGER-STAR, Norfolk, VA - April 26, 1988

Chesapeake has a second close encounter

By Charlise Lyles
Staff Writer

CHESAPEAKE — "What's that big red thing up in the sky?" 3-year-old Abbey Pegram asked her mother and father as they drove down Bruce Road in Western Branch about 10:30 p.m. Monday.

"My husband said, 'That's a plane,' without really looking," Linda Pegram, 36, said today. "But I looked up and said, 'That's not a plane.'"

What Pegram saw was a huge orb hovering, seemingly motionless above houses, she said. "It had red lights in the front and blue lights in the back and the middle seemed to be a fluorescent metal," Pegram said.

And when the orb began to move, the Pegrams followed it down Peppercorn Drive and Taylor Road to High Street West. "It was headed toward the James River Bridge. Then it disappeared instantly," Pegram said.

Less than a block away, police Officer Robert Lunsford and a city utility worker said they saw the same thing: the second UFO sighted here in less than two

"I don't think it was an alien space ship, and I don't believe in UFOs, but I can't think of any other explanation for what was out there."

Officer Robert Lunsford

weeks.

On April 9, southern Chesapeake residents and another police officer said they observed for more than an hour a strange object in the sky glowing red, green, orange and yellow.

Area air traffic controllers and air bases could offer no explanation for the colorful glow. Lunsford telephoned the Norfolk Naval Base, Langley Air Force Base, Norfolk International Airport, Portsmouth Police

Department and several other agencies.

No one could supply an answer, Lunsford said.

At 10:30 p.m. Monday, Tom Langston, a city utility worker, telephoned police dispatchers to report that "something came from overhead with real bright lights and was blinding him," Lunsford said. Langston was working on a sewage project on Darden and Columbia Streets several blocks from where the Pegrams spotted the object.

"At first I thought it was a joke," said Lunsford. "Someone who had read about the UFO spotted a couple of weeks ago, trying to pull a prank."

But when Lunsford arrived at Taylor and Peppercorn, he saw what Langston had seen.

"I was kind of stunned that there was actually something there," said Lunsford. "It was about 25 yards in diameter and the bottom was surrounded by bright light. It was still. Then it took off in a split and disappeared toward Suffolk."

"It was bizarre. I don't think it was an alien space ship, and I don't believe in UFOs, but I can't think of any other explanation for what was out there."



Staff Photo by Jim Beckel
Jean Waller

UFO Seekers Recruited By Group

By Ben Fenwick
Staff Writer

NORMAN — Something looms in the sky, coming into focus as a round shape with flashing lights as it draws nearer. Could it be a flying saucer? How can you know?

You might call Jean Waller, Oklahoma director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

Waller said the Oklahoma branch of the Seguin, Texas-based organization will be looking for a few good investigators Saturday.

MUFON will meet from noon until 5 p.m. at the Norman Public Library with slides, videotapes and discussions of unidentified flying objects, their effects and origins.

"It's really unnecessary to prove their (UFOs) existence," Waller said. "The evidence is getting overwhelming."

The organization, though international in size, lacks serious investigators in Oklahoma, she said. They are needed in the northwestern, southwestern and Panhandle areas of the state to investigate reported sightings.

She said investigators are given training to teach them about dealing with authorities such as police, aeronautics officials and meteorologists. Investigators also learn how to chemically trace abnormal elements found at a site and to interview witnesses.

Waller said MUFON also will try to start a local counseling support group offering regression techniques for people who may have been abducted by UFOs. Regression techniques involve the use of hypnosis to uncover the past, she said.

These abductees, she said, are often in a kind of shock. Many of their problems caused by contact with the unknown are repressed subconsciously.

Some, she said, may have had an alien device implanted in their brain.

Even though she has been with MUFON for 15 years and hasn't seen a UFO, they are here, Waller said.

She recalled an incident in Yukon in 1979, where several separate sightings were traced to a single, bat-winged-shaped object — at the time unexplainable. A month later, she said, she saw a picture of the swept-wing Stealth Bomber.

"People a few years ago used to laugh at us because UFOs never showed up on radar. Well, we have that technology now," she said, noting that some things, such as the Stealth Bomber, do not show up on radar.

Admission to the statewide MUFON meeting is free. For more information, call 329-1005.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL
March 17, 1988 CR: R. Reid

UFO UPDATE

This week's UFO Update contains the stories of two recent sightings as seen by eight different witnesses. The first sighting was of the small round craft between 6:30 and 7:00 PM Friday evening March 11th. The second sighting was of the large elongated craft about 8:00 to 8:10 PM Monday evening March 14th.

The first witness Friday was apparently 11 year old David Sominski of Sandpiper Village who related the following story.

It was about 6:30 PM and I was out in right field at Shoreline Park during baseball practice. I was kinda bored so I was looking around and I saw it over in the direction of the high school. I saw a bright light at the bottom, a small light at the top, and a row of little lights around the middle.

At first it was flat(level). Then it tipped up on an angle and started spinning around. Then it tilted the other way and started spinning around again and started to move to one side.

Then I heard somebody hit the ball and I looked to see if it was coming to me, and when I looked back it was gone.

About the same time, 13 year old Jayson Carter was out in his yard at home in Sandpiper Village. This is what Jayson has to say.

I walk outside a lot with my camera since I've been looking for the UFO. I saw a bright light moving very fast from West to East so I took four pictures as it went over. It may have had more than just the one bottom light but I'm not sure as I was busy taking pictures. I knew it wasn't an airplane or a helicopter because it didn't make any noise.

Friday evening when David got home from practice he saw Jayson in the yard and said, "You're not going to believe this but I think I saw the UFO."

After hearing David's story, Jayson shared his own experience and showed David the UFO pictures in The Sentinel to see if that was what he saw. David said it was, so Jayson called the Sentinel and arranged for them to come in and tell their stories.

Meanwhile the following report was related to us by a witness I can only describe as "above reproach". He is a minister of one of our local churches, and understandably asked that we not print his name. The time of his sighting was just after Jayson's, and it took place in the Tiger Point/Bayridge area.

Friday night at home at 6:45 p.m. The sighter was going to a meeting at a quarter to seven Friday night, when he saw lights up in the sky over the trees just across from his house. At first, he just saw the lights and didn't think much about it.

"I kept looking and the object was just sitting there, and instead of having blinking lights, they were going around, in a circle," said the viewer.

The object was round with lights going around the bottom, very much like the picture in the newspaper, he said.

"I stood there and looked at it in awe," said the man, "And kept thinking I was going to figure it out in a minute."

He watched it a total of about a minute, and then with his babysitter, who also saw the object, walked out toward the street watching the UFO as it moved further and further away in the sky until disappearing out of sight.

"I never heard any sound; that's what is bizarre," said the man, "It was totally quiet, and if it was bogus, you would hear noise or an engine running, but it was totally

quite and totally peaceful."

Then on Monday night, March 14th, several people saw what we think is a larger and slower UFO moving up and down the Gulf Breeze peninsula. The first segment is in the words of the father, who was driving, while the observations of the mother and son follow.

We picked it up as it was coming at an angle to Gulf Breeze from the southwest, it would be like coming toward the Western Sizzlin, like it was coming in from Tristan Towers on the beach. It was about 8 pm. It proceeded on an easterly course, I would say running about right over the beach and the sound right over Gulf Breeze, and it ran that until it got into the National Seashore and at some point I couldn't say where, it crossed over 98 and got on to the north side and then we were coming on down 98 and I picked it up again as we turned into Villa Venyce I could see it probably over Whisper Bay, we turned on into Villa Venyce and at that point it was moving toward Gulf Breeze and moved on a westerly course back and I would say it was running westerly and it ran back to where it was exactly due north from us and we backed up and came out of Villa Venyce. I went across 98 and turned there at Fords and at that point it was right directly in front of us. It started moving away and I couldn't tell if it was moving back towards Gulf Breeze or moving out over the Bay, but it appeared to be moving out over the bay. Then we turned behind Ford's and tried to get a closer look but it disappeared.

How close were you or could you see any details?

Well I really couldn't see an outline, when I picked it up in Gulf Breeze, it was probably 500 feet above Western Sizzlin and we were on 98 so it was 1500-2000 feet away from us, it's hard to judge at night. At that point I thought it was a light coming into the hospital. That's what it looked like to me, it had a bright light which I thought was on the rear with a greenish blue smaller blinking light above it; forward it had another bright light and then at one time I saw three bright lights and then another time the third light in the front disappeared and I saw a bright orange circular light or glow. But that didn't last too long, I don't know if it was because of the angle that it was moving from us I couldn't tell and then we got down to Villa Venyce all I saw was the three bright lights, the greenish blue light disappeared. My wife saw a red light on it one time but I didn't see it. But I did see that orange circular glow. I thought that can't be a helicopter, a helicopter doesn't have that kind of lights, and it moved away from the hospital. Then I got to thinking well if that is some kind of propulsion system, it would seem strange that would be on the front of it as I perceive the front of it, because it was moving in that direction. I would think that that would be on the rear of it pushing it, instead it was on what I thought was the front.



(L to R) David Sominski and Jayson Carter.

You say it was about the size of a 747?

It was big, yes, it was pretty darn big, much bigger than a helicopter. After I got to looking at it real good, I was determined in my mind that it couldn't be a helicopter it was too large.

So if you've been reading the paper, it was much bigger than the craft than we've been printing the picture of so long?

I was thinking after we got home, I remember the 12 foot diameter circle that was behind the school, it was much much bigger than that. I would say that this was somewhere in the neighborhood of a DC9, DC8.

I'm skeptical, When I first picked it up, you always try to rationalize it I thought it was a life flight coming in from the beach but as we seemed to get closer or maybe it's altitude was coming down, it's really hard to determine at night for me, I saw that it was much larger than a helicopter, I said well, it can't be a plane, that's too low then the bright orange ring appeared and then I said well it can't be a plane that completely blew any airplane theory.

There was an airplane that was looking right at it, when we got to Villa Venyce, I picked up an airplane to the northeast of the UFO at about 1000 feet above it and to the east. It was circling right above it. It was a small plane. It was small in comparison to the UFO and to the distance. But you could see the lights on it and you could recognize it as a plane. But it appeared to me that while driving and looking at the road and looking back at it, it seemed to stop and retrace it's exact path back on an westerly direction. It went to the East of where I perceived was over Whisper Bay and then it kind of backtracked and I couldn't tell if it was coming right along the shoreline. I just kind of guess that it was right on the shoreline but it was moving back toward Gulf Breeze.

When I turned in between Villa Venyce it was 8:09.

We saw some other cars moving very slowly on the highway and I said they are looking too. We saw one stopped.

I would be very interested to see if anyone calls tomorrow to say if they saw it.

Quotes from mother and son:
The son, who was sitting in the backseat of the car, while watching the object, screamed that he heard an adult male voice in his head. He screamed to his parents "It's talking!" But the parents couldn't hear anything. The son said that it said "Stop," not loudly, just quickly as if it was a command.

"It was like the voice wasn't talking to me, but to someone else," explained the son.

The mother said the son, who usually enjoys gory television movies, is not easily scared. But later at home, after seeing the object and hearing the voice, "didn't feel right, like something was going to happen." He was really frightened. He also felt nauseous, vomited a few times, and suffered lack of breath. "He just did not feel right the rest of the night."

The mother advised, "If anyone wants to see it, they have to look for it, which we were," said the mother.

Our own Ann Hurd was driving home from work about 8:00 PM

I left the Sentinel office and was driving east. About, maybe one mile out on 98 I noticed a bright set of lights shining through the trees in the National Seashore Reservation on the Bay side of the highway. It looked like four bright lights, and they seemed to be staying in one place. I thought, "if that's a plane circling to land at the airport, he is sure low." I kept watching through the trees as I was driving and when I came around the curve, I noticed that it appeared that the lights had not moved.

I decided to get on home and if this had been a sighting, someone would be calling the office in the morning to say that they had seen the same thing.

Going past Santa Rosa Park Road, I noticed two cars stopped down there and I thought, "I bet they are trying to see it too". I had already seen a lady in a car off the road at the National Seashore Soundside entrance. It was obvious that she had pulled off far enough to face back north. She had her window down and was looking out north. I went on past Santa Rosa Park, I checked my watch to verify the time in case any one called the office Tuesday morning; it was 8:08 p.m.

Girls on way home from GBSA baseball practice Monday night see it too.

BY FRANK THOMPSON

Almost as popular as the "cute" boys in the 6th grade among topics of discussion during my GBSA basketball team practice sessions this winter was the UFO saga.

Girls on the team were always on the look-out for the Breeze's most famous residents. But it wasn't until this past Monday evening that two of the girls, while driving east on Highway 98 with the mother of one of the players, actually saw for themselves what they believe to be the now famous tourists.

"It was around 8pm. We were on our way home from the ballpark on Highway 98 when we saw something over the tree tops on the Bayside between Food World and the Live Oaks Reservation," the mother said. "It was going too slow to be a plane, and it had lights all around it. It hovered over the tree tops for awhile and then eased out over the bay."

"I was trying to drive and look at the same time. So, I didn't get as good a look at it as the kids did. But (first girl's name) was hanging out the window and (second girl's name) was locking all the doors going 'oh my God, oh my God.' She was afraid it was going to come over and swoop us up."

"You know I go up and down the highway quite a bit and we've never seen anything like that before," she added. "It was definitely the highlight of my day, especially after just spending an hour and a half at the ballpark in the freezing cold. Do you think it was the UFO?"

JOURNAL, River Falls, WI - May 5, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

More unusual lights are spotted in PC skies

ELLSWORTH -- An Ellsworth woman reported seeing an unusually bright green and white light in the sky above her rural home on Stonehammer Road shortly before 9 p.m. Thursday.

The woman, who declined to be identified in an article published Saturday in the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, said her husband called the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and two officers were sent to the scene.

"It was a very bright light—white

and green—it really wasn't consistent in the way it flickered, not like an airplane's light," the woman said. "It was like a strobe light. What caused me to question it was that it went from side to side rather than in a straight line, like an airplane."

She said the light was high up in the sky, but slightly lower than the height of planes that travel near her home. Each night about five or six planes usually fly over the area.

"At different points, it would disappear and then reappear as it was going away from us," she said.

She and her husband watched the light for about 20 minutes before going outside to find out if it was making a noise. They heard nothing, she said.

One other person reported seeing the same bright light but refused to disclose his name, a sheriff's department spokesperson said.

A Pierce County Herald reporter tried several times to reach the couple at their home, but was unsuccessful.

UFOs: Fantasy or phenomenon?

Local woman says photo speaks for itself

Tahahlita Fry looks every bit the quintessential grandmother.

Her hair is tied in a tidy bun over her head. Lace hangs delicately from her blouse. And there is that infectious smile, ready to warm the coolest skeptic.

Stop in for a visit and you expect to be offered a glistening glass of cold milk and homemade peanut butter cookies.

Instead, she serves up a photograph of a UFO taken over Merlin in September of 1972.

"I've talked to a lot of people and about one out of 50 tells me I'm crazy to believe in UFOs," she says. "They say they're not real.

"But how in the heck would I get a picture like that?" she asks.

Albeit somewhat blurred, the hovering object looks like what Buck Rogers once stood guard against on the silver screen.

