

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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### Aliens on Earth "for selfish purpose"

By Jean Kowalski

Aliens from another solar system are on Earth, possibly living underground somewhere in New Mexico. They are abducting humans for genetic research, and the governments of the world know something about it.

"I put credence into reports that the aliens are up to something, and it's no good," Leonard Stringfield, an author and investigator of unidentified flying objects, said. "Aliens are here for a definite purpose and a selfish purpose."

Stringfield spoke to about 70 people April 27 at the Milford Branch Library about the history of UFO sightings, the evidence that extraterrestrial beings are abducting humans for experiments, and the U.S. government's involvement in investigating and covering up the alien presence.

In the past 40 years, Stringfield said, he has come across information from various reliable sources—police officers, engineers, government and military officials, pilots and weather forecasters—convincing him that aliens of several different races have landed on Earth, sometimes in large concentrations.

"And it seems that the little aliens are misbehaving," he said, "because I've suddenly been inundated again with sightings."

Late last fall, Stringfield said, "there was so much going on it was unbelievable."



Leonard Stringfield

Sightings of low-level, huge objects were reported nightly in the Blue Ridge Mountains, as well as areas of Kentucky, Arkansas, and western Pennsylvania. Stringfield said he has heard from various sources that government officials from several nations are meeting or soon will meet, under tight security, to discuss the aliens presence on earth. Also, delegations from Australia, the Soviet Union, and China have visited the Blue Room at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn, one of the reputed headquarters for the U.S. government's UFO and alien research.

"We are at a serious phase concerning the UFO, if what I've been hearing is not disinformation," Stringfield said. "You will soon hear of some news, and it will be UFO-related."

Stories about the underground installations and experimentation on humans have "gotten out of hand over the past year," Stringfield said, helped along by several books published on the subject. People have reported being abducted by aliens, and that they have been mistreated; probes have been inserted in various parts of their bodies, and chips of some sort have been placed into their brains.

"I believe they are here for scientific curiosity," Stringfield said. "They know what they are doing, and they are taking advantage of the human being. They are not here to take us over, but to merge with us and use us until they reach their goal."

The reason for the international meetings about the aliens may be to devise a countermeasure, he said, to thwart the aliens' purposes. Or, he said, they may be to meet with the aliens themselves.

Stringfield said he has heard reports about government officials meeting with aliens in the U.S. deserts; he also has heard of an agreement between the aliens and the world governments made in the 1960s where the aliens agreed to share some technological in-

formation in exchange for permission to perform limited experimentation on humans.

"Then they learned (the aliens) had been deceitful, had reneged on the deal," Stringfield said. "This may be another reason for the meetings."

"There has to be a reason for the maximum security," he said. "That is a fact. 'If there was something nice happening, we would have been told a long time ago.'"

Sightings of unidentified flying objects began in earnest after World War II, Stringfield said. Large numbers of "flying saucers" sightings were common in the early 1950s, he said, especially in 1952. Larger numbers of UFOs were seen in 1973.

Stringfield had become interested in UFOs after seeing three of them during World War II, and began researching them in 1950. He began an informational newsletter called Round Robin, in which those who had seen UFOs shared their experiences with other subscribers. When a radio reporter read the newsletter over the air one day, it took only three days for the local post office to become swamped with letters.

"That showed to me the interest of the public," Stringfield said. "That was just the beginning."

After his research, published in several books, caught the attention of the U.S. Air Force,

he was asked to cooperate with the military for three years. He shared information with the Air Force, and it shared information with him.

"No great secrets were disclosed," Stringfield said, "But I could tell how serious the government was about UFO." His cooperation also was used as a test, he said, to gauge the public's reaction to UFO, because after awhile his sources dried up.

"I wondered why I was getting information from key people," he said. An incident where, after giving a talk about the alien bodies allegedly housed at Wright-Patterson, he was taken by police to his hotel room and was told his life was in danger was the government's way of "scaring me off a subject that was becoming just a little too sensitive."

The U.S. government has withheld information from the public about UFOs since the early 1950s, when the Air Force formed the Robertson Panel, a group of government and military officials, which "gathered secret information so sensational that the public should not know about it," Stringfield said. To deflect the public's interest from UFOs, the government began Operation Blue Book, a project which encouraged people to inform the government about their sightings.

Operation Blue Book was a "public relations thing," Stringfield said, and the

humming noise and saw the object. "I looked up and all I could see was these lights. They were red and white lights," he said. At one point, he said, the lights on one side started blinking.

Five people came out of the house and also saw the UFO, Anderson said. "We ran out into the street and watched for about three minutes," he said.

The object cruised out toward the San Fernando Valley, said Anderson, who estimates it was over Los Angeles Avenue and First Street when he first spotted it.

According to Mulholland, the object was "big and dark."

"I don't know what it was. It was making some weird sounds," he said. He saw a similar object fly over the Simi Valley Freeway a few years ago.

The Simi Valley Police Department said that no calls about UFO sightings had been reported Tuesday night.

When he saw the object Tuesday night, Anderson said: "I just stared at it the whole time."

## Weird-sounding UFO seen by 2

Two people said they watched an object "making weird sounds" cruise over Simi Valley earlier this week.

Andy Anderson of Simi Valley said the object was "rectangular, with one light on each corner. It was bigger than an airplane and wider."

Anderson, 18, and his friend, Frank Mulholland, 20, were working on a car in the back yard of Mulholland's sister's house at Pacific Avenue and Fourth Street when they heard a loud noise and saw the object, flying southeast about 300 feet high.

"It sounded like a low hum. The sound was nothing like a jet or a propeller," Anderson said.

Anderson said he was sure the craft, which they spotted at about 10 p.m. Tuesday, wasn't some kind of plane. "It was too big and going too slow. There's no way a jet could do that."

"If a jet was flying that low, the sonic boom would blast your ears off," he said.

Mulholland, who lives in Moorpark, said he heard a

## Weber calls on Reagan to acknowledge UFOs

By H-T Staff

The president of the Chippewa Falls-based UFO Site Center has sent a letter to President Reagan asking that the president go before the American people and tell them that unidentified flying object do exist.

Tom Weber, a Chippewa Falls businessman, is the head of a non-profit organization which is trying to raise millions of dollars to construct a UFO landing site near Elmwood.

Elmwood has been the location of many UFO sittings in the past.

In his letter, Weber asks Presi-

dent Reagan to consider the following suggestion:

"That you will appear before the American public, which has twice elected you as their president, and make a full and open statement that UFOs are real. Also, that all documents previously classified will be declassified and made available to the Site Center Corporation and the public in general."

According to Site Center officers, their goal is to build a landing site "leading to contact, dialogue and, ultimately, a full association and relationship with advanced civilization(s) who have been observing

our planet for many years."

Corporation officials have stated that they believe humans must provide a landing site, and an invitation, before contact will be made.

In his letter, Weber said he had no problem acknowledging that he voted for Reagan because he believed that "when the chips are down, you would take the right and proper action" and that making the announcement of UFO authenticity is the "right and proper action."

The organization has opened an office in Chippewa Falls and is soliciting donations towards the construction of a UFO landing pad.

government "played up UFO sightings as a big joke. Anyone who saw anything was drunk or a psychopath."

The real UFO investigation was called MJ-12, and the government "used every strategic ruse in the book to steer information from the public," Stringfield said.

Information held back by the government, he said, includes a description of a common alien race visiting Earth: a four-foot, three-inch humanoid with a large, pear-shaped, hairless head; recessed, slanted eyes with no eyelids; a slit for a mouth, without lips or teeth; mobile, gray skin; oversized arms and short, thin legs.

"Twenty-nine first-hand witnesses said they had seen crafts or bodies in government custody, and all are analogous to one another," Stringfield said. "Where there's smoke, there's fire, and boy was there a lot of smoke."