Indeed, the photograph graced the cover of the UFO Review magazine a couple of years ago. "The photo is one of the clearest in existence," the editor concluded.

Like any honest-to-goodness UFO buff, Fry pronounces it "you-fo," as though it were a word rather than an abbreviation for unidentified flying object.

The daughter of a full-blood Cherokee mother — her name means "dancing water" — and an Irish father, she is the former wife of Dr. Daniel Fry, a former Merlin resident who claimed to have ridden in a flying saucer in 1950.

Tahahlita Fry says the photo is no fake. "That's the only thing I hate to do, admit that I didn't see anything at the time the picture was taken," she says.

It seems the photograph was taken while she and a friend were climbing a knoll in Merlin while getting photographs of land Fry was selling. The shutter of the Yashica-Mat camera clicked several times, she recalls.

She was carrying the camera by a strap around her neck as they climbed the hill, stopping periodically to rest.

"Every once in a while, I'd hear the camera snap," she says, adding that she kept advancing the film, thinking that she had somehow tripped the mechanism.

Later, when she picked up her film at a local drug store where it had been processed, Fry didn't recognize the photographs.

Six frames were of a craft hovering over the hill, she said. In one shot, the bottom of the UFO appears to have opened.

"I took it back to the girl and told her it wasn't mine," she says.

Yet, upon close examination, one of the negatives in the eight-frame roll showed Fry standing on the porch of her home, the result of a photo her friend had taken of her earlier that day.

"I never did see the (UFO) thing, but we heard something, like a funny little roar," Fry recalls. "It was like a little machine in the distance."

Yet it wasn't the first time Fry, who played bit parts in movies earlier in her life, has observed strange sights in the sky.

There was that cross-country trip from Kansas to Southern California with a sister in 1964. The sun was low in the sky west of Prescott, Ariz., when she saw her first UFO.

"On the hillside was a thing like this," she says, holding up the photograph. "We could see it. I was scared — I'll admit it."

Fry sped down the road.

"When we got to a hotel, there was at least 50 people out there watching this thing," she says. "I felt a whole lot better then because I knew I wasn't losing my mind."

And there was the time in 1968 while driving with a friend through Florida near Fort Lauderdale.

"We see this huge light, just a huge light," she says. "We stopped and watched it. We followed it for about 40 miles."

Yet it is the photograph of the UFO over Merlin that Fry contemplates today. She doesn't try to offer an explanation, only the photograph.

"I am not going to lie about it — I didn't see the doggone thing," she says. "But here's the picture."

She looks at it for a moment, then adds, "I don't see why there can't be life out there."

Fry's close encounters with UFOs are not unique, says Leo Bartsch of Coos Bay, publisher of the periodical UFO News. The one-page newsletter is sent out to some 200 true believers Bartsch has met over the years.

Most people who see a UFO are afraid to step forward for fear of being ridiculed, he says.

"I'm not ashamed of it anymore," he says. A retiree who moved to Coos Bay in 1944, Bartsch, who began publishing the UFO

"I am not going to lie about it — I didn't see the doggone thing," Fry says. "But here's the picture." She looks at it for a moment, then adds, "I don't see why there can't be life out there."

News eight years ago, says he encountered a UFO in 1959.

"I was weightless and had a healing of my arm," he explains, noting his arm had been bothering him.

(continued on page 10) **9**



Above: This photograph of a UFO was taken over Merlin in September 1972, says local resident Tahahlita Fry. Right: Fry with the photo and the Yashica-Mat camera that she says took the picture of its own accord.



TIMOTHY RULLARD/Daily Courier

Stories by Paul Fattig

Amateur astronomer leery of sightings

"I didn't hear anything or see anything," he adds. "But a woman and her two sons saw a UFO that day."

Bartsch says he has traced UFOs to the Bible, a belief that he admits has caused some consternation among mainstream religious folk.

"The Bible is full of UFOs," he says. "My UFO caused me to go to the Bible."

Since going public with his pronouncements, Bartsch says others have talked to him about their encounters.

Take the incident which occurred 12 years ago after Bartsch appeared on television to discuss his extraterrestrial philosophy.

"The phone rang and it was a captain who had been on a boat going from Coos Bay to Bandon," Bartsch says. "He said he saw a UFO come from the land to the ocean and send down a beam of light. When the UFO took off, the beam of light remained behind."

Bartsch, who has posted a "UFO" sign outside his Coos Bay home, is convinced that the crafts carry supernatural beings.

"I've gotten ridiculed," he says. "But I've had story after story told to me about UFOs over the years. People are experiencing these things."

The strange lights moved silently across the big night sky over Montana, prompting young Bob Amos and his camping buddy to stare with wide-eyed wonder.

"We thought at first that it was a formation of jets, but there was no sound," Amos recalls. "The angular rate they were moving, they had to be traveling at least the speed of sound. And that wasn't likely back then."

Indeed, it was six months before the Russians sent aloft Sputnik, mankind's first satellite.

"It seemed inexplicable at the time but 12 and 13-year-olds tend to let their imaginations go," he says, later adding, "It could have been a meteor which fragmented."

"That's the only thing I've seen in the night sky that cannot be explained," he concludes of that camping trip near Helena.

Amos, 45, who teaches astronomy along with chemistry and physics at North Valley High School, now knows the night sky like the back of his hand.

And, as a science teacher, he

is a bit leery of UFO sightings.

"I remain pretty skeptical of the whole thing," Amos says. "I'm not saying there isn't intelligent life out there. But the distances are so great."

Even traveling at the speed of light would take a lifetime to cover the vastness of space, he stresses.

"Speeds faster than light are not a reality in the real universe," he says.

One of a handful of teachers to participate in a class at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., last summer, Amos is an amateur astronomer who has his own observatory at his Merlin home.

Since his childhood, he has been watching the skies, from the United States to Australia.

He will tell you there has been a dearth of UFO sightings by experienced astronomers and others whose trained eyes know a man-made object from that of an extraterrestrial.

Project Blue Book, a UFO study sponsored by the U.S. government, debunked many UFO stories, although it also ac-

knowledgeed there were no rational explanations for some sightings.

Yet sightings continue.

For instance, a North Apple-gate Road resident reported seeing a UFO about 8:45 p.m. Feb. 13, according to the Josephine County Sheriff's Office. The UFO cast an orange glow, the report said.

What's more, a Merlin resident reported seeing a UFO at about 10 p.m. Feb. 15. The object, which was traveling west from Merlin, reportedly appeared very brilliant and had a long tail.

Amos doesn't dispute that objects are seen in the night sky which make most folks scratch their heads in wonder. But he does note that several planets, notably Venus and Jupiter, can be seen at night with the naked eye this time of year.

"I've noticed that, when there are reports, there is often a correlation between the sightings and the planets," he says. "I'm not saying that everything can be explained by bright planets."

"But as a science and astronomy teacher, I look for that," he

adds.

The problem with most UFO stories, Amos says, is that UFO reports are often second or third hand. When retold, the stories have usually been embellished to add a touch of mystery, he observes.

"You don't often get a chance to interview the original source," he says.

Unless there is empirical evidence found in the form of an extraterrestrial craft or being, the intriguing controversy will continue, Amos figures.

"It's one of those things where you can always have an hypothesis or theory," he says. "You need to see something firsthand. But these are rare cases."

Meanwhile, Amos remains curious, albeit it skeptical of UFO reports.

"There have been some hard-to-shrug off cases," he says, noting an instance in South America where a crowd at a soccer game watched as a UFO buzzed the field.

"Thousands of people reported seeing the same things," he says, then adds, "But they never get any pictures."

TIMES & WORLD NEWS, Roanoke, VA - March 13, 1988

UFO watchers take queries to Boucher

By PAUL DELLINGER
SOUTHWEST BUREAU

WYTHEVILLE — Unidentified flying objects carried a group of people — figuratively speaking — from the Millwald Theatre here on Saturday to a nearby town meeting held by U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher.

Eight of the approximately 60 people who attended Wytheville's second UFO conference drove to Rural Retreat to ask Boucher to help them find out about the unusual aircraft seen in Wythe County skies since October.

"I can certainly talk with the armed services, and I'll be happy to do so," responded Boucher, D-Abingdon. "I don't have any insight, I'm sorry, but I can work with you to make sure we get a response from the Air Force."

The UFO conference was organized by Danny Gordon, news director at WYVE radio in Wytheville, who has become an unofficial consultant for out-of-town news reporters and people interested in UFOs since the sightings began here.

Gordon said he has seen 19 UFOs himself, 11 of them since a conference on the topic at Wytheville Community College last Nov. 18, and he displayed photographs he took of some of them.

The photographs, taken at night, showed a pattern of colored lights that Gordon said he first thought were on a single aircraft. They turned out to be four separate aircraft flying in formation, he

said, because stars could be seen between them as they crossed the sky.

Gordon and others described additional sightings they have made in recent months, ranging from large fuzzy lights to reddish discs and an occasional daytime sighting of saucer-shaped craft.

On the afternoon of Jan. 29, Gordon said, he glimpsed one that emerged briefly from a cloud that "looked like you took a 75-watt bulb and shaped it into a flying saucer."

Judith Boatright, an Elk Creek artist, said her life was changed by UFO sightings in 1973 and 1975, when she lived in Maryland.

The sightings prompted her to spend six years researching UFOs, she said. The sporadic appearances of UFOs and lack of physical evidence make conventional investigation techniques difficult, she said. There is also the question of who should make such investigations — the military, astronomers or psychiatrists, she said.

"The UFO problem is not by any means a simple one," she said, because responses have ranged "from skepticism to deification."

Another speaker was Alice Moeller of Stuart, author of the 1983 book "A Woman's Spiritual Odyssey," distributed through the Edgar Cayce Association for Research and Enlightenment, in Virginia Beach. She is currently researching a book on UFOs.

Moeller recommended that people concentrate on remembering dreams and even keep a "dream diary" on hand to write them down, because, she said, people sometimes recall having been abducted by UFOs through dreams, after their memory of the experience has somehow been erased.

Like others at the conference, Moeller said she frequently sees UFOs in the night skies near her rural home, and she is convinced their occupants can pick up the thoughts of people on the ground.

"I'll say, 'Hi, I know you're out there,' and it'll go bing! It'll blink on. It happens quite often," Moeller said.

Gordon said he is disturbed by a lack of follow-up by the news media after the initial headlines about UFO sightings. He said he planned to make that point next Saturday, when he will speak at a United Press International Broadcasters Convention at Virginia Beach.

While he is on that trip, Gordon has also scheduled an unofficial meeting with officials at Langley Air Force Base. He said that Air Force officials have told him that they will not investigate UFOs because there is no evidence that they threaten national security, although they acknowledge that people do see unidentified objects in the sky.

"One reason I had this conference before I went — if I don't come back, you people know what I know, you carry on," he said.

Gordon said future UFO conferences and a quarterly UFO update newsletter are possibilities if interest in the region continues. Some of those at the conference also planned a night of UFO hunting, but rain canceled that part of the program.

The conference opened with a showing of the 1951 movie, "The Day the Earth Stood Still," which depicts a flying saucer landing in Washington with a message for the world to get its act together before it achieves space travel and threatens to extend its violence to other planets.

TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT, Johnstown, PA - April 25 (?), 1988 CR: S. Gordon

UFO sightings confirmed here

By Barbara Sauers
The Tribune-Democrat

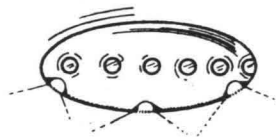
The director of a statewide organization that investigates unidentified flying objects said he has received dozens of calls and letters from area residents confirming recent sightings of UFOs.

Stan Gordon of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained said people from Richland, Windber, Salix, Daisytown and the Cresson area have gotten in touch with the volunteer organization with reports of brightly lighted, low-level objects in the sky during the past two weeks.

Hollsopple, Richland sightings

Two area people reported separate sightings early Saturday. One man said he saw a circular object with five luminous white lights near power lines in Hollsopple at 12:55.

A Richland man who was going fishing reported seeing a long, skin-



ny football-shaped object with windows, three bright lights and red and green strobe lights on its underside at 5:20. The object was seen hovering 300 feet above trees along Hostetler Road. The man said he and people in two other cars stopped to observe the craft.

Both witnesses said no sound emanated from the craft, although they reported seeing and hearing aircraft flying above the unidentified objects.

Later in the day, at about 2:30, an area woman said she saw a military transport plane near some power lines. Mr. Gordon said the flight service stations at Johnstown and Altoona reported no military aircraft in the area at that time.

Mr. Gordon said he wasn't surprised to receive the report of military aircraft in the area. He said it is not unusual for reports of military and unidentified flying objects to coincide. Although the Air Force officially closed its file of UFO reports, known as Project Blue Book, in 1969, Mr. Gordon said it appears the government still is interested when unexplainable objects are reported.

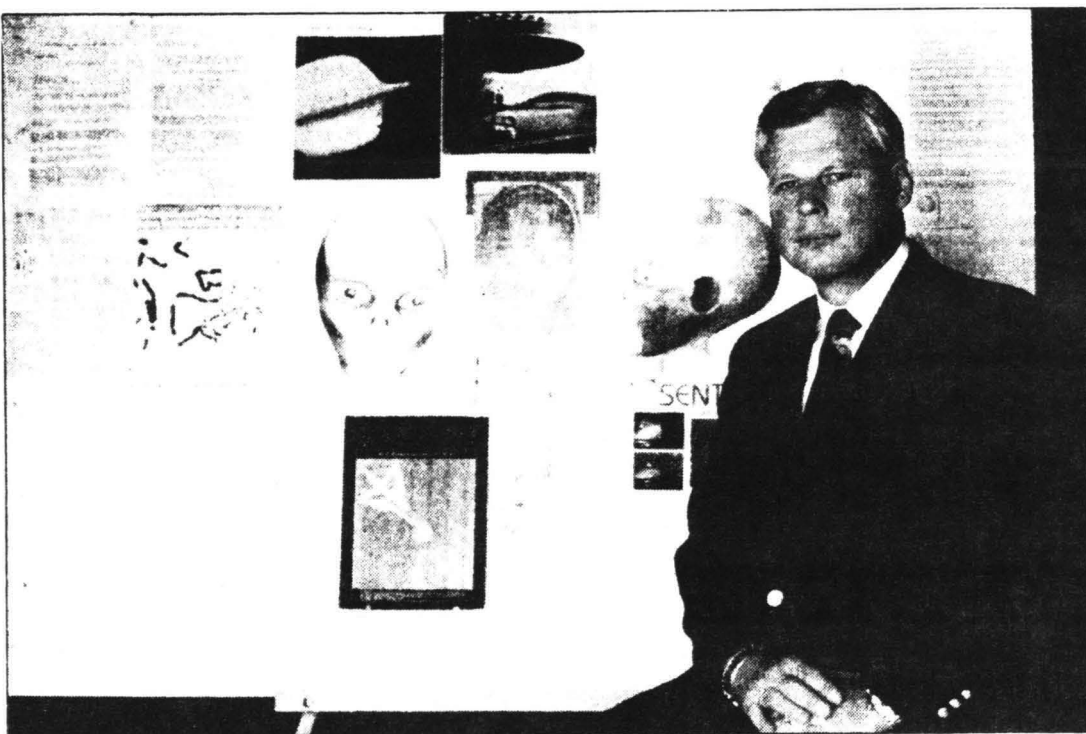
Investigating the reports

Mr. Gordon said seven members of his 100-member organization are following up on the reports. Depending on the type of sighting or encounter, he said, the members, who have technical and scientific expertise, will conduct personal interviews or check for physical evidence.