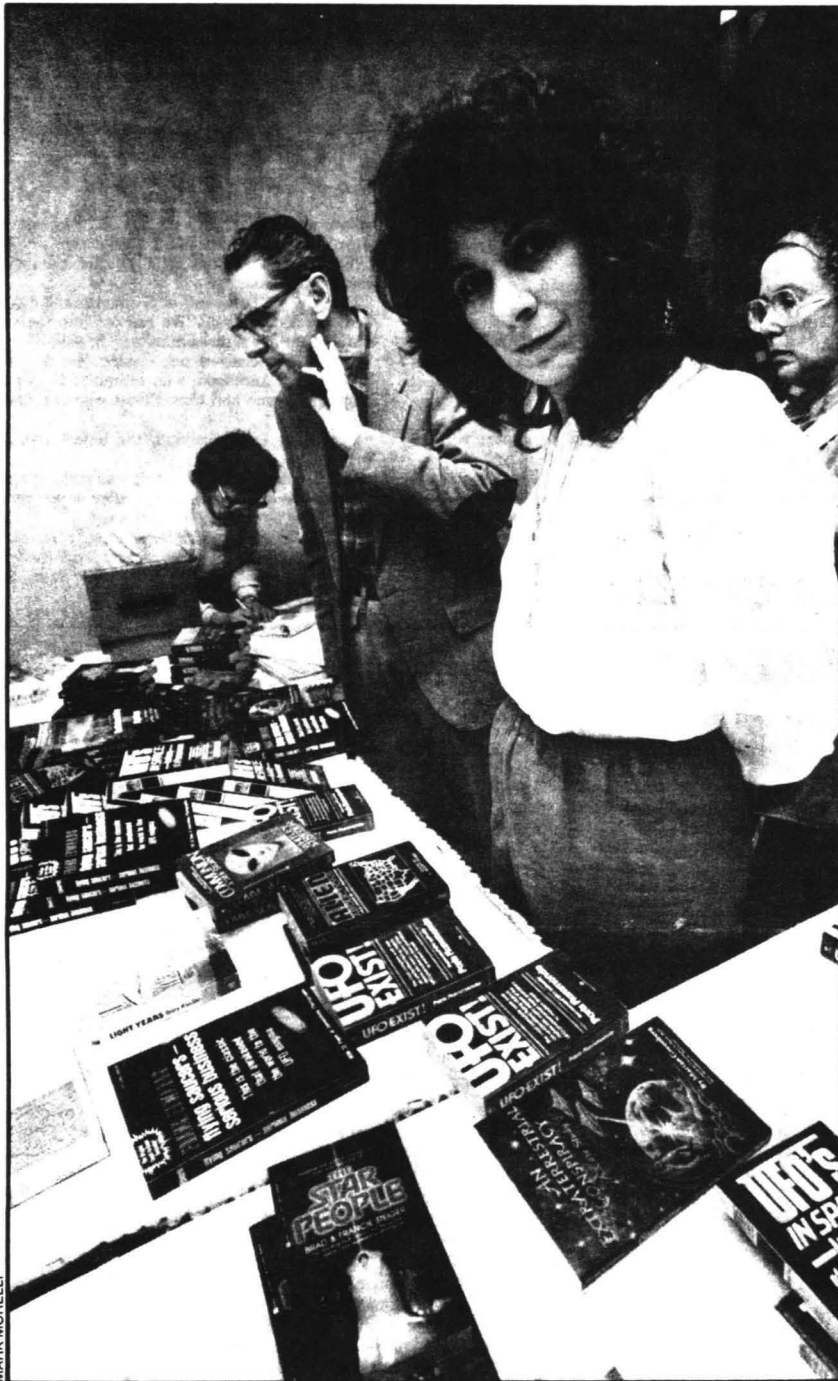
Theories about why the aliens are on Earth, performing their alleged research, are varied, Stringfield said. One planet's inhabitants may have "seeded" Earth thousands of years ago. Their planet may be similar to Earth and may be dying, or its sun may be dying.

"We may find we're on a lost race, or a failed experiment," Stringfield said. "There's no way to back any of this up. You just take the information you get and try to draw a conclusion, always being mindful of disinformation."

# Date with UFOria

The UFO Experience Conference plays to a captive audience

by Don Steinberg



There was no shortage of stories at the UFO Experience Conference.

"You haven't lived until you've been undressed by an alien," the earnest park ranger from Ohio told his audience.

The extra-terrestrials who abducted him, he continued, had only three fingers on each hand and no opposable thumbs, so they had a heck of a time trying to unbutton his shirt on the night they took him. "They almost had to un-hypnotize me," he recalled.

In most places, a story like this would be considered weird. It might even be twisted enough to get you drummed out of Ohio. But at last month's first-ever UFO Experience Conference, in Waltham, after a string of authors, investigators, and abductees had spent a day and a half describing UFO incidents of all varieties, the park ranger's mindbending tale seemed pretty old hat. In fact, at this question-and-answer panel session that concluded the UFO conference, it was hard to think of any proposition that could have sounded too strange or unbelievable.

"Is there any way to fight off

an attempted alien abduction?" came the next query from the floor.

Nearly 300 people had packed themselves into Waltham's Best Western motel to ask such imponderable questions and hear about the latest findings in UFO research. The sellout crowd included spectators who believed that they, too, had either witnessed UFOs or had suffered the indignity of being abducted by things from outer space. Others paid the conference's \$75 admission fee to feed their intellectual curiosity — some to test the stories against their skepticism, some to reconcile the UFOs with beliefs in New Age crystals, old-time religion, or other hard-to-explain phenomena in our world.

The speaker line-up boasted some of the big names in UFOdom: Budd Hopkins, whose new paperback book, *Intruders*, is soon to be a major motion picture; Ray Fowler, who's working on his third book about Betty Andreasson, a local woman frequently abducted by aliens; David Webb, a solar physicist

whose computer database called HumCat (for humanoid catalogue) has detailed nearly 2300 UFO sightings and incidents. Also on hand as speakers were people who claimed to have been abducted personally by aliens.

Years ago, it would have been exciting enough if they featured speakers who had claimed to have seen UFOs. But sightings are pretty routine these days. Just weeks before the conference, three women were checking out a new condo in Pembroke when they saw a banana-shaped UFO, according to Hopkins. Another banana-shaped UFO? Big deal. Add it to the file.

No, the real news these days is abductions. Abductees at the conference told of being startled awake at night by diminutive creatures with light-bulb-shaped heads, then rendered motionless and transported inside beams of light into hovering spacecrafts, where their captors conducted batteries of medical examinations.

Fowler played a tape in which a hypnotized Betty Andreasson

re-created the thoughts that had crossed her mind while aliens were inserting needles up her nose, submerging her in oddly shaped vats of liquid, and performing other medical tests we haven't even yet invented on Earth. She described in detail the rooms she had been led into, the equipment used for the tests, and the aliens who had escorted her (one was named Quazgaa).

Hopkins came armed with a tape-recorded interview with a hypnotized man who at one moment was playfully referring to the aliens in his backyard as "the little guys" — and the next was crying desperately, "No, not again! Leave me alone!" (Investigators often use hypnosis to help subjects remember repressed incidents.)

Marianne Shenefield, accompanied by sociologist Patricia Sable, told of how a childhood abduction by aliens has left her blind but also clairvoyant, so she can still see where she's going but not with her eyes.

Like it or not, abductions have completely changed the ground rules of believing or not believing in UFOs. Before abduction reports started, skeptics had at least been able to give UFO witnesses a friendly benefit of the doubt. After all, most UFOs have been explained by scientists as weather balloons, meteors, or other such phenomena, so skeptics could dismiss the claims of UFO witnesses — but still be polite — by saying "perhaps they were mistaken."

But there's no simple or polite way to confront the UFO issue as it is presented by abductees. There's no experience on earth that they possibly could have mistaken for an alien abduction, not even going into the Penalty Box lounge on Causeway Street. These people, all of them serious about their claims, either are purposely pulling our legs, are seriously deluded and have mental problems, or are telling the truth. Any of these possibilities make them kind of difficult to chum up with.

Some of the stories abductees had to tell at the conference were indeed enough to make one dismiss the whole UFO thing as some elaborate advertising gimmick. When Sable claimed that abductee Shenefield can telepathically diagnose medical problems and move chandeliers, even the crowd's most diehard believers made faces, especially after Shenefield said she couldn't move a chandelier right there and then because she was taking allergy medicine.

Surprisingly, most of those who described UFO abduction cases seemed like honest, level-headed men and women. Speakers who theorized that alien civilizations may have created the human race could have passed for your high-school principal. Even most of the claimed abductees seemed like fine, upstanding folks, whose lives had been almost embarrassingly interrupted by this bizarre experience.

"It's very difficult to be associated with this subject," said one abductee, who asked not to be identified. "We wish we weren't. It challenges every ounce of credibility and sanity you have."

Psychologists and UFOlogists point out that, whatever they have gone through, most claimed abductees have indeed had some kind of traumatic experience. Diana DeSimone, a UFO researcher from Newton who spoke at the conference, said studies have shown many alien-abduction subjects to be suffering from post-traumatic-stress syndrome, the same as if they had experienced some early childhood trauma.

"These people deserve a sympathetic hearing," added author Fowler. "We shouldn't laugh at them."

To Webb and other scientists,

the best way to give the UFO phenomenon its fairest appraisal is through a systematized analysis of data on reported incidents. UFOlogists feel particularly scientific when discernible patterns emerge from among the many bizarre UFO reports they hear, and many reports of alien encounters do contain strikingly similar elements, according to Webb. One strong pattern, he told conference participants, is the description of the typical alien: about four feet tall, with an over-sized, light-bulb-like head, catlike eyes, small slits for a nose, and tiny, if any, ears. A grayish, leathery skin covers an anorexic physique, with slightly longer arms than you'd expect on somebody so short.

Taken together, similar details in reports from different people might indicate that the same outer-space beings are repeatedly bothering us. Of course, those same patterns can be damning, researchers admit. It could just be that everyone watched the same *Twilight Zone* episode.

Another consistent theme in abduction cases, one that even researchers are hesitant to talk about, is that of medical experimentation by aliens. Nearly all of the abduction cases described at the UFO Experience Conference contained such references.

Slides were shown of small, unexplained scars on the skin of abductees, so-called "scoop marks" that seem to indicate samples had been taken. Whitley Streiber's bestselling book *Communion* begins with a horrifying account of how aliens stripped him naked, transported him up to their hovering spacecraft, and probed nearly every opening they could find in his body.

UFO investigators believe it's possible that some women are being abducted at an early age and having devices implanted within their reproductive organs for ongoing monitoring by aliens. Some researchers also believe aliens may be engaged in breeding experiments, taking some sperm here, some ova there, and seeing what they can cook up.

Aliens have even let some captives in on their ultimate plans, according to investigators, though in this regard researchers seem to know much more than they're telling the public.

"Why they're letting us know what they're doing is beyond me, because it's not very nice," says Fowler mysteriously.

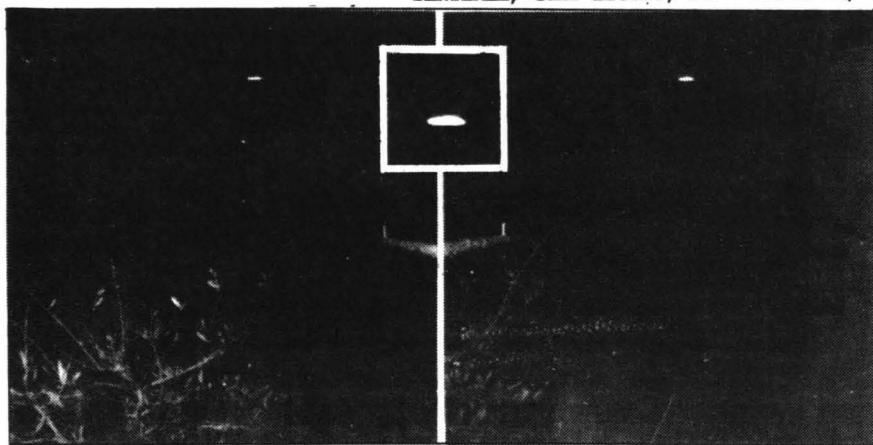
All the probing and testing, Fowler hinted, does seem to indicate that aliens are not here to be our pals, to stop by and say hello and borrow a couple of our planet's best novels. And this was perhaps the hardest of all ideas for attendees at the conference to accept — the notion that aliens might perceive us not as intellectual equals but as subjects for genetic testing.

"People ask, 'Why don't they land on the White House lawn and talk to the president?'" says Fowler. "The fact is, we may be dealing with a civilization that's been around for a billion years longer than we have. Maybe they don't care about who's our president."

Of course, in the final analysis, to believe or not to believe in UFOs does not necessarily need to be the question. After all, there have been only about 300 alien-abduction cases documented overall. The pragmatic view says there are a whole lot of more important things to worry about. Maybe an alien civilization did create the human race with a space-age chemistry set 50 million years ago. Maybe they are periodically stopping by in space-ships to check up on our progress. That's not going to get me out of work on Monday morning. With or without aliens, life goes on.

But it still is nice to know that someone's paying attention. □





Parallel Polaroid photos of UFO taken Thursday night at Shoreline Park South. Inset at center is an enlargement of UFO in left photo.

## UFO Photographed Again!

BY DUANE COOK

This week's UFO update begins with a personal account of my second near-sighting last Thursday night and concludes with the testimony of a Wednesday evening sighting of what we are now calling "The Mother Ship," by two local residents, one of whom is a Marine Patrol officer.

The story behind the photographs shown above began Thursday afternoon at the *Sentinel* office. Ed and his wife had stopped in to visit and talk with witnesses to Wednesday night's sighting. Before he left, Ed shared with Dari and I privately that he was "hearing" the UFO. We, of course, became excited at the prospect of being present when it showed itself again. So that evening we called Ed to see if he was going to Shoreline Park to try out the new "stereo" camera arrangement he had built for the purpose. (Dr. Bruce Macca-bee had asked Ed to mount two Polaroid cameras 2 feet apart so they were parallel, this giving a stereo-scopic effect when fired simultaneously).

Ed was at first reluctant but said, if he could talk his wife into it, they

would go down about 8 o'clock.

When we arrived about 8:30, they were already there with the cameras set up by a picnic table in the bushes south of the west parking lot. It was a chilly night with a steady wind off the sound, so Ed had propped up a 4x8 sheet of plywood against the table to create a wind break for us to sit behind while we waited and watched.

Ed told us he had called Peter and Phyllis Newman, and Brenda and Buddy Pollak, in case they wanted to come watch also.

When Peter arrived Ed asked him to open two new packs of film, and witness as they were loaded into the cameras.

A few moments later Buddy arrived and joined the vigil.

After a while, a couple of men who had been watching from out on the pier, gave in to their curiosity and came over to see what we were doing. Buddy intercepted them, visited awhile, then came back and said it was his old friend Carlos Hill. Carlos had been to Shoreline Park a lot lately with his video camera in hopes of catching a shot of the UFO.

Meanwhile, it was getting close

to 10 pm and Ed confided to the group that he hadn't "heard" the buzz for about an hour, at which time I suggested that maybe he needed to be alone, considering the UFO's tendency to be shy around groups of people.

While the Newmans went home, Dari and I just went as far as the new recreation center parking lot, then returned, to Shoreline Park South with our lights out so we wouldn't be seen returning. We saw that Buddy had returned also and was at the east end of the park with Carlos, and Reggie White.

Seconds after we stopped we saw the flash of Ed's cameras and thought he was just taking another test shot. A moment later Ed emerged from the brush with a photo in each hand. When he saw us he motioned for us to come see them in the headlights of his truck...two parallel photos of the same UFO he's been shooting since November 11th. Buddy, Carlos, and Reggie also saw the flash through the trees and came over to see the photos.

They didn't see the craft but examination of the photos showed

that it was too low and behind the tree line when Ed saw it and shot the pictures. His wife agreed and said she wouldn't have seen it either if she hadn't seen which way he was aimed because it winked out seconds after the flash.

About this time, Brenda Pollak drove up and joined the group having just returned from a Junior League meeting in Pensacola. We were telling her what she just missed when she stopped us to relate what she had seen:

"I was at about the midpoint of the Baybridge when I saw an orange light over the area by the post office. It was unusually bright and low. Sometimes it was obscured by the trees. Instead of steady, it was pulsating dimmer and brighter, not fast like an airplane light, but occasional and without rhythm. When I got off the bridge it disappeared in the trees..."

"I turned on Shoreline to go home then saw it again to the north as I passed the Library. I pulled off at the recreation center to make sure it was moving, and indeed it was moving from northeast to southwest. I watched it for 3 or 4 seconds til it flashed out."

"I know it's a light I've never seen before," said Brenda. "It was orange like our new street lights, but much brighter and it was moving."

With the time and proximity in mind, it is clear that what Brenda saw was probably the same object that Ed photographed at approximately the same time only a couple blocks to the southwest.

The other sighting in this week's report occurred on Wednesday evening March 17th, with testimony from two groups of people on Pensacola Beach who saw the craft hovering "over" Gulf Breeze just north of the Bob Sikes Bridge.

The first witness, **Nancy Reese**,

Dear Editor,

I, too, saw the glowing bright orange object on March 14th at about 8:45 p.m. I was coming across the beach bridge at about that time and noticed an object over toward the ball parks. It was not moving. At first, I thought it was a street light, but it was much higher. I turned into Bahama Bay Club parking lot to cut over to the road which leads to the new rec center and ball parks. By the time I rounded the corner it vanished!

I was waiting to see if anyone else reported the sighting. Sure enough it came out in your March 14th paper. I knew then, what I had seen was what everyone else had been reporting.

I want to remain unknown at this time but am willing to come forward if I should ever see this object again. I will tell you that I am a school teacher and have had two cousins about six years ago see something that scared them half to death. Another one of my cousins was camping out with about 6 other teenagers along the Alabama River. They saw something hover over their camp site. These boys were so frightened that they immediately left.

I have shown your articles to the mother of one of my cousins who thinks now, that her daughter did really see a UFO. They kept her story a secret from the public hoping she would forget that night.

Sincerely,  
"I'm a Believer Now."