The information then will be entered into the organization's computer. Mr. Gordon said this helps to detect similarities in the objects and in the patterns of the sightings.



Bob Amos observes the stars from backyard telescope.



SUNphoto by Leo Zatechick

John Lear stands by his evidence that the U.S. government is hiding its association with alien beings.

Former CIA pilot, others say aliens are among us

By Lynn Berk
and David Renzi
SUN Staff Writers

In the cool dark of an isolated ranch house at the foot of Sunrise Mountain, even the sound of an airplane passing overhead is ominous — an out-of-the-ordinary roaring that only accentuates an out-of-the-ordinary conversation.

Part of it is John Lear himself, an unsmiling, humorless man with close-cropped silver hair who seems to carry the weight of the world on his shoulders. And perhaps he does, because part of this Twilight Zone conversation is Lear's contention that the United States government is hiding a horrendous secret: an on-going relationship with aliens from other worlds.

When he says, "It is without a doubt the biggest cover-up in the history of mankind," it is spoken with the outward calm of a person who senses something dreadful but is powerless to see it or stop it or prove it.

But he believes, and that belief is central to his obsession. And it is an obsession. He freely admits that. He also knows that what he says is at times so bizarre it stretches credulity.

That's why he spends four hours out of a sunny morning, holed up in this darkened testimony to the Lear family tradition, talking about it. Handing out copies of allegedly highly sensitive documents. Playing videotapes of some of the strangest stories in journalism. Backing them up with telephone numbers of people he says are like him, bucking the odds to get the rest of the world to take seriously what has been a long-running and worldwide joke.

Flying saucers are real, Lear says, and are manned by beings from other star systems. Those same beings have both captured and been captured with the full knowledge of the U.S. government and that same government is willing to go to any lengths — any lengths at all — to keep it secret.

Some of what Lear says is parroted in black-and-white, in both general public articles and in both Top Secret and declassified documents that have been leaked to him, a former CIA employee who flew spook missions over Cambodia when we were not officially there. Some of what he says is his own theory, a theory that in the bright light of day, away from that house and its inherent forboding, sounds like a Rod Serling script. But his manner — and at least part of his evidence — is compelling.

When Lear speaks he places a demand on the listener to make the distinction between fact and fiction; aside from photographs and film footage, he says he has never seen a UFO. Aside from artists' renditions, he says he has never seen an extraterrestrial.

He knows only what those who claim to have seen both have told him, what documents and articles, numerous books and several news documentaries have disclosed. At the least it is second-hand information. Some of it is speculation; some of it is heresay.

And some of it has the official stamp of "Top Secret" on it, such as the document headed "Briefing Document: Operation Majestic 12, prepared for President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower: (Eyes Only), Nov. 18, 1952."

It reads, "On July 7, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage found on a ranch in Roswell, New Mexico of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded ... Civilian and military witnesses in the area were debriefed, and news reporters were given the effective cover story that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon."

The government has always officially denied the existence of Operation Majestic 12, or MAJIC. But an alleged memorandum from then-president Harry Truman dated Sept. 24, 1947, to Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, acknowledges at least its existence, if not its purpose, with the words, "As per our recent conversation on this

matter, you are hereby authorized with all due speed and caution upon your undertaking. Hereafter this matter shall be referred to only as Operation Majestic Twelve."

Lear says the organization is still in existence, made an ill-fated deal with the humanoid alien beings, and now includes Vice President George Bush and former National Security Advisor John Poindexter on its roster.

All of which, of course, is high impossible to prove. A skeptic might argue that it is so much science fiction spun from so many vivid imaginations. At least one of the people Lear gives as reference qualifies all of the statements Lear has attributed to him. Author William Moore says a man who has been in and out of psychiatric wards has disseminated much of the information Lear echoes concerning bizarre underground bases and aliens inhabiting the planet.

Moore is the author of the book "The Roswell Incident," which traces the New Mexico crash and retrieval that reportedly sparked the creation of MJ-12. He says Lear is correct when he claims Moore has a videotape of a military officer associated with MJ-12 answering questions about the organization's history, the cover-up, the recovery of numerous flying saucers, and the existence of a live alien. He won't talk about that because he's in the middle of giving it to another news source.

But he does say: "Certainly there's a government cover-up. There are pages and pages (of UFO material) from the National Security Council in which 80 percent of the content is blacked out. The question is, what are they covering up?"

"Is there any substantial evidence to back (Lear's story) up? None. There have been people who claim to have seen Christ step out of a spaceship in their backyard. I guess if you believe that, you'll believe anything," Moore adds.

Paul Bennowitz, who has a history of mental instability according to Moore, has shown him aerial photographs of what he claims is a desert alien base in New Mexico. But, Moore says, "There isn't any way of discerning what it is. What he sees as a base with spaceships and aliens on the ground looks like sticks and rocks. Frankly, not one person who looks at the photos can see the base, aliens and spaceships. What looks like alien spaceships to him looks like craggy shale coming out of the ground to me."

Lear admits his belief that the operation of a joint CIA-alien un-

derground base in New Mexico, in which cloning and genetic experiments are being conducted on unwilling human guinea pigs, is speculation. But he believes this for several reasons:

He says papers describing events at the base were given to him by a CIA agent who worked in the facility. He says he talked to a woman who was abducted — for unknown reasons — and witnessed the experiments. He says he is associated with a man whose son worked as a laboratory assistant at the base and helped the aliens and the CIA perform the experiments.

Also theory is Lear's belief that the aliens will radically alter the world's religious beliefs. He says he has seen a videotape which has a U.S. government representative saying the aliens created Jesus Christ and manipulated human genetic development.

"Right now I'm beginning to think they're lying because they're so deceptive," Lear says. "It's probably not true, but they're saying it."

Since the world is held together by religious experiences and belief, he says, the aliens are attacking that fabric in an attempt to gain the upper hand in a hostile takeover of the planet. That, too, is conjecture.

"At least 25 abductees have said something is going to happen within the year," Lear says. One abductee, he says, pinpointed a date of May 16. "Government informants say there's a tremendous feeling of foreboding."

May 16 has come and gone.

Lear stands by his story. Reiterating what he wrote in a seven-page statement issued last December, Lear says the United States government has covered up its relationship with alien beings for more than 20 years and its involvement with UFOs in general for more than 40.

In the beginning, he theorizes it was to prevent a mass panic equivalent to the one generated by Orson Welles' 1938 radio broadcast, "War of the Worlds." In 1988, however, Lear says the aliens have given the government far more threatening reasons to sup-

press information.

In what he describes as the "horrible truth," Lear claims the government "sold us to the aliens" — unwittingly but irretrievably.

Between 1969 and 1971, Lear says MJ-12 made a deal with advanced alien beings called EBE's (Extraterrestrial Biological Entities). The deal was this: The EBE's (also called the Grays because of their coloring) would give the U.S. information that would enable us to surpass the Soviet Union technologically. In turn, MJ-12 would ignore the Grays' abductions of humans for study and suppress information on the widespread cattle mutilations — the aliens' source of food — although they would provide both MJ-12 and the National Security Council with a list of those abductees.

But the Grays lied, says Lear. They were abducting far more people than they admitted to and for far more ominous reasons. According to Lear, whose scenario is backed up at least in part by a former U.S. military intelligence officer, some of the purposes for the abductions were:

- To biologically monitor, track and control the subject by inserting a three-millimeter device through the nasal cavity into the brain. (Lear says the aliens can, and do, track humans even after the device is removed.)

- To implement a post-hypnotic suggestions to carry out a specific, perhaps cataclysmic, activity during a certain time period within the following two to five years. The best scientific minds, he says, have been unable to determine the nature of that activity.

- To kill some subjects so they could function as sources for biological material and substances — specifically, food.

- To kill some individuals whom the Grays felt represented a threat to the continuation of their activity.

- To affect genetic engineering experiments.

- To impregnate human females and terminate pregnancies early to secure a crossbred infant.

In what he calls "the grand deception," Lear says the Grays doublecrossed the United States because they made the same technology-for-abductions deal with the Soviet Union. Now, he says, both countries have combined their top scientific minds to create a weapon in an effort to combat the Grays. The first weapon, he claims, failed earlier this year.

That weapon was built partly as a reaction to an altercation with the Grays at what Lear calls a jointly occupied CIA-alien underground facility in Dulce, N.M. Lear says that in 1979 a special armed forces unit attempted to "free" a number of American abductees trapped in the facility.

Lear names no names from where this information was retrieved, only vagueries.

On the rescue attempt: "According to one source, 66 of the soldiers were killed and our people were not freed."

On the underground laboratory: "This jointly occupied CIA-alien facility has been described as enormous, with huge tiled walls that go on forever. Witnesses have reported huge vats filled with amber liquid and parts of human bodies being stirred inside."

"We've united with the Russians for the common goal of trying to save ourselves from the Grays," Lear says. And he claims the Russian scientists' visit to the Nevada Test Site wasn't to

(continued on page 12)

monitor underground nuclear tests at all, but to work with American scientists on the new weapon, a weapon Lear says won't be available for at least two years.

"They (the Grays) have used humans for food," Lear says. "That's part of the reason for the cover-up. The government thinks the cover-up must be kept, even with the use of deadly force."

According to Lear, the Grays have infested the planet. "There's a rumor that 600 are up at the Test Site." Officials at the Test Site call the claim nonsense. "I can assert," said Public Information Officer Karen Randolph, "that there are no aliens, alive or dead, at the Test Site. That's just not true."

Lear says the aliens come from Zeti Reticulum, a binary star system 38 light years from Earth. He theorizes that the Grays are using the hormones and enzymes of humans and cattle for food because a genetic disorder in their digestive system has caused it to atrophy and dysfunction.

"In order to sustain themselves," Lear wrote in his statement, "they use an enzyme or hormonal secretion obtained from the tissue that they extract from humans and animals. The secretions are then mixed with hydrogen peroxide and applied on the skin by spreading or dipping parts of their bodies in the solution. The body absorbs the solution, then excretes the waste back through the skin."

Robert Pippin, project manager for the Planetarium at Clark County Community College, points out that Zeti Reticulum is actually 130 light years from earth — not 38 — and it would take even the fastest Voyager millions of miles to make the trip to Earth unless it was traveling at least close to the speed of light. That is not impossible in theory, he says, but if they were in fact capable of that, "They would certainly have no need to be surreptitious."

"The biology doesn't make sense to me, but if they can travel like that then they can manipulate matter and they certainly don't have to come as humans. But why would they travel literally trillions of miles to eat our cattle? It's very unlikely there are monsters out there doing it."

Then who is doing it? The cattle mutilations that Lear claims feed the aliens have plagued law enforcement officers in every state west of the Mississippi since 1974, including Nevada's Humboldt County. A documentary produced by Linda Howe called "Strange Harvest" concludes that nothing known to man is responsible for

the bloodless, trackless, mutilated carcasses, but a sheriff in Humboldt County and the director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation both dispute that.

"We have no mutilated cows or flying saucers up here," Humboldt County Sheriff James Bagwell said in a telephone interview, and while he does not argue that bodies of cows and bulls have turned up in his territory, he says every single one has had a plausible explanation behind it.

"This is harsh country. Ranchers can expect to lose 2 to 3 percent of their range cattle every year. Sometimes it's inclement weather. Sometimes a heifer having her first calf will die, unable to pass the calf. Or they'll fall and break a leg." Cattle rustlers, passed on to legend in most states, still work their trade around Humboldt County and Bagwell believes the remains left behind after the rustlers take off with the backbone and hind quarters can feed an overactive imagination.

"When a cow dies, it's the soft body tissue that is first attacked," he says. "Eyes, lips, anus, and if a small animal like a rodent goes after it, it would appear that it has been cut with a knife and there will be no tracks."

Since he took office in January 1983, there has not been one case of unexplainable "mutilation" nor have any carcasses been found totally drained of blood. Occasional reports of helicopters such as have been seen around other mutilation sites in other states, "turn out to be military aircraft. The area around Winnemucca is on the route for testing. Sometimes they come at night and of course that causes concern."

No mystery there, Bagwell says. And in fact the mystery is not a mystery at all according to Carl Whiteside, director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, but only a colorful ruse concocted by two Joliet State Prison inmates looking for something to get them into a less secure halfway house and consequent escape.

Whiteside doesn't deny that there have been cattle deaths; 206 were reported and investigated by the CBI between 1976 and 1977 when the probe was officially closed. But out of those 206, 203 had plausible explanations, Whiteside says, and the remaining three he puts down to pranksters. The Joliet inmates' bizarre story of monsters and saucers was fueled by the press and by special interest groups looking for something to hook into.

He calls Howe's documentary "grossly jaded to support her posi-

tion. We have never uncovered anything to support a theory of flying saucers." Alleged mutilation has been attributed to predator attacks and no corpse was ever found — at least by the CBI — drained of blood. Whiteside further says that conclusion was also the conclusion of officials with the Department of the Interior who examined hair and chew marks on the carcasses.

But both Bagwell's and Whiteside's conclusions are 180 degrees from those formed by another, a 27-year veteran of law enforcement now serving as sheriff of San Animas County, Colorado.

Sheriff Lou Girodo, formerly chief investigator for the District Attorney's Office in Trinidad, Colo., has been looking at those carcasses for 12 years — mutilated, drained of blood with no other signs of blood on the ground or in the surrounding area and no tracks leading to or from the corpses.

"I can tell you what they aren't," he says. "I was born and raised on a ranch and I know what kills cattle. I know lightning and poison and falls and predators and disease — and none of these are responsible for what has happened out here. We've examined the cult theory, the possibility of the military doing something out here, and none of them stand up. So I can tell you what they aren't. You tell me what they ARE."

The last case officially reported was two years ago, although Girodo knows from his connection with ranchers that they are still continuing. One estimate puts the number that have actually occurred nationwide since 1974 at a conservative 5,000. On Girodo's last case he took a veterinarian with him — and a Geiger counter, since large unblinking lights had been reported hovering in the night sky shortly before the cow's body was found.

The radioactivity level was "nothing to be alarmed about," he says, but the cow's body was. Unlike others that have had various organs apparently surgically removed with no other obvious cause of death, this one was intact but with every single bone in its body broken and rub, or rope burn, marks between its horns.

"I asked the vet what had happened to that animal. He said it had been beaten with a sledgehammer and then dragged into the pasture. I said okay, I'll make a circle and you show me even one area where the earth had been disturbed. He couldn't. He finally agreed with me that the cow had been dropped, hit the ground, and bounced."

The next day Girodo asked a sheriff's deputy to spend an evening out by that pasture and report back to him any unusual activity. "He called me and said that at 9 p.m. he saw a bright light streak out of the north, illuminate that pasture, and then take off south."

Girodo said when he stands at a crime scene, he asks himself the basic questions — who, what, why, where and how? "Why is this cow, a healthy animal that means \$300 to its owner, lying here? I always tell my investigators that if they take the time to look and listen, a crime scene will talk back to them. But I've been at this 12 years and this is nothing we can explain."