## More UFO Sightings....

BY ALLISON BROWN

Sunday around 3 p.m. driving west on Highway 98 from Fort Walton to Gulf Breeze, father and son **John** and **Matt Hamilton** viewed a bright object for about five minutes until they drove past a sign and the object had disappeared.

"What I saw was a big bright shining light right by the sun," said twelve year old Matt.

The object was going "real slow before it vanished" Matt said who thought the craft was about six inches wide from his view in the car.

light show out over the Sound.

"The lights were moving up and down and sideways," she said. "What was even more particular was how the intensity kept changing from brilliant to dim. There were probably three lights. Everybody that lives on the water came down to the beach to watch. We thought they might be airplanes, but nobody had ever seen airplanes that could move horizontally and vertically like that."

"This has been getting a lot of attention since the first *Sentinel* article was published. But I'm here to tell you they've been around for awhile."

Our witness said Soundside Drive has never been so crowded. "People are bringing shrimp and strawberries for UFO picnics almost nightly."

"One guy who has been a regular told my husband he was parked with his girlfriend in Whisper Bay when a brilliant light came through his front window and curled his dashboard. I said 'right.' But my husband saw the dashboard. This was right after the mystery man was beamed."

"I don't think they are hostile, and I don't think it's a government project. Yea, I do believe we're being visited."

would almost be relieved if somebody told me the Goodyear Blimp was in the area, even though I don't really think that's what it was.

"I couldn't see many details except for one blipping light. It wasn't red or green. It was a light like you would see on an airplane, but the object wasn't going anywhere."

The Soundside resident said her husband saw another strange light in the horizon towards Tiger Point from her home when he was taking out the garbage about an hour after dusk that same night.

"He saw what he thought was a star, but while he was watching it, the light dropped straight down," she said.

Wednesday's sighting was not a first for the Soundside resident.

She said her son, who is now 21, and his friend were followed by a UFO in their neighborhood about 10 years ago.

Another evening, at least five years ago, she was awakened by a brilliant light shining onto her bedroom balcony.

"I'm a very sound sleeper. Believe me, nothing wakes me up," she said. "But this light was so brilliant that it woke me up. I wanted to go out and investigate. But my husband told me not to. It was just a brilliant light hovering over the balcony. I don't know how long it was there. But it was long enough for us to discuss it. I was scared. But I was curious, too. I went as far as the screen door, but my husband told me not to go out to the balcony. It was just a very brilliant light, brilliant enough to wake me from a sound sleep."

"I don't remember exactly when this happened," she added. "I only know it was a reality that it did happen."

On another occasion, the Soundside resident and many of her neighbors were treated to a

came into the *Sentinel* with the following report:

10:00 p.m., Nancy wrote that she and her friend first saw it from her balcony, took the camera, and went to look for it.

About 2 blocks before the toll gate they saw it over Food World and pulled over to take a picture. They stopped again at the top of the Sikes Bridge to take another picture and described it as humongous with bright yellow lights separated by dark spaces. When they came down off the bridge, they couldn't see it any more so they drove through the Naval Live Oaks Reservation to look for it, then went back home.

11:00 p.m., After returning home, Nancy went to the balcony to look and again the bright yellow lights appeared as before traveling east just above the tree tops getting brighter and dimmer then suddenly very bright just before it disappeared.

"Steph, Lisa, and I all witnessed this scenerio tonight," wrote Nancy.

When she was telling her story at the *Sentinel*, Nancy said a deputy and a marine patrol officer saw it too, so we called to get their story.

The marine patrol officer, **Nancy Andrews** was with deputy **Mike Delay**, when they saw unusual lights across the sound over Food World. Nancy described the configuration as very large and in the shape of a sausage. She said it looked like it was over Highway 98 but it could have been higher and further north. Nancy, who's spent a lot of time at night on the waters around here, said it was not like any light she's ever seen before.

They all watched the mysterious craft until suddenly it took off to the east down the peninsula out of sight, "like it was shot out of a gun," said Nancy.

"We kept on looking for it all of the way home," said Matt but the object was never seen again.

Sunday at 7:24 p.m. in the backyard, twelve year old **Johnny Register** viewed two UFOs flying through the air. When they went behind a group of trees, and one of the objects appeared then disappeared into the sky. "It had a little red light on top, white light-like a kitchen light on bottom," said Register, "and the middle was oval and had a string of lights across it with a red light on each end."

Register watched the objects for about four minutes and they were pretty big, "about the size of a half a house."

He said it was "sorta scary" and Registered wondered, "what are they doing here?"

INVER-COUNTY LEADER, Frederic, WI - May 4, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

## UFO sighting reported

Police scanner traffic raised the eyebrows of listeners Tuesday night when it was reported that a UFO had been sighted one and a half miles south of Lewis.

The report came over the Polk County frequency at 10:25 p.m. A dispatcher said a caller had reported the sighting, claiming she was not "crazy," and that the unidentified object was still visible.

Sheriff Paul Lindholm said he was unaware of any such report being filed as of Wednesday.

# PROFILES

## Mark Curtis Channel 3 News Reporter



Mark Curtis

Pensacola Beach has a resident and it is not our resident alien. However this young man has had much to do with our resident aliens.

Mark Curtis, 28, who is a reporter with WEAR Channel 3 television station has recently moved to the beach from Pensacola.

Now he won't say whether or not this move is so he can be closer to the UFO action, but some folks have seen him roaming the beaches at night with camera in tow, just in case.

Curtis has been part of the Channel 3 team which has been reporting and investigating the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings. He moved to Pensacola after completing his master's degree in mass communications at the University of Florida. He ran the Ocala news bureau for WCJB-TV in Gainesville for one and a half years.

Originally, he is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and migrated to Florida after finishing his undergraduate studies at Marquette University in Wisconsin.

Since his arrival at WEAR, Curtis has been in the thick of the UFO phenomena.

"I think it is the most fantastic story I've worked on," he said. "It is so unusual. This kind of thing usually happens in someone else's backyard not your own."

He has been working almost around the clock since getting involved in the unusual story and recently took several days off from work to take a break.

"I have devoted a lot of time to this story," he said. "by the sheer number of calls, alone. Everyone is trying to take a step back, take a deep breath and look at this. There is kind of a lull in the activities even though there are still sightings being reported."

He receives between 30 to 50 calls a week concerning the UFOs, from people reporting sightings, to skeptics and people who are just plain interested. He noted that he averages about two calls a day reporting sightings.

Coming home from work every night Curtis searches the sky hoping to see an unidentified craft himself, keeping his camera ready. He has taken pictures on several occasions but his film has not been analyzed yet, to see if the unusual lights are explainable.

"I think there are a lot of false sightings. You know, people who see things that are normal but they think they are unusual," he said. "We can explain a lot of them (sightings) away." He added however that he feels some of the photographs seem authentic and have not yet been proven otherwise by experts.

The military has not made an official statement about the UFO matter however, Curtis said they are continuing to pursue getting a statement from them. He noted

one thing that has been observed by other beach residents, air traffic at night has been heavier. Whether this has anything to do directly with the onslaught of sightings or not, is unknown.

"The military has an explanation for everything," he said. "If the military knows something is going on, then I understand why they don't want to tell us anything. For reasons of National security or not to cause a panic."

He went on to say there are very similar pictures and accounts of UFO sightings from Georgia, California and Australia. "Pictures of a round craft with small round windows," he said. "There have been calls about a big ship, earlier on. Primarily people have seen the smaller crafts."

According to Curtis, the larger craft has come to be called the "mother ship" and the smaller crafts "scout ships."

To fake these photos would be awfully hard to do. Possible, but unlikely," he noted.

Experts from MUFON have studied the pictures and believe they are authentic.

Curtis does not now why the so called aliens have decided to appear in Gulf Breeze, however jokingly commented, "to buy beach front property."

More seriously though, he said, "Why they would pick Gulf Breeze? I don't know. It is curious, because we have a large Naval and Air Force base here. This is a good place to see that." He also said some people theorize that the crafts propulsion system may be somewhat water related. "We have a lot of water around here. Maybe that attracts them."

As far as "Ed's" experiences are concerned, which have been reported on by the Sentinel many times, Curtis says they are very consistent with other accounts.

Curtis said he is going to keep on this story out of his own curiosity and because there are still sightings being reported. He and his co-workers have spent what he says is hundreds of hours researching and investigating this story. Gene Kirkconnell, Ron Krauss and Hope Buffington and Curtis have worked together trying to unravel this mystery and bring us up-to-date reports.

So far they have put together one, half hour show preceded by a three part news series during the six o'clock news broadcast, as well as other news reports concerning UFO sightings.

As more information comes in, he said there will be more news coverage and stories. "I'm working on something right now. It is the story that never ends. It gets hard to get the other work done. The stories that happen day to day," he said.

Curtis is excited about being what experts say is the most well documented UFO sightings of all times. He will be a part of history and part of a news story that is quickly spreading across the nation.

He will also be interviewed on a radio talk show airing in Baltimore, Maryland, soon.

After falling snow in Wisconsin for 25 years, Curtis is happy to be in Florida and hopes to remain here for a while. "This is a business where you move around a lot," he said. He would like to stick around to see this story unfold.

He has a background in police work which he says is beneficial to his career as a reporter.

"I had never been a reporter before. I kind of happened into it by accident. I kind of like it, too," he noted. "You meet so many different people. Find out about things first hand. The sheer numbers and variety of so many different stories is exciting. This work is not routine. You never know what is going to happen next."

TRIBUNE, Ashley, ND - April 6, 1988

# Ashley man sights UFO

When Christ Gross awoke to use his bathroom at 2:15 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 11, the last thing he expected to see as he happened to glance out his bedroom window was an unidentified flying object (UFO).

But that may be exactly what he saw early that morning as he has been baffled ever since as to the "why-abouts" of seven dark stripes (each roughly 150 ft. in width) which came from the south and spanned the sky.

Gross identified the phenomenon as having three stripes to each side of a longer center stripe which had a moon in the middle of it. The stripes were stationary and Gross said, "The long one went above the house to the north and the distance between the stripes was about 600 feet."

Gross' first thought at the time was one of wonderment. "I didn't have the least idea (what it was)," he stated. "I stood there for awhile and watched them. Then I went to bed and thought, 'In the morning, we'll talk about it.' But the next morning there wasn't anyone that could recall seeing it."

Gross said he hesitated in reporting the sighting because he thought someone would have already reported it to the Tribune and that for awhile "I thought I shouldn't ever report it because people will think I walked in my sleep, but I didn't. I was just as open-minded then as I am now."

As far as believing in UFOs, Gross said, "I believe in what I saw, that's all," and added that he couldn't have made a sketch of the UFO if he hadn't seen it.



Christ Gross poses with his drawing of the UFO he sighted in Ashley.

*"I believe in what I saw, that's all."*

--Christ Gross

Gross has ruled out the possibility of the sighting being the Northern Lights because the UFO appeared in the south and the stripes were dark in color, whereas the Northern Lights usually appear in the north and are lighter in color, he said.

"If somebody knows something about it," Gross concluded, "I'd like to know."

According to a Bismarck Tribune article, other UFO sightings in the state since November of last year include:

\*Nov. 11 - A rural Bismarck family saw an object with flashing red, green and white lights hovering above the road to McDowell Dam while driving east of N.D. Highway 10.

\*Nov. 15 - A mother and daughter saw a strange oval-like object about two miles west of Mandan.

\*Dec. 4 - Ray Griffin of Bismarck observed an object with rotating red, green and white lights on the north side of Interstate 94.

\*Dec. 4 - Donna Mohl, Barb Grand and Carol Walter, all of Pick City, saw an object with green blue and white lights darting from spot to spot south of I-94 six miles west of Mandan.

\*Dec. 9 - A Bismarck mother and son saw an oval-shaped object with rotating green, red and white lights over Hillside Park.

\*Feb. 26 - A man spots a glow at 3:30 a.m. near his rural Zap home.

\*Feb. 26 - A Beulah man spots a line of six bright lights glowing brightly about two miles from his home.

## JUST BROWSING



Juliene McKnight  
Staff columnist

## Sightings of UFO not explained

I was reading the February issue of *Omni Magazine* when a section called "UFO Update" caught my eye.

Since 1983, the report stated, there have been more than 5,000 well-documented sightings of a large unidentified flying object in the counties north of New York City.

While the appearances of this craft seemed to taper off some in 1985 and 1986, they picked up again last fall in Connecticut and in Dutchess County, N.Y.

Now, I just happen to live in Dutchess County, N.Y., when I'm not here in civilization, so the *Omni* report made me curious. I began to ask around and was directed to a book on the subject.

Called "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings," the book is by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Philip Imbrogno and Bob Pratt.

Previous to this, I have had only a passing interest in UFOs, but this one seems amazing. I don't know if it is real or fake. No one has been able to prove it to me. But it sure is interesting," he said.

"I have had a week away and I am ready to get back to work."

Anyone having any information concerning the UFO sightings should contact Curtis at Channel 3 or the Sentinel newspaper in Gulf Breeze.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek was the scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book investigation of the UFO phenomenon. Imbrogno is an astronomer and science department chairman; Pratt is a journalist.

The book is essentially a report, but a fascinating one. It details hundreds of eyewitness accounts of a huge UFO.

In many cases, dozens of people saw the thing at the same time as it hovered above the Taconic Parkway, one of the main routes north from New York City. There are reports from computer experts, pilots, aeronautical engineers, journalists and police officers — in other words, people who are trained to observe and record, and people who are familiar with machinery and aircraft. The book also includes a computer breakdown and analysis of the data.

### Unusual pattern of lights

What the witnesses describe is amazing.

Observers first notice the UFO as a non-airplane pattern of lights in the sky. The lights seem to be arranged in a boomerang or elongated "V" pattern. Most observers say there are more than 10 lights, which alternate in color from red or white through blue-green and yellow.

They first notice the structure behind the lights when the object moves closer and observers realize that they cannot see a large wedge of stars.

Witnesses say the object is made of a very non-reflective black, grey or dark green metal, and estimates of its size run from 100 to 300 feet.

There also have been sightings of an object with a similar description in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maine, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, among other areas.

Shades of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind!"

If you find all this hard to believe, you're not alone.

Eventually, on Aug. 24, 1984, when the sightings in the Hudson Valley had been going on for more than a year, a conference was called in Brewster, N.Y. More than 1,500 witnesses attended, as did reporters and camera crews from ABC, NBC and CBS, *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune* and more.

Some witnesses had managed to get photographs and videotapes that, when analyzed in such loca-

tions as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, were declared not to be airplanes. But the Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies have variously explained the sightings away as being ultralight aircraft flying in formation, Cessnas in formation, blimps with unusual lights and other "rational" phenomena.

### Have written to FAA

Engineers and pilots scoffed at these explanations, saying the lights on the craft remained stable in relation to each other even in high winds, and that the craft, when it hovered above the road, was absolutely silent — devoid of any engine noise at all.

Residents of the area have written letters to Congress and to the FAA requesting an official investigation, but if one is going on, it is going on very quietly.

The real question, of course, is what the UFO might actually be? Is it some new, experimental aircraft? Is it a hoax, a hologram, a mass hallucination, a wayward blimp? Or did the craft originate elsewhere?

I have not seen the Hudson Valley UFO, but like the curious kid I hope to always be, I would love to see it. Like the chicken I have always been, I suspect that I would turn to Jello on first sight.

I have, however, talked to some area residents who did see it, and what I sensed from them was less fear and more curiosity mixed with awe.

At base, the sightings raise, as most things eventually do, a metaphysical question. If the UFO has no logical explanation, if it turns out that there is no hoax involved, are we human beings ready for what the reality might be?

As of now, it is not a question with an answer.

VINDICATOR, Youngstown,

OH - April 27, 1988



# UFO Seen over Meadows Community

by Scott Anderson

Savannah Welborn is not quite sure what she saw that night, but whatever it was, she's convinced it wasn't from this planet.

It came over Sauratown Mountain just as the sky turned black and prepared to storm on Monday, May 23, she said. It didn't have wings, or make much noise, but it moved ever so slowly across the sky while she and her husband, Garvie, watched in awe.

"It was the most fascinating thing," she said last week while retelling her tale. "I just stood there in awe. It was unbelievable."

What Welborn says she and her husband witnessed was a genuine unidentified flying object, or UFO. Once a skeptic on the topic, Welborn says she's now a believer.

The story unfolded while the sky darkened with storm clouds that ushered in the severe thunderstorms that rolled through the area last week. It was around 9 p.m. when her husband went out to feed their animals where they live in the Meadows Community, she said. It hadn't started raining yet, but the thunder and lightning had begun.

"The only reason he (her husband) was out then was because he was getting hay for the animals. We were running late with the feeding. That's when he spotted it over the mountain."

When he saw the UFO he ran inside and got Welborn. Together they watched as the huge craft came over the mountain, lighting most of it up. They watched it for ten minutes, at one point from as close as about 100 feet away. It made believers out of them, she said.

"It moved slowly towards us," Welborn said. "It got to the big oak (in their yard) and turned. It was barely moving. It was fiery red inside. There were no wings, but it had a rudder, like a boat, with blue and white lights."

"The whole thing was about as big as a house," she continued. "The whole front end was yellow lights. I could hear a humming (like an air conditioner's), but my husband didn't hear it. It was so strange. I had never seen anything like it."