He scoffs at one claim that the attacks — including one case where the hind and back quarters had been rolled up like a newspaper one-third the way up the animal's back — are the results of coyotes.

"If there's a coyote out there that can cut like that, I want a machine gun."

But on the whole, author Moore doesn't put much stock in Lear's theories of female impregnation and bases and cattle-eating humanoid. "I think," he says, "Mr. Lear has talked to a lot of people, but he doesn't have a lot of evidence. It has been gleaned from this source and that source, but he has no proof. It is strictly his position. He hasn't conducted any substantial research."

Lear's obsession dates back 13 months when he had a discussion with Air Force personnel who had witnessed a closely documented UFO report coming out of Bentwaters, a United States Air Force base north of London, in 1980. The case was reported in detail on Cable News Network, which played back a tape made at the time of the incident capturing both the excitement and apparent fear of the men moving into the woods between RAF Woodbridge and Bentwaters tracking "unusual lights."

Whether or not alien beings were seen then is still debated, but a memorandum from Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, deputy base commander at Bentwaters, to Combat Support Group headquarters in New York confirmed the sightings of blinking, metallic lights that left three depressions in the ground.

That discussion inspired Lear to compile volumes of information on UFOs from numerous sources. That leaves Moore skeptical. "It's the product of a few weeks of research," he says. "Lear has lent his own personal reputation and name to make a story out of something that isn't a story. I think he's jumping the gun. He's

like a bull in a china shop."

Moore's tape was to be released publicly later in 1987 as part of the government's plan to release UFO information to the public. When the first weapon employed against the Grays failed, however, Lear says the government decided to wait until sometime in 1988 to avoid a panic. He says journalist Paul Harvey viewed the tape, but declined to mention it on his radio show.

Lear also claims that Moore was invited to Washington, D.C., to film an EBE in an interview for public distribution, but the idea was shelved after the stock market crash in October. Moore denies that, and dismisses Lear's allegation that he is not a UFO researcher at all — but a government agent with close ties to MJ-12.

"I have no idea where he got that information. I've been actively involved with UFOs for over 25 years. I'm one of the few people in the country who is a UFOologist. I disseminate information that is strongly evidence-oriented. I don't believe everything everybody tells me. I let the evidence speak for itself. Where is his evidence?"

Lear says there are three living aliens that have been captured and code-named EBE-1, EBE-2 and EBE-3. The aliens, who defected, he says, are being held at an electromagnetic facility called YY-II at the Air Force base in Los Alamos, N.M.

"They communicate through telepathy," he says. "They are advanced to us by more than a million years. They can move by thought and disappear. When they did a display for (President Dwight) Eisenhower at Edwards Air Force Base, he said, 'The public is not ready for this.'"

President Reagan is aware of the EBEs, Lear says, and has intimated as much when he said in a speech concerning a meeting with Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev:

"I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this earth together."

Was he talking about the future?

Not according to John Lear: He was talking about the here and now.

John Lear to speak at library

"The Truth Behind UFOs" will be discussed by aviator and UFO researcher John Lear at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Spring Valley Library, 4280 S. Jones Blvd.

Lear, senior captain of a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar for American Trans Air flying out of the Hughes terminal in Las Vegas, has flown over 160 different types of aircraft in over 50 different countries. He holds 17 world speed records in the Lear Jet and is the only pilot ever to hold every airman certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Lear has flown missions worldwide for the CIA and other government agencies. A former Nevada state senator candidate, he is the son of William P. Lear, designer of the Lear Jet executive airplane, the eight-track stereo, and founder of Lear Siegler corporation.

Lear became interested in the subject of UFO's 18 months ago after talking to United States Air Force personnel who, according to Lear, had witnessed a UFO landing and three small aliens walking up to the Wing Commander at Bentwaters AFB, near London, England.

THE PILOT, Southern Pines, NC - May 5, 1988

UFO Here Reported Being Seen

Hester Brown and her son Larry recently reported to the Robbins police that they spotted an unidentified flying object in the sky above

their home on Baptist Street in Robbins.

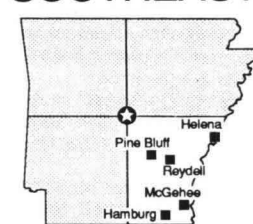
Larry Brown spotted an object in the sky that appeared to be oblong with many lights at about 9 o'clock in the evening. He said "I never saw anything like it—it would stay in one place and then jump back and forth changing directions." He continued, "I knew that it couldn't be a helicopter because it was too high up, but it had windows with different lights and was like a saucer. It was circling in the sky for about ten minutes before it disappeared going towards Charlotte."

Mrs. Brown saw the UFO also and called the RDU airport. They advised her to call the police.

Robbins Police Chief English said that when the officer reached the home nothing was seen.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - June 5, 1988

SOUTHEAST



■ Pine Bluff

LANDING ZONE — No one is implying — darn the luck — that a flying saucer landed on the bluff on Jeff Kahn's land overlooking an old channel of the Arkansas River near Pine Bluff. But Kahn last Sunday discovered a neatly defined burned area on the bluff, with depressions in the grass on either side, 32 feet apart. Kahn

speculated that a vertical lift aircraft from the adjoining Pine Bluff Arsenal may have set down on the triangular point on a lark. Not so, according to the Arsenal's public affairs officer Dewey Spencer, who said that there were no such aircraft at the Arsenal and that there was no military activity at all in the area in question. Jack Palmateer, Jefferson County Civil Defense chief, examined the burned area. "It's an odd set of circumstance," he said. "It did not happen accidentally."



EVENING GAZETTE, Teeside, England - Feb. 22, 1988 CR: T. Good

MY SPACE INVADERS!

AMATEUR photographer Andrew Farnaby believes he has captured real-life space invaders on film.

The 20-year-old community programme database worker was with four pals when, he claims, they saw a strange bright object in the night sky above Coulby Newham.

Andrew, of Forber Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, dashed into his home to get his camera and tripod before the "visitors" and their "UFO" disappeared.

By MALCOLM PICKERING

"I set it up on a long time exposure and the picture shows it quite clearly. It is like a bright tadpole with two tails."

One of his mates who also saw the "UFO" was Mark Savage, 18, of Rochester Road, who said: "It was really weird."

"There was no way it could have been a plane or a helicopter."

"It stayed too still. It was there for about 25 minutes, then it just went whoosh and vanished."

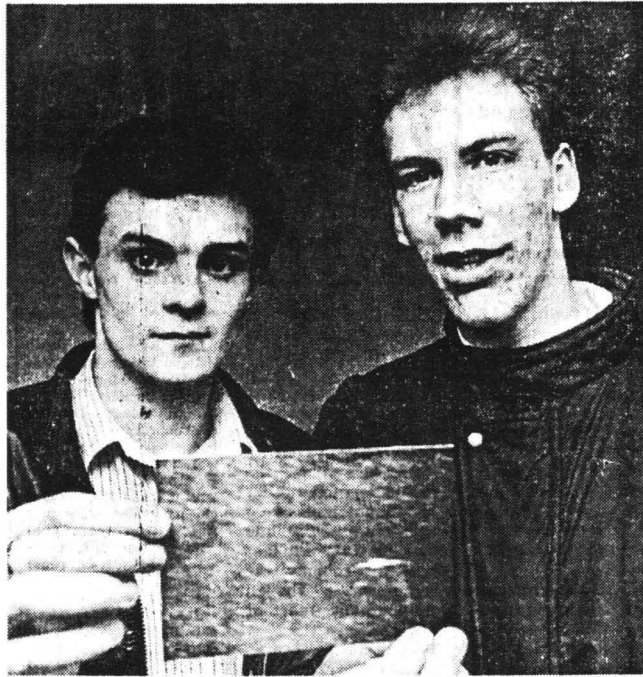
Said Andrew: "We did not tell anyone except our parents what we had seen, because we were sure no one would believe us."

"But when the film came back, there it was. It wasn't a star. The stars show up on the photo in a completely different way."

Cleveland Police say they had no other reports of UFO sightings on the night in question, last Wednesday.

Weird visitor in the night sky...

● UFO spotters Andrey Farnaby, left, and Mark Savage with the photograph they claim is of a "flying saucer" — shown below in an enlargement.



WEEKLY MAIL, Redditch, England - Feb. 26, 1988 CR: T. Good

'Floating city in the sky' mystery sighting over Redditch

IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE



Young UFO spotters Elizabeth Brannan, aged 13, brother Peter, 11, and Kelly O'Brien, 12, who saw something in the sky over Redditch.

UFO group plea for spotters

UFO enthusiasts investigating the most recent sightings over Redditch want to set up local groups of 'spotters'.

The appeal has been made by Derek Lawrence and Tony Green from the six-strong Worcester Skyscan group.

Co-ordinator Mr Green says there have been more than 200 sightings in the county in the last 16 years.

"Most of the sightings can be explained," he said.

"They are normally lights from aircraft, weather balloons, satellites or deliberate hoaxes."

"But around eight per cent of them

remain unexplained.

"The exciting thing is following up the reports."

"It's just like a detective story, and you get a lot out of finding out what these sightings really are."

At present Mr Green is putting all information about UFO sightings into a computer.

"This may help us explain future sightings or draw parallels between them," he said.

Anyone interested in representing the group locally in Redditch, Bromsgrove or Droitwich should contact Mr Lawrence, Skyscan, c/o 145 Tudor Way, Dines Green, Worcester.



UFO spotter Derek Lawrence.

An unidentified flying object which resembled a "city in the sky" was spotted over Redditch last week.

And now UFO experts are investigating reports of the sighting made by Redditch mother Mrs Margaret Brannan outside Hewell Recreation Club near Redditch.

Mrs Brannan, wife of a prison officer, spotted the UFO with her two children, aged 11 and 13, as well as her 11-year-old niece and Beverly Wake, the 15-year-old daughter of a neighbour.

And similar sightings of an unidentified flying object over the West Midlands were reported independently the same evening by patrolling police officers in Willenhall and Walsall, and by a Frankley Beeches resident.

"My brain was telling me it must be a plane," said Mrs Brannan, "but as I looked I realised that it couldn't be."

"It was the most fantastic thing I have ever seen. I still can't get over it."

"It was like a floating city in the sky, and the most vivid memory I have is of the tiny windows on it, which made it look like a block of flats."

Sgt Stuart Griffiths and Pc Michael Powell of Willenhall Police saw a low flying flashing object in the sky.

Sgt Griffiths described the three-minute sighting as:

"A very bright block of light, like an oblong block. There were red and green lights on the perimeter, which gave the impression that it was spinning."

FAITH AND MY UFO

I READ A. Worley's letter (March 4) with great interest and would like to tell of an incident that happened about four years ago.

I was standing in the bedroom looking across the rooftops towards the A52 by-pass. Suddenly, to the right of where I was gazing there emerged a large circular object.

It was silver, the point furthest away not quite visible. I was more than a little scared and turned to walk to my bedroom door. Then, because I thought I must be dreaming, I resumed my position at the window.

After maybe a minute, the object emerged again. It hung there, tilted, the back end seemingly hidden in slight cloud.

I have no way of calculating the distance. I am no expert in such matters, but one thing I do know, as sure as I am holding this pen, a kind of telepathy existed.

That object was meant for me to see. It stayed some seconds — with me unable to take in the magnitude of what I was witnessing.

I remember feeling apprehensive, but at the same time this sighting answered much I had been experiencing for some considerable time.

I care not whether I am believed or not, and for those who would assume I have no faith in God, let me assure them I have a strong faith. I have felt the presence of God on many occasions.

I have no desire to probe the unknown, but I am convinced there is a dimension other than our earthly existence, in fact I know it. I have stumbled on something that never ceases to leave me in awe.

I have never seen the UFO again, and to be honest I wouldn't really want to. I am one of life's cowards and the less I know about that other dimension the better.

SHEILA MANNERS (Mrs)

St Lawrence Boulevard, Radcliffe-on-Trent.

EVENING POST, Nottingham, England April 11, 1988 CR: T. Good

Ring road for UFOs?

STRANGE markings on a country road which puzzled police have led to a flying saucer alert.

Two rings, 12ft in diameter, have been found in the road surface at Farley near Matlock in Derbyshire.

Police are baffled but a spokesman for local UFO spotters said: "They could be linked with a UFO landing."

"Over the past few months we have had many sightings reported in Derbyshire."

MEDON & DUKERIES ADVERTISER, Mansfield, England - Feb. 18, 1988

UFO is sighted

It seems Mansfield people have a fascination with UFOs... or else they have a fascination with us, for yet another sighting has been reported.

This time it happened on 5th February at 8.15pm when a man was walking along Westbourne Road at Sutton. The Mansfield UFO society have compiled a report on the event.

It is claimed that the man saw two objects meet in the sky and instead of passing each

other, the first object swung around the stationary one for almost one complete turn before joining it.

The Mansfield UFO society said: "The brightness of the combined objects suddenly increased, and after about five minutes the whole thing suddenly shot off at an incredible speed to the North."

They are appealing to anyone who saw this or any other sightings on the same night, to contact them on Mansfield 651703 or 651954.

CR: T. Good

John's hot on trail of the UFO...

There's something in the air — but what?

The latest reports of an unidentified flying object over the West Midlands — with flashing lights and bigger than any aircraft, spotted independently this week by two pairs of patrolling police officers in Willenhall and Walsall — come at a time when sightings are showing a dramatic increase.

Cigar-shaped

Mr John Hurley, 48-year-old chairman of the West Midlands-based UFO Studies Investigations, said: "Since October last year, I have received 124 reports.

"In the same period from October 1985, there were 31; and there were 18 from October 1984 to February 1986."

Objects reported generally range from 3ft in diameter to the size of a small caravan. But three weeks ago, on January 26, he received calls about something described as being the size of a football pitch, hovering with lights all around it.

RAF Shawbury, in Shropshire, told him that there was an image on its radar screens for four seconds but would not give any other details.

Three weeks before that, a sister, two staff nurses and a doctor at Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, saw a cigar-shaped object 400ft by 60ft, hovering with lights all around it. Birmingham Airport said there been a brief showing on radar — but again, there were no further details.

Reports

John Hurley, a computer analyst who lives in Kingsland Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham, said: "I have interviewed all of them and they are all genuine people. But I cannot understand why, even though admittedly it was at 2.15 am, we did not have any other calls at all."

It was last October that sightings hit a peak. He received 51 in the course of two days, charting the course of a huge orange object with a green band around it. It was first sighted by a



● A recent sighting — from Wednesday's Mail

woman in Bromsgrove and the drivers of two other cars as it remained stationary and silent at 2,500 feet for four minutes before shooting off towards Birmingham.

Soon afterwards, there were reports from Birmingham, Streetly, Four Oaks and Aldridge, where it was seen hovering for a minute. Then a retired police officer watched it for 90 seconds in Staffordshire. Other reports came an hour later of its being seen over Huddersfield, Leeds and the Lake District.

John Hurley said: "All the descriptions were the same and it cannot be explained as being an aircraft. I would not stick my neck out and say it was a flying

saucer, but I haven't a clue what it may have been. There is certainly something very strange going on."

Strange, he thinks, in more ways than one.

Last November, he applied to the Ministry of Defence at Cheltenham under the 30-year time limit of the Freedom of Information Act to see documents relating to sightings up to 1957 and was told they had been inadvertently destroyed with files on the second World War.

He has a theory that despite the Freedom of Information Act, members of the public will continue to be free to know only what the Government wants them to know.

Arcing

UFOs have fascinated him since he began collecting information 18 years ago, and although he tries to keep an open mind on the subject, he admits there are things that he cannot reasonably account for.

But he points out that nine out of ten UFO sightings can be explained without involving objects from outer space.

It is probably because John Hurley knows this that he is able to say so confidently that he has never seen a thing.

The nearest he came to it was in 1961 and 1968, when he saw a meteorite light up the sky. He knew what it was — but there were reports next day of UFO sightings.

At the moment, he is working on a report from Acocks Green, Birmingham, about a light in the sky, arcing from the North to the East.

He suspects it may have been a man-made satellite.

John always likes to hear the false alarms — because it is possible that they could have been something important.

Flash

Unfortunately, many people hesitate to make their sightings known and he understands why.

"I am sure that everyone at some time has seen something flash across the sky and wondered what it was. But they think, 'If I report this, people will think I'm barmy...'"

John Hurley promises he will think nothing of the sort. His telephone number is 021 360 4580.

JOHN SLIM



□ □ John Hurley with his record of sightings. Over the past four months he has registered 124. □ □

EVENING MAIL, Birmingham, England — Feb. 19, 1988 CR: T. Good

Mike's on UFO call

Starman's new age!

WHEN AN amateur astronomer and eight London policemen witnessed a suspicious pulsing orb glowing in the night sky last month, Leyton-based UFO researcher Mike Wooten was called in to investigate.

"The police station was on alert for two nights and the MoD was informed," said Mike (24) of Ivy Road.

Fortunately for civilisation, if not for the reputation of the star struck boys in blue, our local unexplained objects expert was able to dispel fears of imminent invasion.

"I told them they had been looking at Jupiter," he said. "A cheap telescope produces distortions which may have made the shape appear to pulse."

"I have tried to explain it to the police, but they have been very coy about it."

Such a simple explanation is typical of Mike's pragmatic approach to research into the paranormal.

By day he works for British Telecom but by night while traditional UFO spotters are out perusing the heavens for signs of men from Mars, he stays at home and down to earth with his computer programmes and word processor.

Galaxy

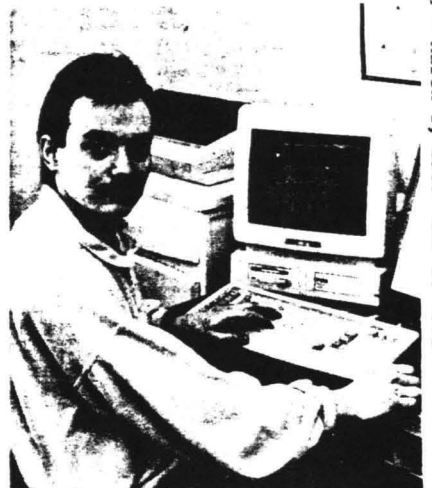
Things have changed a bit since the 10-year-old space enthusiast bought a UFO detector for his parents' front room.

"It was just a compass with an alarm," said Mike. "The cat used to set it off. Now I prefer to spend my time editing the British UFO research association (BUFORA) newsletter, and taking a more scientific approach to sightings."

He is one of only six researchers in the London area who are called out when people report unexplained objects.

Mike will follow their information up by contacting police and airfields and consulting his computerised chart of the galaxy.

Eventually most UFOs are identified as aircraft



and stars, but he does sometimes come across the inexplicable.

"In 1981 an elderly Woodford woman saw a fluorescent cigar shaped object moving slowly across the night sky," he said.

"And there was no way I could explain that away."

Demand for information from the new speculative breed of space spotter has led to interviews on TV shows such as *Killroy*.

Alien

And during one appearance last year, he found stars in his eyes rather than his galactic computer programme when he encountered fellow research enthusiast Gaynor Sunderland (21).

She was at the studios to tell TV presenter Sarah Kennedy about her sighting of an alien space craft some years ago in Wales.

"What a combination, a witness and a researcher," says Mike. Now they are engaged and planning to buy a house locally.

Despite his extensive knowledge of information concerning alien arrivals, Mike is not too sure what he

would do if he had a close encounter himself.

"It would obviously be very frightening," he said. "People who claim to have had such experiences are deeply affected."

He cites the case of a family in Essex who reported that while they were driving near Brentwood, their car was enveloped in a green mist.

They claim to have been taken on to a space ship and examined separately before being returned to their car.

"Their lives apparently changed considerably after they had relived that experience under therapy," said Mike. "They said they became much more interested in artistic pastimes too."

But until he comes across his own little green man, Mike is taking such reports with a pinch of salt and storing them away on his computer banks with reams of other UFO info.

"My word processor is infinitely more useful than binoculars would be," he says. "I guess I'm just one of the new breed of yuppie space researchers!" — Patricia Thompson.

MALTHAM FOREST EXTRA, England — March 1, 1988 CR: T. Good

Crews Claim They Saw More UFOs

NZPA Adelaide Two tuna boat crews have reported that they sighted an unidentified flying object in the Great Australian Bight — a week before similar sightings at sea and over the Nullarbor Plain.

Chief Inspector Barry Willoughby at Port Lincoln said he could not confirm whether the sightings were linked with the bizarre story of a Perth family who said they had been terrorised by a UFO on the Nullarbor Plain.

Both crews had reported a "bright, white light" in the great Australian Bight between Esperance and Ceduna.

But Chief Inspector Willoughby said it could be at least 14 days before Port Lincoln police could question the crews who were still fishing the Bight.

Fay Knowles and her three sons, Patrick, aged 24, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18, said they were about

40km west of Mundrabilla, near the Western Australian border, early on Wednesday morning when they saw a glowing object which resembled a giant egg in an egg cup.

They told police they watched as it chased a truck and car which were travelling in the opposite direction, before turning and landing on their own vehicle.

A police spokesman said it apparently picked the car up, shook it violently and forced it back down with such pressure that one of the tyres was blown.

Mrs Knowles told police the UFO turned their car around and placed it back on the road facing in the opposite direction.

Crime investigators from Port Lincoln examined the car, which was covered in an ash-like substance, and sent samples from the interior and exterior to Adelaide for forensic examination.

NEW ZEALAND HERALD, Auckland, New Zealand Jan. 22, 1988 CR: R. Collings

UFO sleuth aims to uncover top level conspiracy



UFO INVESTIGATOR: Dot Street is determined to find out more about close encounters with alien life.

STAR-GAZERS often think they have glimpsed a UFO — only to be brought down to earth with the knowledge that what they have really seen is space junk or a meteor.

Imaginations are fired by films like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and numerous TV sci-fi series — even *Dynasty* soap star Fallon met some visiting aliens.

Some people claim the existence of extraterrestrials and UFOs is far from make-believe.

Author and UFO investigator Mrs Dot Street of Drapers Copse, Claypit Lane, Dibden, is convinced she has seen an alien space-craft and that one sitting changed her life.

Her experience has led to the break up her marriage, cost her hundreds of pounds, took her on a trip to the United States and brought her into conflict with the Ministry of Defence and American military authorities.

"I had a sitting in 1978 when I went upstairs to check on my baby son. I looked out of the window and saw an oval object at an angle, travelling 20-times faster than the Red Arrows."

Her encounter lasted seconds but the aftermath of distress and obsession has gone on for years.

Shelves of books on UFOs and the paranormal line the

walls of the shed at the bottom of her garden which she has turned into her office.

"Before 1978 I was an ordinary housewife. The unknown has always baffled me. I was open minded and thought seeing was believing," said Dot.

"After the incident all I wanted was somebody to talk to. I had no-one to turn to so I read everything I could get my hands on because I had to find out what was going on."

She was invited to become an investigator for BUFORA — British UFO Research Association — and counselled other witnesses. She no longer works for the Association but carries on her research and helping others.

After her original sitting she had rushed into the husband screaming "the exist, they are real."

When a craft allegedly came down near her Yarmouth home in 1981 she thought her chance had come to prove her case.

But when she and fellow investigator, Brenda Butler, started asking question about the Rendlesham Forest incident they were stonewalled by the British government and American personnel at a nearby U.S. Airforce base.

The evidence which they collected is detailed in the book *Skycrash* (published by Grafton, cost £2.95) and she is preparing another book and tape on the incident which she believes the government has tried to cover-up.

"I had phone bills of up to £900 from dialling the United States but I had to find out what happened."

"The finances cracked up my marriage. I am best of friends with my ex-husband but I was not prepared to give it up. I had gone so far and spent so much money," said Dot.

Now she is living in a mobile home in Hampshire so her two

children can be near their father.

She knows she is not alone in her beliefs. Piles of letters have arrived at her home after an appeal appeared in the *Echo* asking for those who had seen a UFO to contact her.

The replies range from those from ex-RAF personnel claiming to have seen unidentified flying objects while testing new aircraft to those walking their dogs who have just glanced up to see rocket-type shapes cruise across the sky.

One witness said he saw a craft in which he could see tall ghost like figures surrounded by a gaseous substance.

Such was the response she intends to set up a group for witness in this area. The first meeting will be held at Bogarts, Above Bar, Southampton, on May 2 at 7pm.

"Any witnesses who want to come along are welcome," said Dot.

Nazis blamed for UFOs!

by Fergus Kelly

NAZIS could be responsible for UFOs sighted in the skies over North Yorkshire.

That is the startling theory of Yorkshire UFO Society who were holding their annual conference in Rotherham today.

They claim that both the Americans and Russians have aircraft, or flying discs, originally designed by the Nazis in the Second World War.

Mick Hanson, the Director of Overseas Research for the society, insists that he and his colleagues are serious in their claim.

"Our research over the last few years shows that these craft were being manufactured by the Nazis during the war," said Mr Hanson.

"The Americans and the Russians overran their secret factories when they invaded Germany and came across the flying discs the Germans had built."

Mr Hanson, who says he also believes in extra-terrestrial life, claims that it is very possible the superpowers have been building their own versions of the Nazi flying discs since the end of the war.

Pumpkin

Among the sightings to be discussed at the conference will be a "large pumpkin object with several cocktail sticks coming out of it," seen over York on December 30, said Mr Hanson.

The object was seen by housewife Elizabeth Rogers, of Hamerton Close, Chapelfields and, as reported in the *Evening Press* at the time, RAF Linton-on-Ouse confirmed there were no aircraft then in the air.

Mr Hanson said the society dealt with about 15 to 20 sightings a year over Yorkshire.

"We do not subscribe to any one theory. Some of these sightings are natural and explainable, but we are interested in the ones we cannot explain," he added.

About 400 enthusiasts, from as far afield as Newcastle and Blackpool, and including York, are expected at the weekend conference.

Did you see the light?

■ A UFO expert is seeking more witnesses to an unexplained light over the Belmont Moors.

■ The unidentified bright white light, spotted by Mrs Dorothy Lomax of Dunsar, appeared over the moor for some 45 minutes before vanishing.

■ UFO expert Steve Bollen said: "I have been in touch with Mrs Lomax. What she saw is definitely not a star or an aircraft."

■ "It is an unexplained light and I would like to hear from anyone else who saw it. It was over the moors for three quarters of an hour so someone else must have spotted it."

■ The light appeared last Wednesday at 5pm.

TRADER, Long Eaton, England - Dec. 23, 1987 CR: T. Good

UFO COVER-UP CLAIM

by Barry Heafield

A DRAYCOTT Unidentified Flying Object investigator is accusing the authorities of a massive cover-up over widespread UFO sightings.

Mr Dennis Harriman, local coordinator of the National UFO Investigation Society, says he has met with a "wall of silence" from officialdom over recent sightings, which were reported all over the area.

"I had 90 calls on Wednesday and the tally is getting on for 300 now," said Mr Harriman.

"People phoning me are worried — there are so many of these things, but no one is doing anything about them. The police are being told to withhold information from the public."

"They say they have only had a handful of reports, but I know that to be a lie because more people have rung me up and said they have submitted reports."

Also, there were eight policemen, I am told, who saw the UFOs over Nottingham, but they have not come forward.

Mr Harriman said an informant told him the police had over 100 calls reporting UFO sightings earlier this month, but has passed only three on to him.

From Staffordshire across Leicestershire and Derbyshire into Nottinghamshire people reported strange lights in the sky on an object the size of a football pitch travelling very slowly and accompanied by a deep hum.



Dennis Harriman

In Long Eaton, Mr Edward Fell said he got out of his car on Bridge Street to watch the spectacle: "There was a very bright light coming towards me and five red lights along side."

"The impression I got was that it was tremendous. I knew it was huge — 20 or 30 times the size of a normal aircraft and it made a distinctive deep throbbing noise."

But Nottinghamshire Police HQ denied they had received many reports and certainly not of any football pitch sized flying objects.

A spokesman said: "We had a handful of reports of lights in the sky, but certainly we heard nothing of anything else the size of a football pitch."

"There was a micra light aircraft in the area at the time — that might have been it."

Mr Harriman also said one of the UFOs had passed directly over the control tower at East Midlands International Airport at Castle Donington.



● Trader artist Paul Moran's impression of the UFO

But a spokesman for the airport said: "Our air traffic controllers saw nothing on the radar screen and there was nothing seen over the airport."

Mr Harriman said another report from a woman in Chilwell gave details of a triangular shaped UFO landing on a school playing field.

"She said it came down vertically," said Mr Harriman, "and someone else heard the noise of crashing metal, but there were no car accidents."

"Reports are still coming in, the phone's ringing non-stop."

A great increase in the number of sightings has occurred since August 16, said Mr Harriman, and the colours on the UFOs vary from area to area, though they are always consistent.

"In Suffolk, they are always orange," he said, "here they are always red and white and they tend to appear over power stations."

RAF bases and even graveyards for some reasons.

Sightings have been of cigar-shaped objects with circular fronts and long strips of lights down the sides. They do not normally go over populated areas, according to Mr Harriman, but have been doing so since August.

The RAF try to intercept and follow the UFOs when they hear about them, but bullets shot at them have never harmed them, said Mr Harriman, and the UFOs are far faster and more manoeuvrable.

Most eye-witnesses to the recent UFOs say a jet aircraft was following the object. Anyone with a sitting to report should ring Mr Harriman on Draycott 4961.

LICHFIELD MERCURY, Staffs., England - March 11, 1988

Sightings endorse reports of UFO's

A SECOND Lichfield man has come forward to back up claims of a UFO sighting over the city recently.

The Mercury reported last week that Mr. George Edwards spotted a long, silvery, cigar-shaped object hovering over the Cherry Orchard area at around 8 am on February 29.

Now a reader — who gave his name and address but does not wish to be identified — has said he saw a similar sight at around the same time.

The man was working at an industrial unit off Eastern Avenue.

"I looked up into the sky and saw this

silver object shaped, I thought, like a miniature submarine", he said.

"It could not have been a balloon as it was only there for about five seconds or so and went so fast it was a little dot in the distance in not time at all, heading towards Handsacre and Rugeley", he added.