She said it got so close when it was turning, that had she had her binoculars, she could have inside it.

"I've read about these things, but never seen anything like it. It went on up and out, towards Walnut Cove, and then it just disappeared from our view."

When questioned about whether they had actually just seen lightning, a flock of birds, a blimp, a gas cloud or any of the other items skeptics accuse of being what people claim to be UFOs rather than an alien ship from a distant planet, Welborn was quick to defend her story.

"Absolutely not," she said in reference to the list of alternatives. "Lightning flashed on both sides of it when it was coming over the mountain. Lightning wouldn't have moved towards us anyway. This came closer and closer. When it turned I could have fallen over."



## UFO Spotted

Savannah Welborn points up to the area she and her husband watched a UFO last week.

Photo by Scott Anderson

"I think it was something from another planet," she said confidently. "It seemed they were just checking things out. Everything was lit up so much. I was a skeptic, now I'm not. I know people may think it's just a story, but that

doesn't phase me. I saw it. I know what I saw."

She said she has since been scanning the skies with her binoculars in hopes of a return visit of the craft.

A woman from Pinnacle called the King Times-News on Tuesday and said she also saw the craft, and that she was even able to video tape it. Though she didn't leave her name, we are anxious to talk with her about what she saw.

DAILY NEWS SUN, Sun City, AZ - June 2, 1988

## UFO arguments continue

By KAREN S. LEONARD  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — It may not be because E.T. phoned home, but some people believe they have seen unidentified flying objects visiting Earth.

One such man, Allen Benz, is president of the Foundation of UFO Research in Tucson.

Benz said, not only has he listened to numerous accounts of UFO sightings from others, but he saw a UFO in 1969, while he was living in San Diego.

"I saw this object over the bay. It was circular with no wings, no tail, no engine — no visual means of support," he said.

The craft didn't make any noise, he said. And it resembled the large round portion of the Starship Enterprise on the Star Trek television program.

But Bob Steiner, co-founder of the Bay Area Skeptics based near San Francisco, says UFOs don't exist.

After 80,000 reported sightings

of UFOs, he said, there should be some scientific proof they exist or at least a picture of one.

Benz said there is such evidence but skeptics like Steiner refuse to look at all the data.

And although most of the objects originally called UFOs are later accurately identified as planets, stars, aircraft or balloons, 10 percent to 30 percent remain unidentified, he said.

"Our theory is that something serious is going on that needs to be studied," Benz said.

"We're trying to remain as objective and open-minded as possible and have no preconceived notions."

In 1954, Benz said, there was a farmer in France who reported seeing a UFO. He said the metallic object landed on the railroad tracks near a field he was working in.

Later, Benz said, scientists and other experts came out to examine the area. They concluded that an object 10 meters in diameter and weighing 30

tons would have been necessary to put the dents in the railroad tracks the way they were.

If skeptics still want to classify such events as the work of pranksters or hoaxers, that's OK, Benz said. But he believes pranksters wouldn't go to such lengths to pull their stunts.

Sun Citian Hazel McManus also believes UFOs exist. She said she has seen three — two while living in Sun City.

However, the craft she said was nearest her was while she lived in St. Louis, Mo.

She said the UFO was a large, white, metallic-looking object surrounded by bright light.

"It was kind of like a bowl turned upside down because it was flat on the bottom but it had no wheels. It would just sit there hovering and the top was dome-shaped," McManus said.

The object didn't land, she said, and took off much the way a helicopter would.

MCCURTAIN CO. GAZETTE,  
Idabel, OK - March 31, 1988

Mary Lou Huffman and others who saw an unidentified flying object near Idabel Friday night have lots of company. And among the several persons who today reported seeing an unusual flying object that night is state Sen. Gerald Dennis.

Dennis said he was at his Aunt's home and saw, between 10:30 and 11 p.m., an object similar to that described by Mrs. Huffman.

"It looked like a big old star and had a tail on it," he said. "It went along there for about a minute and a half, then it went out of sight. It was headed toward Idabel. It was a weird deal. Boy, was it bright."

Several others reported seeing objects that night. A woman from Holly Creek said her son saw something he still won't talk about. She quoted him as saying, "I'm not telling anyone. They'll think I'm

crazy."

Paul Rutherford, Bowie County, Texas representative of the Mutual UFO Network which investigates such sightings, says some people may have seen the remnants of a Russian satellite which was said to have entered earth's atmosphere and burned up about 10:45 p.m. Friday.

But he says what the Huffman family described could not have been the satellite remains. "It should have looked some-

thing like a meteor," he said of the Russian satellite. "A tremendous amount of it should have burnt up," and it would have appeared very distant.

What the Huffmans described seeing southwest of Idabel was extremely close to them and was much larger than the remains of the satellite should have been.

Also, they observed the object for three to four minutes, and the satellite remains would have been moving far more rapidly.

Still, Rutherford acknowledges, "The timing is pretty close."

Mrs. Huffman said she received a few calls Wednesday night, following publication of her story, from people who had seen the same or a similar object.

## State Senator Joins Growing List of UFO Spotters

## Burned Ground, Marks Still Puzzling

A three-sided burned area north of Pine Bluff, reported as a left by a possible flying object, has at least one investigator puzzled and another offering an explanation.

"It's kind of an odd-looking situation," said Jack Palmateer, Jefferson County's coordinator of emergency services. "It does look like it couldn't happen accidentally."

The burned area is on land owned by Jeff Kahn on McFadden Road south of the Pine Bluff Arsenal. Kahn declined to talk to *The Commercial* this morning, but a story in the *Arkansas Gazette* Sunday said Kahn suspected the burn was made by a vertical-lift aircraft that came from the Arsenal and landed on the spot.

Dewey Spencer, public affairs

COMMERCIAL, Pine Bluff, AR - June 6, 1988

officer at the Arsenal, said this morning, however, that the facility has no aircraft and there had been no military activity in the area.

Palmateer said this morning that he went to the site Tuesday with officials from the Jefferson County Sheriff's office and had found a triangular-shaped area on a bluff overlooking an old channel of the Arkansas River. The legs of

the triangle were about 32 feet long, and at the end of each leg was a slight depression. The fire, Palmateer said, had burned to the depressions and stopped.

But Capt. Virgil I. Brown, head of the Criminal Investigation Division with the sheriff's office, said someone started a fire, then stomped it out.

# UFO museum out-of-this-world idea Randolph sightings among his collection

By HENRY KING  
Courier-Tribune Staff Writer

LINCOLNTON — If E.T., the extra-terrestrial of movie fame, ever tries to call home and finds all communications out, he'd be in Seventh Heaven to wait out the delay at George Fawcett's home.

There are several busts and lifesize statues of outer space "humanoids" in Fawcett's den and there are hundreds of pictures, drawings, schematics and related material relative to Unidentified Flying Objects.

"Stuff about UFOs? I have 14,000 items," Fawcett said as he began to pull out file drawers along a long wall. "I have photographs, news clips, magazine articles, speeches, addresses and even legal papers."

"I even have 4,000 UFO files from U.S. Government sources. You heard it right — the government. The United States was sued by a civilian agency to get access to 6,000 UFO documents the government had."

That is why, Fawcett says, he has a bumpersticker on his car that states: "If you want to know if there are UFOs, ask your government."

Fawcett, 59, has been collecting and

## Overhead & Underfoot

studying UFO material since he was 15 years old. He has a news clip of the very first UFO reported by the military ("Get that, military!" he says) over Germany during World War II.

"And all this material; all these objects and displays, I want very much to put in a special museum, a UFO museum," Fawcett sighs.

"I want the museum to be special in design, too. I want it the shape of a UFO, the shape of what so many people call a 'flying saucer.'"

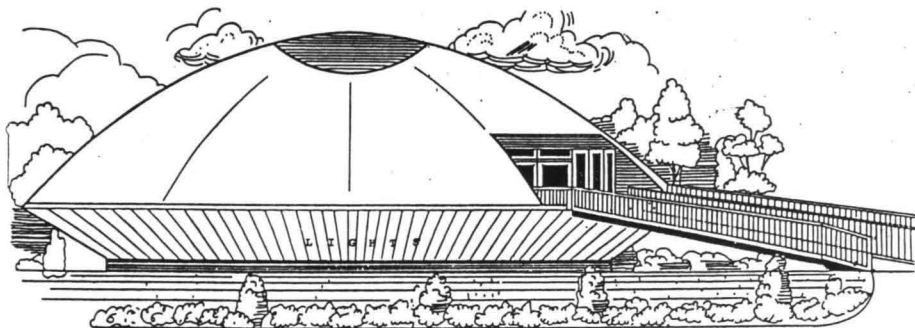
It would be a large structure and be a combination museum and laboratory to study all material related to UFOs.