"I thought I also saw some object on Thursday, March 3, at around 9 pm, but being dark I'm not sure."

"That was over Friary Grange School. There were blue, red, orange, green lights and it was too fast for a plane", he said.

MOST BELIEVE IN UFOS

Seeing saucers

A new poll says 46% of Canadians believe UFOs are real and 11% claim to have seen one. How about you? Do you believe in unidentified flying objects?

I totally believe in them.

Randy McLean, 30, bricklayer, Toronto

During my time in Europe I saw a shiny object flying in the sky. At first I thought it to be some kind of American gadget. In 1957 in Canada I saw the UFO magazine and I found out that this American gadget I saw was a UFO. So my point is there are such things.

Mr. Varga, 70, retired, Toronto

I'm one of the 46% that believe in UFOs but I think a few of the sightings in this area came off the end of George Bell's bat.

Jim Ross, 41, die mounter, Toronto

Yes, because out of all the millions of planets in the galaxy we cannot be the only one inhabited by some form of intelligent life.

Walter A. Blunt, promoter, Toronto

I have seen UFOs on a couple of occasions. However, it was after a head injury, and that's when I realized it was about time to seek medical help.

Tom McGreal, 67, retired, Toronto

Yes I believe in UFOs and yes I have seen one. It's illogical to believe otherwise.

Mary Lozinski, 27, clerk, Toronto

I believe there are flying saucers and I saw one about eight years back. It's hard to tell where they come from but I don't think they wish to make contact at this time.

M. Larter, 33, gas jock, Scarborough

Yes I do. After all, it's good to know there is other intelligent life in the universe.

Becky Somerville, 39, sales secretary, Toronto

I believe in flying objects. I saw one and was very scared because I'm afraid of the unknown.

Mary Knight, 66, homemaker, Toronto

I do not believe in UFOs. I believe a friend of mine is about right when he said the only believable

ARMCHAIR CRITIC

UFOs were the ones thrown by his wife when he arrived home late somewhat intoxicated on their anniversary.

Mr. Don Lewis, 67, retired, Scarboro

I believe in UFOs because I was born on Pluto. I'm a plutonian.

David McLuckie, 20, printer, Toronto

To see Brian Mulroney waste away the largest majority in Canadian political history makes me believe anything is possible.

David Loughlin, 29, ops. co-ordinator, Meadowvale

My theory is that since we have more than one solar system, there are other forms of life more advanced than us.

Nestor Dalmardis, 55, railroader, Rexdale

If you go up north and look up in the sky and see so many stars that they defy counting and you still believe that we are the only life in the universe then I would say that person is an extremely arrogant and self-centered individual.

Glenn Dufty, 30, worker, Bolton

I definitely believe there are aliens out there. We will not see any communication with them in our lifetime. But they are watching us. They have found evidence but our government does a lot of covering up.

Brian Thoman, 26, student, Toronto

UFOs are like honest politicians. We've all heard of them but we've never seen one.

Jack Blake, maintenance worker, Markham

Yes I do because I think I saw one 16 years ago.

Heather Mills, 29, factory worker, Toronto

John Destin, 49, comm. engineer, Toronto

UFOs. Little green people landing on our steeple. I believe in them, doesn't everyone? Will we drink from the cup on their saucer in peace? Heaven only knows if they are out there.

Neil Watson, 44, artist, Toronto

DAILY STAR, London, England - April 23, 1988 CR: T. Good

Alert over new 'veg' from outer space

TERROR OF THE UFO CARROTS

FRIGHTENED people ran for cover from giant flying carrots, only a few miles from where oranges as big as houses were spotted whizzing across the sky.

Two carrot-shaped objects the size of hot air balloons but a lot faster were seen over Kirk Hallam, Derbyshire.

STAR REPORTER

The unidentified flying oranges were reported by terrified witnesses in Beeston, Notts, last week.

A Kirk Hallam pensioner who spotted one of the carrots said: "I saw it drop below the back of the house towards a pond."

The pensioner, who refused to be named, added: "It looked like a stumpy carrot with smoke coming out of the end."

Flames

"I went to look at it. It was glowing, but there was no noise. It was eerie—I was too frightened to go down to the pond to see what happened."

"My dog was whining and seemed nervous, too."

Another witness, Ann Mart, 43, of Worksworth Road, said: "It was too bright for a star and too stationary for a plane. It was massive and it was glowing."

"So many people have

seen this carrot that it can't be my imagination."

"You don't like to say anything because people think you are a raving nutter."

Her husband Trevor, 53, said: "This thing was 400ft. in the air and glowing. It hovered for ages then zoomed off at incredible speed."

The UFO Investigation Society's international co-ordinator, Dennis Harriman, said: "The latest objects were round at the top and tapered like carrots with flames spouting out."

"Several people saw them loop the loop then one zoomed off to nearby Belper while another apparently crashed into a pond."

"People who went to find it saw something move then ran off in terror. The next day there was no trace of anything there."

Mystery of the lights in the sky

By Stephanie Spear

Lights in the sky have sparked off a UFO hunt in Walsall among many people who thought they were simply flights of the imagination.

But John Hurley is the chairman of the West Midlands-based UFO Studies Investigations — and he believes that often such lights can be categorised as UFOs.

"If people say these lights were travelling at great speed, then they cannot be planets, which appear to remain in the same place even after hours of observation," he says.

Mr Hurley has been on the trail of UFOs for the past 18 years.

"Normally the West Midlands is very low on sightings, but since October I have been told of hundreds and have lost count of phone calls," said the 48-year-old.

"It has been very difficult to explain all these sightings as natural phenomena."

Much of the computer analyst's work is done from his home base in Kingsland Road, Kingstanding, where he keeps dossiers on different UFO experiences.

Since the beginning of the month, he has had 80 calls.

A teenager from Chasetown reported two separate sightings to Chasetown police.

He saw two bright lights directly above him, which were circled with a blue rotating light.

The object made no noise, hovered for about five minutes, then sped off towards Willenhall.

Mr Hurley said he had been contacted by the police, who said the boy was very excited, but calm.

Five other people had also reported the same object, and a coach driver travelling from Derbyshire pulled over on to the A38 hard-shoulder with at least 30 other motorists and saw the huge light pass above them towards Brownhills.

"I don't believe this is one of those hoax set-ups, despite the number of cranks who phone for a joke. This area is now rife with sightings and my work is cut out to keep up," he said.

Some of the most unusual cases included a Kidderminster man who works in Darlaston and was driving home on the same night that a "Walsall Observer" paperboy saw a cigar-shaped object.

The motorist reported a huge object about 150ft long, with blue, green and white bands of flashing lights. It hovered for about a minute and then took off vertically at great speed.



RAF man sees craft

UFOs over area: Sightings rocket

By LYNETTE LLOYD

The number of UFOs spotted over the Chase has officially rocketed to 90 in the last month, it has been confirmed.

Among the sightings have been one by a man who has for ten years served in the RAF.

The man, who works as a jet engine technician, spotted the craft in Boney Hay and says he has never seen anything like it before. A radar operator has also confirmed some 'unusual sightings' but cannot say any more.

And a security man at Birmingham Airport is among those who spotted a craft over the area on Saturday.

Most of the sightings came before any publicity was given - but most people said they hesitated to re-

port them for fear of being mocked.

What is baffling the experts is that the sightings are all happening within a ten mile radius of Burnwood and seem to be concentrating on the Chase area.

A UFO was spotted over the Cavan's Wood area by a villager and three women out canvassing - and a Burnwood couple, Mr and Mrs Masters, reported seeing the same object although neither of them knew about the other sighting.

The RAF man's sighting was of a brilliant white smoke-ring over Boney Hay at nine o'clock in the morning. Above it was an object with a small rotating

blue light. It hovered at the spot for a full minute before moving off at great speed leaving what looked like a vapour trail coming from the object's left side. Within a second or two it had disappeared completely.

Also in Boney Hay a Mr Perry Jones saw an object flying at a fast rate across the sky at an estimated 5/6000 feet. It was closely followed by two fighter jets.

The RAF Strike Command are this week studying all the reported sightings.

Photographs of a craft hovering before landing and then taking off again in Bentley, Walsall, are being scrutinised to see if they are genuine.

But a photograph which appeared in a Walsall paper a few weeks ago has been found to be a fake.



Alien Creatures or Black Bears?

What's That Near Red River?

DEKALB, Texas — Believe it or don't. Just south of the McCurtain County line, a mile from the Red River north of DeKalb, a few residents claim they have seen ape-like creatures and have found their tracks several times.

But the residents declined last week to talk to a reporter from this newspaper. Some residents fear what might happen if they tell people. One elderly couple, who shall remain nameless, said they learned only too well what can happen.

Living in an isolated area with no other residents but their son and daughter-in-law next door, the couple in early January saw the creatures, and confided it only to their minister, even displaying some of the tracks where the creatures had walked.

To their dismay, the minister arrived the following night with two truckloads of men armed to the teeth. The men didn't find anything, but the couple learned quickly what residents of the northwest — the alleged domain of Bigfoot — have learned: that such reports bring out hunters.

"The hunters will just flock in. It's a shame that's the first reaction," said Paul Rutherford, a Nash, Texas-based investigator of unusual phenomena.

Rutherford reported the alleged creature sightings to this paper two weeks ago, hoping to determine if any McCurtain County residents had spotted them. No one has come forward with any reports north of Red River, so he apparently has his answer.

Rutherford, regional director of the Mutual UFO Network, the world's largest civilian group investigating UFOs, said he first heard of the creature sightings in late January, after DeKalb area residents heard him on an Ashdown radio talk show commenting on the Foreman UFO sightings.

Rutherford, a self-employed engineer, has been fascinated with the reports ever since, and now spends his weekends trekking through woods just south of the Red River, hoping to find the creatures themselves or if not, more tracks, hair samples, excrement, whatever evidence he can have analyzed.

During the January ice and snow, residents found unusual tracks in the snow and notified a game ranger, Johnny Thomas.

"To tell you the truth, they weren't exactly like any tracks I've ever seen," says Thomas. But neither does he believe residents' reports that the

tracks were made by animals previously unknown. "It's possibly some kind of black bear," said Thomas.

Some tracks in ice were cut out and placed in a freezer. Later, plaster casts were made of the tracks. Each of the tracks, some large and others very small as if made by a baby animal, has four toes, three of approximately the same length and one much shorter on the outside. The largest tracks are about the size of a man's size 8 shoe.

From the tracks he saw, Thomas said the animals appear to walk on two legs much of the time.

And the creatures themselves? The elderly man who first saw the creatures by a dump ground near his house described them as being 6-7 feet tall, with brown hair over all their bodies except the face, which had white hair. The creatures also had bright red eyes, he reported to Rutherford. The man reportedly fired four shots at the creatures, which ran rapidly into the woods.

A few nights later, the man's son said he heard a sound like a panther screaming outside, and he looked outside to see the same creatures his father had previously described.

Rutherford opines the creatures had only approached the dumping area

because the ground was covered with snow for several days, and their usual food supply gone.

He said another resident reported seeing similar creatures in the area in 1984. And the most recent time a resident saw them was in February. Rutherford said a man on his way to work in Foreman, Ark. about 5:45 a.m. saw two of the creatures running across the highway (on two legs), each bearing a younger animal on its back.

Rutherford said the animals, whatever they are, are smaller than the descriptions of Bigfoot in the Northwest. Only one other place in the U.S. has reported creatures exactly like these — that in a rural part of Ohio. Rutherford said it's interesting the Ohio reports also coincided with a spate of UFO reports.

If anyone from McCurtain County has seen the creatures, Rutherford says he would like very much to speak with them. He says both the people seeing the creatures and those seeing the UFOs would like explanations for what they've seen, and only further investigation will make that possible.

DAILY COURIER, Grants Pass, OR - March 25, 1988

What dastardly person would murder a bigfoot?

This is to the news story "Prof under attack for plans to kill Bigfoot." We as citizens do not like the idea of Grover Krants saying that he wants to kill Sasquatch. Because Sasquatch has never hurt anyone before or that we know of.

He is more afraid of us humans than we are of him. He is a rare creature and I don't think Krants has the right to kill Sasquatch.

We don't think Krants or any other scientists should even capture the Sasquatch for studying him as a guinea pig. He has not hurt anyone and we don't think Krants or the other scientists have the right to kill or capture the Sasquatch.

If the scientists and Krants kill the Sasquatch, there will be a lot of people mad at Krants and whoever else is in on this thing. Because the Sasquatch is a novelty.

If the Sasquatch has a female mate and a baby shouldn't the scientists and Krants leave him alone? If the Sasquatch doesn't have a mate and a baby the scientist and Krants should still leave Sasquatch alone.

If the Sasquatch does have a mate and just have a baby and if the scientist or Krants capture or kill the Sasquatch, his mate and baby will probably go on a rampage and really hurt someone.

JOHN RICKETTS and
EVA RANDELL
Grants Pass

OBSERVER, Westland, MI - April 18, 1988

A strange tale of aliens mutilating our cattle stock

Until Monday night I had never attended a cattle mutilation-UFO meeting.

Now I have.

Conducting the meeting was Linda Moulton Howe, a Colorado native and public television producer who has made a second career out of investigating the strange surgical mutilation deaths of animals, mostly cattle, in the West.

Attending the meeting were 100 suburban Frazhos, including three who claimed to have seen a UFO. A Frazho is a name I coined for those who believe in the regular visits of extraterrestrials and who unquestionably accept any number of related theories including a giant government cover-up, reports of human abductions by beings from outer space, and the implausible key to the whole theory: Aliens are responsible for the evolution of the human species and they regularly check up on us to see how their experiment is going. We are, in other words, sort of like an ant farm.

THE FRAZHO name came to me as we crossed a road by the same name on the way to Monday's meeting. Driving was my wife's brother-in-law, who had conned me away from the Academy Awards and into an evening of viewing color slides of mutilated cattle.

He is not a Frazho although he accepts the possibility that in infinite space it would be unlikely that Earth is the only place where life develops. Accepting that, he is willing to listen to any and all claims.

He said he wanted me at Monday's meeting because — as a journalist — I would bring along an appropriate dose of skepticism. Boy, has he got me pegged wrong. I still believe Sparky Anderson.

Still, skepticism rears its alien head when a woman who stresses her journalistic skills is also hawking a book that sells for \$38 and videos of her 1980 documentary, "A Strange Harvest," that run from \$47.50 to \$100. I don't expect such a person to offer much to debunk the UFO theories.

INSTEAD, SHE presents herself as a woman who is convinced that at least two types of aliens — the 3-foot-tall "grays" and the taller blond-haired variety — visit our planet and mutilate our cattle. These creatures are either in cahoots with the government or have frightened them into an unpenetrable secrecy.

"If I am someone else's experiment," said Howe, and if the government knows this to be a fact, "I feel like it should be shared with everyone."

But the government, of course, denies most everything except for bits and pieces it leaks to publications like the National Enquirer. That's where the story appeared about Richard Nixon showing a top secret UFO file to Jackie Gleason.

So Monday night while you were wondering why you've never seen The Last Emperor, I was learning something new: Richard Nixon is a Frazho.

Rich Perlberg is assistant managing editor for Oakland County.

It's Ba-a-a-ck!

Big Muddy Monster Roams Again, Illinois Family Says

By Ann Schottman Knol

Post-Dispatch Special Correspondent

MURPHYSBORO, Ill. — Robert Reiman says he smelled it, saw it and heard it scream in the middle of the night last week. It was a hairy bulk about 8 feet tall with silver hair and red eyes.

The Big Muddy Monster is back, say Reiman and other residents here.

Reiman, the owner of an auto-salvage yard, says he and a guard, Charles Straub, had the encounter about 1:30 a.m. Friday, just north of the city limits.

"It let out an ear-piercing scream," Reiman said. "He was very hairy, but his hair was matted in places. There was a lot of white tint to his hair, silvery white. Its red eyes just glowed. His teeth were very yellow, although that could have been due to the flashlights."

Straub raised his pistol to shoot, but Reiman stopped him.

"I said, 'Don't shoot that thing. If you don't kill it, it will come get us,'" Reiman said. "He said, 'What are we going to do?' and I said, 'Do what I'm going to do.'"

Then, Reiman said, they ran.

Later, Reiman got his family to join a search for the creature. Family members admit they laughed at first, but became convinced by a stench and the sound of something big but quick circling the undergrowth around the salvage yard.

It is not the first time Southern Illinois residents have reported seeing the Big Muddy Monster. At least 21 people reported sightings in 12 separate incidents between July 1972 and June 1976. Most were in or near Murphysboro, a community of 10,000 about 90 miles southeast of St. Louis.

At least three official reports on the Monster were filed with Murphysboro police in 1973. Toby Berger, then the police chief, said at the time: "A lot of things in life are unexplained, and this is an

other one. We don't know what the creature is. But we do believe what these people saw was real. We have tracked it. And the dogs got a definite scent."

Larry Tinch, the new chief, said this week: "I think the people saw something. I don't know what it was. Maybe it was a bear or somebody dressed up in a costume. There are a lot of hunters in this county, and somebody putting on a costume would be taking an awful chance."

Reiman believes he saw a monster.

"If I would have let Charlie shoot it, I probably wouldn't be standing here now," he said. "It was about 8 feet tall, and I'd guess about 400 pounds. It had a real big frame. He would have corkscrewed my head off."

Reiman's wife, Cheryl Reiman, said, "I only smelled it and heard it move. I could smell it real strong. It was a smell that burned my eyes. It was in between a sewer and a skunk smell. The smell moved."

Irma Reiman, Robert's mother, said she caught a glimpse of something. "It was a creature, maybe 10 feet tall, judging from the trees it was under. It showed up maybe light brown in the moonlight. I don't think it's a human being," she said.

Reiman said fear of ridicule had compelled them to keep quiet after the encounter, but word got out anyway.

Cheryl Reiman said, "I'm so embarrassed. I feel like everybody is laughing at us. I've tried to get Bob not to say anything. I know there was something out there, but I don't know what it was."

Irma Reiman said, "People tell you these things, and you think they're making them up, but once you go through it, you don't want to describe it because you're afraid they'll think that of you. It's hard to talk about when you don't believe what you saw."

UNION BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA - May 1, 1988



Vance Orchard
Blue Mountain Ramblings

BIGFOOT DOINGS — By the time you read this the man from Pullman who heads up a one-man research team to seek out a Bigfoot in our Blue Mountains will have spent three weeks in solitary seeking "up there."

Greg May, who entered this search three years ago, has been camped at the snowline high in the hills, doing nightly patrols of likely places to locate a Bigfoot. So far, no success but a couple of conclusions.

For one thing, he's abandoning his approach of doing his search "on the critter's chosen environment ... nocturnal."

May pans to stay up there through

May at least, however to complete his research for this year to see if a financed search for the two-legged animal is warranted.

May, by the way, thinks "these animals are there," but he doubts if modern technology such as heat-seeking devices will bring one to light, so to speak.

"Present devices can't detect the difference between a Bigfoot and an elk," May says.

So, getting up in the air with a heat-seeking camera and flying around the watershed looking for one is just as likely to turn up an elk — or at least that's the logic.

In another aspect of the ongoing search for Bigfoot in the Blues, a pair of hunters have turned up from the Seattle area, both with some real positive approaches to the matter. I sat in with one, Vito Quaranta, and a local Bigfoot aficionado, Wes Sumerlin, to answer telephoned questions on the KAFR "Feedback" program, emceed by Dr. Frank Trapani. It was quite

interesting, to say the least.

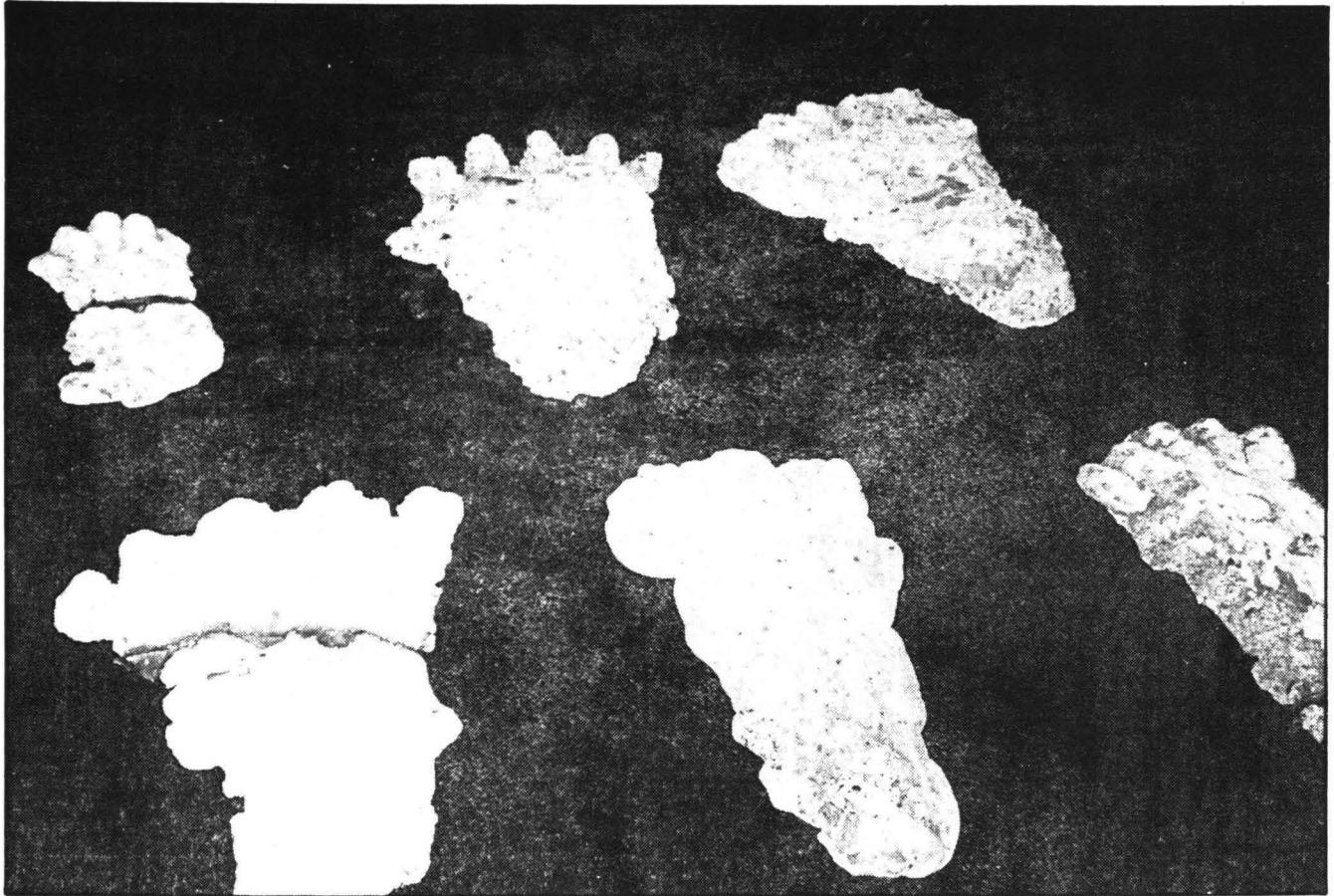
Quaranta, by the way, was in town to check on the Bigfoot situation and got in on the KAFR "Feedback" program as a fringe benefit of his trip while visiting Sumerlin. He was also here to announce a new chart — a whopper of a sheet, too — which lists all the alleged sightings of Bigfoot itself, hairs and tracks and other signs throughout the West. Truly, an informative conversation piece if nothing else. It's the work of Kevin Lindley, a Bigfoot-seeking buddy of Quaranta's.

Lindley and Quaranta, by the way, are not only selling the charts out of their office on Mercer Island, but will also accept calls and letters about any Bigfoot sightings you might want to report. Just write: "Sasquatch," Suite 183, 7811 SE 27th St., Mercer Island, Wash. 98040.

The chart has the Walla Walla sightings featured in an enlarged area of the map, a bonus for local Bigfoot watchers.

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - June 9, 1988 CR: R. Nelke/COUD-1

SEARCH FOR BIGFOOT



An organized expedition will take place in southern Ohio this month in quest of the elusive Bigfoot

Dispatch photo by T.C. Brown

“
Our purpose and goal
is to get photos
of this thing.
It's past the point
where I believe or
anyone else believes.
I'm going to find
the thing.

-BOB GARDINER-

”



Bob Gardiner examines map showing reported sightings of Bigfoot

Dispatch photo by T.C. Brown

By T.C. Brown
Dispatch Accent Reporter

BURNSIDE, Ky. — Bob Gardiner is a man possessed. He and his colleagues dodge the slings and arrows of ridicule — and cries of “crackpot” — in their pursuit of the legend of Bigfoot.

They're out to snare the beast and they won't quit until they prove the mythical creature exists.

“For one thing, it could be human,” said Gardiner, who formed the North American Sasquatch Research Team in Columbus in 1974. “I want to find this, prove it and save it from extinction.”

To that end, Gardiner, 45, who now lives in southern Kentucky, has organized an expedition for mid-May in the Experimental Forest in Vinton County in southern Ohio.

Several people have reported seeing Bigfoot — also known as Sasquatch, the Abominable Snowman or the yeti in other parts of the world — in the forest since 1980. One hunter said he saw the giant creature as recently as last November.

While Bigfoot reports are more common in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, stories about giant creatures have cropped up in Ohio. Several news stories in *The Dispatch* in 1972 tracked the progress of a “7-foot tall, hairy, ugly creature that smelled like limburger cheese.”

People have claimed to have seen the beast from the northwestern portion of the state down through central Ohio toward the southwest.

In one news account of the early '70s, a Pleasantville, Ohio, man told reporters he spied the creature, left his home and upon returning, “found the house ransacked, with clothes scattered about, a guitar and tools missing and drapes down.”

Bigfoot was also reported several years later in Union, Logan and Perry counties. About that time, Gardiner also tried to identify evidence in Vinton County.

JOHN GREEN of Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, is familiar with Sasquatch in Ohio. The 61-year-old Canadian has collected more than 2,400 claims of sightings, and footprints of Sasquatch from North America dating back to 1811.

“Ohio has been quite productive for reports compared to other areas,” Green, 61, said in a telephone interview.

Green said descriptions are fairly common in that the beast is reported to stand 8 to 10 feet tall, has an extremely heavy build and has no discernible neck, snout, fangs or claws.

He said reports peaked at about 20 a month several years ago and now trickle in at four or five a month.

DIFFERENT THEORIES exist on the origins of Bigfoot. Some believers say the creature is an alien; others think it may be a descendant of *Gigantopithecus*, a plant-eating ape existing more than 100,000 years ago that stood as high as 9 feet and weighed more than 600 pounds.

Frank Poirier, an anthropology professor at The Ohio State University, said Bigfoot could be related to *Gigantopithecus*, but he doubts the creature exists in Ohio. Poirier is looking for volunteers for an expedition to study evidence in China next month.

“There is a very, very slight hope it exists in Asia,” Poirier said.

Poirier said he has documented evidence that Chinese golden monkeys, now on display at the Columbus Zoo, have been killed in the mountain regions when they were mistaken for a Bigfoot-type creature.

GARDINER, A former big-game hunter, wants to shoot Bigfoot ... but with a camera. Surrounded in his living room by an arsenal of weapons mounted on a wall — rifles, pistols, a crossbow, arrows and knives — he said, “I don't have a right to kill it.”

He said he takes weapons on hunts for protection because of the unpredictability of the giant beast. He hopes to end his 20-year chase

(continued on page 19)

(continued from page 18 - DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - May 8, 1988)

in the Experimental Forest with the help of about 20 Bigfoot aficionados. He also plans a hunt in South America this summer.

"Our purpose and goal is to get photos of this thing," Gardiner said last week from his log cabin home atop a mountain overlooking Lake Cumberland. "It's past the point where I believe or anyone else believes. I'm going to find the thing."

Gardiner chose the Experimental Forest because of numerous sightings by different people. He believes that more than one creature beats a particular path through the woods.

For the first time, Gardiner intends to take women on a hunt to test his theory that Sasquatch is curious about women and children. "More girls and kids have spotted it than men," he said.

Gardiner has never seen a Sasquatch. But he offers several plaster casts of big feet — some up to 16 inches long — he has collected from various places in North America. And screams he heard in British Columbia in 1973 convinced him that Bigfoot is real.

"It's a three-layered pitch and can go on for 10 minutes," he said. "It's like no animal I've ever heard in my life."

A tape of screams reproduced in a sound studio and compiled from tapes made in the field sounds like a deep-throated lion's roar, breaking into occasional chuffing grunts and rising to a high-pitched howl.

"You hear it scream, it gets your attention," Gardiner said.

FOR 20 years, Bigfoot has captured the attention of Grover Krantz, an anthropology professor at Washington State University.

"Most people, most scientists and most government officials don't take this seriously and they won't if they don't have a body of one to poke," he said.

Krantz, who has communicated with Gardiner, thinks skeptics will scoff at Bigfoot sightings until a body or skeleton is found. He calls his chase a work-related hobby, but he's a believer.

"We know the vast majority of evidence could have been faked, but some may not be; therefore some evidence exists, so one must look at it as real," Krantz said.

MIKE CLAAR, 39, of Hamden, Ohio, knows about skeptics. He's heard the remarks and the snickers.

"I've been called everything but Mike for chasing these things," Claar said. "I usually just ignore them. It's hard to impress somebody if they're not believers."

Claar is single-minded in his determination to "have an answer to this thing before I die . . . I've spent night after night after the thing."

He said he has spotted Bigfoot five times in and around the Experimental Forest, once as close as 20 feet.

Claar said he was behind the Vinton County home of Rodney Peoples when the creature suddenly appeared in the tree line.

"I stared face to face with it for a few seconds and then it did an about-face and disappeared," Claar said. "It's about 10 feet in height and massive across the chest and shoulders."

He said the creature moves like a human, not an ape. He claims to have last spotted it in November as it crossed the road in front of a pickup truck and disappeared in the forest.

Claar said the animal has "huge, powerful arms" capable of doing some damage. "We've seen trees ripped apart and trees totally uprooted."

PEOPLES, 58, said he has seen the creature several times, too, and the damage it has done.

"I get weird feelings when that thing is around," he said.