"People worldwide could report material to it through their local UFO organization and they could come to the museum to study on their own."

"For 24 of the 44 years I have been a civilian investigator, researcher, organizer, writer, lecturer and teacher in this exciting field, I have entertained the notion of a UFO museum," he said.



George Fawcett looks through file  
...he has some 14,000 UFO items



Sketch shows Fawcett's rendition of UFO museum  
...blinking lights would surround exterior of the 'flying saucer'

Fawcett has all his basic materials at his Lincoln home in Lincoln County and he is not lacking a drawing plan for his idea of a UFO museum.

"Look," he said, pulling a copy of a proposed drawing of a UFO museum plan from his files. "This shows the general shape of the exterior. There is also a general plan for dividing up the interior into offices, labs, display rooms, and so forth."

"Would any of the material in that huge flying saucer museum relate to Randolph County?" Fawcett was asked.

"Oh, yes, clippings for certain. And I don't even have to go into my files to find mention of one of those. I can tell you off the top of my head that in 1953 there was a report of a UFO, or at least a report of what apparently had been left by a UFO."

"A news item of the time told about the probable UFO and mentioned a description by a local family that reported something had left an 18-foot diameter circle burned on their front yard. I'd have to look up the rest of the details, but that is part of the material."

Throughout the years there have been UFO activities reported from the Level Cross area and Trogdon Hill section of U.S. 64 in Randolph, too.

Fawcett keeps spreading his idea of a UFO museum and keeps hoping and searching for persons and organizations that may be interested in bringing the museum to fruition with development and funds.

He has the background and the ideas as well as the material to do the promotional aspects of it. It should sell itself as a worldwide tourist attraction as well as a museum research center, he says.

"You may not hear much about them individually, but there are 150 sightings of UFOs worldwide every day, on average," he said.

"I am not the Jeanne Dixon of space, but I can tell you — can predict that this year and each year thereafter, there will be a repetition of certain reports relative to UFOs."

"There will be reported radar trackings of UFOs. There will be pursuits of UFOs by planes, ships and autos because of unexplained lights observers want to see close up. There will be sightings of objects flying at speeds superior to any man-made craft. The UFOs will be reported to be in maneuvers beyond capabilities of satellites, aircraft and missiles..."

There is something out there, Fawcett declares.

What, may not be exactly known as yet, but a museum and research facility should coordinate all data now scattered around the world, he contends.

If we are not alone, and we may not be, let us have an open mind about it, Fawcett says. After all, Fawcett says, even governmental agencies keep UFO records. He cites a document still on sale by The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that is really a "kit of materials on the 1986 Japan Air Lines radar-visual sighting of a UFO near Alaska and costs \$195."

A nucleus of UFO material that Fawcett has gathered over 44 years would be the ideal collection to start a UFO museum, he believes.

A native of Mt. Airy, Fawcett is a graduate of Lees-McRae College and Lynchburg (Va.) College. He has a degree in psychology and education and has been a longtime YMCA official. He has also been a writer and general manager for several North Carolina newspapers.

His "Sauceriana Collection" began in 1944, when he was 15 and keeping a scrapbook about the progress of World War II. That is a full three years before unexplained things in the sky were given the designation flying saucers.

A news dispatch from the war zone referred to silver balls seen in the sky over France. The objects were thought by military authorities to be the latest weaponry development of Nazi Germany.

As the war progressed, more such "silver balls" were reported. But when Germany surrendered and the various military bases were searched, nothing was ever found to shed light on the "silver balls" of the sky.

Two years after the war, 1947, numerous sky objects were being seen all over the world and they were dubbed as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

On Fawcett's living room wall is a yellowed, 1944 clipping of the first UFO article he snipped from a paper and it started his 14,000 piece collection.

Among the populace, there is a 98 percent awareness level of UFOs. At least 15 million Americans, including three astronauts and one president, have reported sightings. There have been 860 sightings in North Carolina.

"There have been 3,500 close encounters of the

# Twenty Pearisburg residents observe UFO last Thursday

By JAMES BARBERY  
of the Daily Telegraph staff

PEARISBURG, Va. — Russell Simpson, 18, of Pearisburg said he had never seen a UFO prior to 9:58 p.m. last Thursday when he and 20 other persons — gathered for a meeting at Holy Family Catholic Church — observed a slow-moving, low-flying craft for about 15 minutes as it hovered over Angel's Rest Mountain and then moved slowly east towards the Pearisburg church.

"I was watching through binoculars for 10 to 15 minutes so I saw it better than anyone else," he said.

"Prior to this event I didn't know for sure whether UFOs existed or not. I had heard a lot and I knew that there must be something to the sightings because there have been so many."

"I don't think it was an alien craft. In the back of my mind I kept telling myself that it was some type of experimental craft. In any case I think the public should be aware. It was an interesting event but I don't really think it was from beyond this world."

Simpson said that the craft was flying real low. "Using the binoculars I could see up into the thing but I couldn't make out any of the interior details," he said.

"It was shaped like a plane but didn't have wings. I know it wasn't a plane. It may have been a dirigible craft. It hardly made any noise. It seemed to move in surges."

He said that the object had a red light in its center and that it

had a row of bright white lights running the length of the craft.

Simpson said the strangest aspect of the UFO was the fact that he could "see through the outer edges of the ship."

"One section of it was actually clear. The moonlight shined through it in places and I could see sky through it. Some areas of the ship seemed to have absolutely no substance," he said.

Danny Gordon, the Wytheville man who said he spotted many UFOs in the area last year, said

DAILY TELEGRAPH, Bluefield, WV - April 1, 1988

that the sighting did not surprise him. "My count on personal sightings now stands at 21. The sightings are continuing in this area and I am also receiving a substantial number of reports from the Gulf region. UFO sightings have now become commonplace in the entire eastern United States," he said.

third kind, where people reported seeing occupants of UFOs either in UFOs or outside on the ground," Fawcett said.

So, we should surely have a museum and research center, he adds.

"I have three groups of people interested in such a facility," he said. "One is in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.; another is at Statesville; and a third near Banner Elk."

From a standpoint of significant names, it would be nice to have it at Star in nearby Montgomery County, or at Mars Hill in Madison County.

"I could go along with that," Fawcett said, laughing.

North Carolina has license plates that state "First In Flight," and Fawcett says he'd like to see the first world-renowned UFO museum here, too.

A longtime officer and current assistant state director of the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON) of North Carolina, Fawcett says an out-of-this-world design for a UFO museum is a down-to-earth idea whose time has come.



# Fantasy-prone psyche may lie behind strange 'abductions'

By REBECCA KOLBERG  
UPI Science Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI) — In 1963, an engineering student named Robert was driving home to Chicago after visiting his girlfriend when he got lost unaccountably on a familiar road, saw strange lights and his car stopped working.

The next thing he remembered was waking up, driving into Chicago two hours later. When Robert took a shower he noticed an odd mark on his shoulder, and the experience left him with strange dreams.

Although Robert thought his experience may have involved an extraterrestrial phenomenon, it occurred before other alleged alien abductions gained widespread publicity and he tried to shrug it off.

But in 1981, after nearly two decades of anxiety and personal problems, he underwent hypnosis, and an investigation that involved conscious recall and questioning of acquaintances.

Under hypnosis, Robert said that after his car stopped, a little creature appeared in the back seat. The alien — small, with a round, hairless head, big, black eyes and a skin-tight uniform — led Robert into a UFO, where he was subjected to a physical examination and shown strange, movie-like images.

The aliens, who Robert said communicated by telepathy rather than speech, eventually walked him back to his car, saying it would be to his benefit if he could not recall the encounter.

Robert's experience is typical of at the least 300 instances of alien abduction that have been reported worldwide, primarily in the United States, England and South America.

But one controversial theory, proposed recently by a psychologist, holds that Robert and the others were not the victims of weird little creatures from outer space, but rather are victims of "fantasy-prone" personality, a still poorly understood psychological state.

"Fantasy-prone people are not psychotic, not crazy, not even neurotic. They're just a little different than the rest of us," said Robert Baker, a psychology professor at University of Kentucky.

"What lies behind most of so-called alien encounter reports is a problem with people who are suggestible being told these things," said Baker.

Psychological researchers Heryl Wilson and T.X. Barber were among the first to characterize the fantasy-prone personality, reporting in a 1983 study that such individuals could comprise as much as 4 percent of the population.

Such people become actively involved in the events they fantasize — reporting sights, sounds and smells. In addition, researchers say such people enter hypnotic-like trances when they are deeply involved in a fantasy.

"In the past, before the technological age, such people saw angels and said the angels carried them up to heaven, or they were abducted by fairies, leprechauns or other little folk," said Baker, adding that in order to maintain a facade of normality such people learn "to be highly secretive and private about their fantasy lives."