Peoples hasn't seen the creature recently, but, then, he hasn't been looking for it.

"I understand people are skeptical and they believe I'm off my rocker," he said. "I thought at first I shouldn't have mentioned it, but I know what I saw and it doesn't matter to me what they thought."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - April 23, 1988

■ **Alta Mendoza**, 35, a Los Angeles housewife who was watching a television soap opera, and her three children escaped injury when a large chunk of ice fell from a jetliner and crashed through the roof of their house, leaving a four-foot hole in the ceiling.



Dispatch map



1967 photograph taken in California by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin is purported to be a female Bigfoot.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - May 7, 1988

Pupils' illnesses remain mystery, health officials say

BY RANDIE GOLKIN
Democrat Jacksonville Bureau

JACKSONVILLE — Officials said Friday they may never know exactly what happened Thursday morning at Jacksonville High School, when 89 elementary pupils had to be rushed to local hospitals.

About 300 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders from Pinewood Elementary School in Jacksonville were rehearsing for their spring concert in the high school auditorium when many of them began fainting and suffering from nausea.

"The most likely explanation appears to be hot, crowded conditions on the stage at the time the rehearsal took place," a prepared statement from the state Department of Health said Friday.

Reports varied from seven to 35 on the number of pupils who began fainting about 10:15 a.m. Many other children complained of nausea, dizziness, stomachaches, headaches and chest pains.

School officials evacuated both schools about noon Thursday, while the sickest children were being taken to hospitals.

High school students, who were worried about their senior prom being canceled tonight, had nothing to fear, said Jacksonville High School Principal Jim Johnson. No high school students were affected.

The children were treated and released Thursday from Rebsamen Regional Medical Center in Jacksonville, Memorial Hospital in North Little Rock and the U.S. Air Force Hospital at Little Rock Air Force Base.

On Friday, after spending almost two days trying to determine what caused the short-lived ailments, officials could only speculate.

"Air samples were collected and analyzed for a wide variety of possible chemical agents and toxic substances," the Health Department stated in its release.

"Blood tests, air samples, inspection of the heating and cooling systems and an inspection of the buses used to transport students all revealed no cause for the problems experienced."

"Health officials are confident all possible toxic exposure sources have been explored and none were identified."

As a result, officials could only speculate that a few children got sick from hot, crowded conditions and the rest of the pupils suffered from a chain reaction.

Jacksonville Fire Chief Rick Ezell said firefighters checked the auditorium one last time Friday and then turned everything back over to school officials.

School officials said classes went on as usual Friday.

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - May 18, 1988

Further study indicates scientist may be right about 'snowballs'

By PAUL RECER
AP Science Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Support is growing among scientists for a controversial theory that all the Earth's water — including oceans, lakes and icecaps — originated from blackened snowball comets that even now are falling from space by the millions.

Papers presented Tuesday at the American Geophysical Union meeting here, along with studies reported from Europe and Canada, are slowly adding scientific weight to a concept that once threatened to undermine the career of University of Iowa physicist Louis A. Frank.

The findings, Frank said Tuesday, are beginning to ease the professional pain he first endured after publishing the theory two years ago.

"No one has yet found data to show the comets don't exist," he said. The support helps, but Frank admitted, "My life would certainly have been easier" if his snowballs-from-space theory had never been published.

The Iowa scientist based his theory on data gathered from 1981 to 1986 by the Dynamics Explorer I satellite. In pictures taken to study air glow around the Earth, Frank found unexplained holes that appeared to have been punched through the upper atmosphere.

He puzzled over the problem for months and discarded dozens of possible answers before concluding that the only thing that could make the

holes were 100-ton comets made of ice and covered with a black hydrocarbon. And he calculated they were falling to Earth at the rate of 10 million a year.

The comets, which are actually ice balls, would come apart as they neared the Earth and would then flash to vapor in the atmosphere, Frank said. Eventually, the vapor fell as rain and joined the Earth's water cycle.

He calculated that the snowballs, measuring about 30 feet across each, contributed the equivalent of one inch of water all over the Earth's surface every 10,000 years.

"That may not sound like much," Frank said, but if this started 4.5 billion years ago when the Earth was formed, the black snowballs would put enough water on the planet to fill the oceans and build the polar ice packs.

And if the snowball comets continue for billions of more years, as Frank believes, it could make major changes to the Earth's climate.

Initially, many scientists met the idea with ridicule and Frank said he feared for his career. But some took it seriously enough to test the concept with experiments.

Clayne Yeates, a physicist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, said Tuesday he at first was very skeptical.

But Yeates said he used a powerful space search telescope at the Kitt Peak Observatory in Arizona to scan the heavens for the snowballs, and did, in fact, capture photo views of the speeding comets approaching Earth.

"It was remarkable. The results agreed exactly with the predictions," said Yeates.

Thomas Donahue, a space physicist at the University of Michigan, thought Frank's theory could be disproved by measuring the level of hydrogen atoms, which would be released by the water vapor, in the space about the Earth.

He studied ultraviolet data collected by the Voyager 2 spacecraft, expecting to find that the hydrogen atoms would be at a low level. Instead, the data showed the hydrogen was much denser than expected, enough to support Frank's theory.

A group of Canadian scientists studying data from a camera carried aboard a spacecraft called Viking (pronounced "Vicking") discovered that it, too, detected the "atmospheric holes" that Frank found in the Explorer satellite data.

Other studies also are lending support to the theory. These include:

✓ A Penn State University study has used microwave detectors to confirm the presence of water volumes at high altitudes. Similar data were reported by West German scientists using rockets to study the atmosphere 60 to 80 miles above the Earth.

✓ A study of one of history's most famous space snowballs, Halley's Comet, has shown that the deuterium-to-hydrogen ratio in the comet is the same as in the oceans of Earth, indicating that comets could have contributed this ratio to the planet.



Times Photo by Ray Zirkel

SCIENTIST KEEPS AN OPEN MIND

Peter Sturrock is leader of a small group of scientists and scholars who believe bizarre phenomena shouldn't be brushed aside until they've been thoroughly investigated.

Do Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster and UFOs exist?

By JANET PARKER BECK
Times Staff Writer

STANFORD — Do Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster and unidentified flying objects really exist?

Maybe, maybe not. But Peter A. Sturrock is the leader of a small group of scientists and scholars who believe that such bizarre phenomena shouldn't be brushed aside until they've been thoroughly investigated.

While most mainstream scientists scoff at any proposal to investigate, for example, the validity of clairvoyancy or extra-sensory perception, Sturrock's group encourages thoughtful discussion of the evidence.

"Anything in science takes a long, long time to be completely understood," Sturrock said. "We're just trying to do for these subjects what we've always done for everything else in science."

Sturrock, a professor of space science and astrophysics at Stanford University, is the president and a founder of the Society for Scientific Exploration. With around 200 members from universities and research centers across the country, the SSE is devoted to providing a forum for "anomalous phenomena" — anything that contradicts existing scientific knowledge.

Until last year, the most popular forum for topics like the abominable snowman was the supermarket tabloids. Sturrock's group was formed in 1982 to offer a more credible alternative.

The long-awaited first edition of the SSE's Journal of Scientific Exploration was published in the fall, with a second edition due this spring.

"With any of these subjects, you can find people with impressive scientific qualifications who think the matter is well worth studying," Sturrock said during an interview in his expansive, Stanford office filled with bound copies of periodicals on astrophysics and astronomy. But any scientist who dared to write an article on, for instance, mind-reading

experiments would run into dozens of reasons why his article would be rejected by established journals, Sturrock said.

Not that Sturrock's members are naive about the skepticism they will encounter. In an editorial in the first edition of the journal, editor Ronald E. Howard, a Stanford professor of economic engineering, noted that scientists who have openly tackled these challenges in the past have been threatened, ridiculed and endured "the benevolent sympathy of friends who wonder why an otherwise sensible person has developed such an interest."

Sturrock concedes that his own rock-solid reputation for research in solar astronomy allows him to take risks other younger scientists cannot.

"If you don't have tenure, don't even consider it," Sturrock advised colleagues at a recent the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting.

Sturrock became interested in UFO sightings in the 1970s when he hired an astronomer who, he later learned, had written two books on UFOs. Sturrock read the books and was stricken by the contradictions between the evidence and the conclusions of a 1968 study commissioned by the U.S. Air Force.

The Stanford professor found that the information in the study supported the need for more investigation into UFOs while the study director concluded just the opposite.

In 1976, Sturrock surveyed the American Astronomical Society, one of his own professional organizations, and found that 75 percent of the members wanted more information on UFOs. More than 90 percent wanted the information printed in scientific journals which, at the time, was the least likely place they would find it.

"They didn't want to pick up something at the check-out stand at the local supermarket," he explained.

Most SSE members have a doctoral or equivalent degree, an appointment on a university or research center staff, and a history of publications in a recognized and accepted field of science.

It's probably not surprising, Sturrock said, that many of the society's leaders are astronomers.

"Astronomers tend to be a more open-minded group of scientists — more so than any other discipline — because we have witnessed so many surprises in the last 40 years," Sturrock said. Quasars, gamma-ray bursts and black holes — all recognized today as features of the solar system — were barely imagined just

a few decades ago.

Articles for the SSE journal must be submitted or sponsored by a member and are subjected to standards similar to any other scientific journal, Sturrock said. They are read by an associate editor and two other scientists appointed to the task.

The editorial board has already turned down more articles than it has printed because they were badly written or poorly researched, Sturrock said.

Not every article will deal directly with an anomalous phenomenon. Some articles, Sturrock explained, will evaluate techniques that will help investigate the phenomena.

For example, the first edition includes an article by two psychologists on the accuracy of human recollection of events. The authors examined why an eye-witness account of a UFO or an unidentifiable animal may change and become less reliable over time.

But the first edition also included an analysis by Sturrock of the federal government's UFO study and an overview, written by Henry Bauer of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, of Loch Ness Monster reports.

Some articles, Sturrock said, will delve into phenomena that is accepted but not understood — like ball lightning. Witnesses claim that glowing balls of light have been seen rolling along the ground, down trees, and into windows during and after lightning storms, sometimes burning a track in asphalt.

Today, ball lightning is believed to exist although there still is no convincing explanation for how the glowing balls obtain and store their energy, he said.

Some of the topics addressed in the journal — including the strange creatures of cryptozoology — have been regarded as blatant scientific heresies, he said.

Sturrock is concerned that anomalies are rejected for other than objective reasons. Scientists, he said, should ask questions like, "What is the best evidence for it?" and "What are the possible explanations?" rather than simply shutting the door, he said.

"Suppose it turns out that tourists on the banks of Loch Ness really have seen a strange animal that was not previously known to zoologists," Sturrock said at the AAAS meeting in Boston. "Rightly or wrongly, the zoological community will lose face."

However, many of the articles may be aimed more at discrediting than validating anomalous phenomena, he said.

Sturrock doesn't expect the journal or the SSE — which meets annually — to solve any of these controversies in a single swoop. A single photo of Sasquatch or a UFO does not constitute scientific proof, he said.

"Rarely in science does one person solve any difficult problem all by himself," Sturrock declared. "That's why we created the journal — to allow all of these things to finally come out in the open."

It's understandable, Sturrock said, that scientists have been skeptical about anomalous phenomena. Most of what they've seen on these topics has been printed in dubious publications by people with even more dubious credentials, he said.

"The average scientist thinks, 'Why should I bother to read this?'" he contended.

Furthermore, scientists who dare to suggest that Big Foot lives run the risk of appearing glibly "and no scientist wants to have his good judgment questioned," he added.

Sturrock wants the SSE to be recognized as "a serious group." But it's still too early, he said, to determine if the journal will help such offbeat research subjects as the Loch Ness Monster ever achieve a respectable position in scientific research.

"The ideas we shall be exploring are refreshing and provocative — challenges to the imagination as well as to the intellect," Howard wrote in his editorial. "Exploration should be fun."

TRIBUNE, Tampa, FL - March 17, 1988

Soviet scientist says she saw red of yeti's eyes

MOSCOW (UPI) — A Soviet scientist said Wednesday she came within feet of the legendary abominable snowman during an eyeball-to-eyeball encounter with the furry beast in the snow-covered forests of western Siberia.

In what Radio Moscow described as one of the closest encounters of its kind, the creature reportedly stood and stared at her with red eyes, not making a sound, before her pet dog chased the snowman or yeti deep into the woods.

The scientist, Maya Briko, told Radio Moscow she had spent 25 years studying the yeti. Her sighting occurred late last year when Soviet media reported three yeti encounters.

Briko and two guides had stopped for the night in a forest cabin site in western Siberia and were awakened by a sound of rolling logs. They said they rushed out to the porch and saw the creature they had waited so long to see.

"The day was breaking and we could see everything clearly. I saw in front of me an animal about 2 meters (6 feet, 7 inches) tall, covered with fur some 6 to 7 seven centimeters (2.5 to 3 inches) long," Briko said. "It was covered with so much fur, its lips looked like slits. The fur on its head and face was shorter than that of its body. The palms were red and bare. The creature studied us with great attention. Its eyes were red without any whites, and its ears didn't stick out," she said.

Radio Moscow said there had been an estimated 5,000 eyewitness accounts of yeti sightings in the Soviet Union, mostly by peasants, drivers, shepherds and other rural people.

Briko said she had prepared herself for such an encounter, so that she could have "a very good look at this creature and examine it thoroughly. There was a distance of 5 meters (16 feet) between us."

She said it had not been difficult to measure the hairy biped's height because it was standing against a tree.

"We just stood on the porch and didn't move. The creature didn't move either. Then, all of a sudden our dog dashed out, and the creature quickly hid itself in the forest. We looked around for it but never saw it again," Briko said.

Last month, the leader of Soviet scientific expedition told the official Tass news agency one of the creatures had repeatedly tried to make friendly contact with his research team in the Pamir mountains near the border with Afghanistan.

Radio Moscow said in the past 60 years, more than 100 specimens of large mammals had been found.

The Soviets set up a special organization at the end of last year to establish contact with the abominable snowman. Its head, Pavel Belenitsky, said the group based in Leningrad will embark on an expedition from May to September to try and obtain photographs and video footage.

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - June 10, 1988

Abominable Luck: Expedition Fails To Find Snowman

LONDON (AP) — Explorers back from a seven-week hunt for the Abominable Snowman said Wednesday that they had found manlike tracks in the snow and the remains of two sheep in one of the most remote regions of Tibet's Himalaya Mountains.

But the "Yeti" — as the creature is called — failed to materialize.

Chris Bonington, 53, leader of the six-man British expedition, said at a news conference that "there's certainly not any conclusive evidence one way or another" that the creature exists.

Bonington and his team, including two American climbers, spent seven weeks exploring the 23,237-foot Menglungtse summit, where British explorer Eric Shipton took his famous photograph of a four-toed Yeti footprint in 1951.

Bonington said in an interview with a radio station in London that the team's main evidence consisted of the skins of two

CR: R. Nelke/COUD-I

mountain sheep known as bharals found at 17,000 feet. He said the skins appeared to have been ripped cleanly off the sheep in a manner inconsistent with any of its known predators.

"You'd expect a snow leopard, if it had killed an animal, to have to gnawed it, to have savaged it," Bonington said.