The difference between normal people with vivid imaginations and those with fantasy-prone personalities is the latter group's difficulty in distinguishing between reality and fantasy, according to Baker.

Writing in *The Skeptical Inquirer*, the psychologist said although most abductees appear to be mild-mannered, unassuming citizens, if they were given intensive psychological tests, "It is highly likely that many similarities would emerge, particularly an unusual personality pattern ... categorized as fantasy-prone."

Baker, who deems all the reported alien abduction cases "highly suspect" due to lack of physical evidence from outer space, anticipates a rash of new reports in the wake of highly popular, "non-fiction" books on such sagas, including Whitley Strieber's "Communion" and Budd Hopkins' "Intruders".

But others question the personality theory.

Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago who investigated Robert's case, said the fantasy-prone theory "may or may not explain some abduction

cases."

"As far as abduction claims themselves, we are on the fence. I think they should be taken seriously because a number of people who reported them are traumatized by the experience, whatever it was," said Rodeghier, a psychology lecturer at the University of Illinois.

Although UFO investigator Hopkins concedes Baker's fantasy-prone theory "certainly may apply in a number of cases," he argued that Baker did not conduct research to back up his claims.

It is also difficult to apply the concept to incidents in which several people reported being abducted simultaneously, Hopkins argued.

He cited the case of a registered nurse and her two sons who reported an unexplained two-hour time lapse after their car was approached by a UFO. Under hypnosis all gave similar accounts of abduction by alien creatures.

Hopkins suggested alien abduction could be a pattern that starts in early childhood, with extraterrestrials "more or less tagging humans like elk or deer and following them through the years." Such experiences would probably create an unusual psychological makeup, which might be labeled fantasy-prone, he said.

Baker challenges abduction stories elicited through hypnosis, claiming this encourages and rewards the fantasy-prone.

"There's currently no way even the most sophisticated hypnotist can tell the difference between a memory that is real and one that's created. If a person is hypnotized and highly suggestible, and false information is implanted in his mind, it may get embedded even more strongly," Baker writes.

Rodeghier acknowledged that an unethical or inexperienced hypnotist could nudge a suggestible person into "recalling" extraterrestrial encounters, but said faulting hypnosis techniques is not the same as debunking alien abductions.

Many claims people make about extraterrestrials do not require hypnosis, with about one-third of the cases involving

"a fair amount of conscious memory," Rodeghier said.

In his article, Baker attributed some extraterrestrial accounts to hallucinations that occur as people are waking or drifting off to sleep. In such "waking dreams", a person feels awake, but paralyzed or floating, and may "see" supernatural creatures.

The abduction skeptic calls Whitley Strieber's best-seller, "Communion", "a classic textbook description" of such a hallucination, despite Strieber's insistence his abduction by aliens was real.

"The point cannot be more strongly made that ordinary, perfectly sane and rational people have these hallucinatory experiences and that such individuals are in no way mentally disturbed or psychotic. But neither are such experiences to be taken as incontrovertible proof of some sort of objective or consensual reality," Baker states.

Hopkins conceded Strieber's recollections are "not a very strong case" compared to many other accounts, but said one experience — in which Strieber said he was carried out of his cabin in upstate New York and into a spaceship — "definitely has the marks of a real abduction."

Baker said similarities in alien abduction stories — such as little grey humanoid creatures and flying saucers — show they are based on common UFO tales people have seen in newspapers, books, movies and television.

"Fantasy-prone abductees' stories would be much more credible if some of them, at least, reported the aliens as 8-foot-tall, red-striped octapeds riding bicycles and intent on eating us for dessert," he wrote.

But Hopkins believes the connection works the opposite way, with authors basing stories on witnesses' sightings. He said these accounts had led to a switch in science fiction from rockets to flying saucers and from monster-like to humanoid aliens.

Dr. Rima Laibow, a Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., psychiatrist who has talked with six abductees

and reviewed many other cases, also doubts Baker's theories.

"The notion of a fantasy-prone personality does not seem to hold water in the clinical analysis of abductees. We all have fantasies; we do not all produce the same details in our fantasy," Laibow said. "I know of no other fantasy that is produced in such concurrence, both in setting and detail."

She said testing and clinical observations "make clear these people are not of one personality type."

Although she does not know if external or internal factors are responsible for the abduction reports, Laibow said most abductees display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"If this phenomenon is not caused by an external event, it would be the first instance of post-traumatic stress I know of without a physical cause," she says.

The stress disorder is a form of anxiety stemming from a tragic event, such as an airplane crash, physical torture or war. Symptoms include insomnia, headaches, nightmares and repeatedly reviewing memories of the event.

Laibow said abductees' versions of reality should be respected by psychologists. But Baker said reinforcing alien abduction stories can lead people to believe they actually have been victims.

"It upsets them and does turn them into neurotic persons if they weren't disturbed before," Baker said.

"Instead of convincing fantasy-prone people that the abduction really did happen, psychologists should help them realize it didn't happen so the people will not feel like aliens can come back at any time at take them away."

## Author says aliens have spirited him away since childhood

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A big-eyed creature that looks like a cross between a human and an insect has invaded thousands of bookstores, peering from the cover of what Whitley Strieber claims is a "true story" of alien abduction.

Strieber's best-seller, "Communion, A True Story," has sparked a resurgence in public interest in UFOs and extraterrestrial visitors — unproven phenomena whose sightings, like that of the Loch Ness monster and abominable snowman, seem to go through cycles of mass popularity.

A former author of science fiction, horror and environmental books, Strieber claims on the night of Dec. 26, 1985 he was carried out of his cabin in upstate New York by little, gray humanoid creatures wearing blue overalls.

The bald-headed "good army" took him to a space ship where he underwent a physical examination directed by a slightly taller, female alien with huge, black slanting eyes and thin, insect-like limbs.

Most of the details of Strieber's story were elicited through hypnosis, which also uncovered other alleged alien abductions in the author's past, dating back to when he was 12 and living in Texas.

Unlike some abductees, Strieber is not certain his visitors were from outer space. For the most part, he insists the aliens are real physical entities, but his theories on their source are varied.

According to Strieber, the aliens may be time travelers, gods or the mature form of a being for which humans are merely an immature "larval" stage. He also writes it is a "distinct possibility" the strange creatures are produced by "a mental phenomenon as yet unidentified."

## UFO Sighting West Of City Stirs Excitement For Family

NEWSPRESS, Stillwater, OK - May 16, 1988  
Calls to the Stillwater Police Department and the Payne County Sheriff's Department late Sunday night sent Sheriff Carl Hiner and a deputy west of town to look for an unidentified flying object about 10-10:30 p.m.

But the two law officers were unable to spot the object, Hiner said.

Emma Lewis, who lives east of Stillwater, told a reporter Monday that she and several relatives, all of whom live in Stillwater, saw the phenomenon following a storm.

"It looked like a red light with a strobe light on it," she

Mrs. Raper said she and her husband went outside after Mrs. Lewis called about 10:45 p.m. They, too, saw the light. "My husband sat down on the porch and watched it for a long time," she said. "I saw it, too. It looked like a star, glowing red."

As the Rapers and Mrs. Lewis watched, the light disappeared briefly, "like a light being turned off," then appeared again "for a couple of seconds" before finally disappearing altogether.

Mrs. Lewis said she had gone outside about 10 p.m. to see if all storm activity had passed when she noticed the light.

According to Mrs. Lewis, the light appeared over the west side of Stillwater, hanging motionless in the air at about treetop level. The light was larger than airplane lights, she said.

"I watched it for probably about an hour, from about 10 p.m. until about 11:15 p.m."

Mrs. Lewis said she called several relatives in town, who also observed the light. Ruth and Tony Raper, an OSU police officer, are two of Mrs. Lewis's relatives who observed it.

# Many report sighting UFOs locally

By MARK TOMEO  
News Staff Writer

Researcher Stan Gordon has a theory UFOs appear more frequently near "energy windows" — natural formations such as ridges or valleys with peculiar magnetic or seismic properties, or man-made structures including power plants and high-tension transmission lines. Some type of force attracts them, he feels.

## Local sightings

The Montour County area has had its share of sightings. UFOs tend to be seen locally around Washingtonville, often in the neighborhood of the Pennsylvania Power & Light facility, and near Blue Hill in Riverside where the power lines cross the Susquehanna River.

The area experienced a minor rash of sightings in early July 1987. Witnesses sighted a large, bright object flashing through the night skies from Iola to Jerseytown to Washingtonville in the space of about 25 minutes.

The first report came from Dennis Shultz of Iola, who reported seeing a round object with red and blue lights which hung in the air then flashed away.

Minutes later, a girl in Jerseytown described the same type of object, which she said was quite large, coming from the direction of Millville. The girl, who declined to be identified, said the object appeared on one side of her home, then disappeared and reappeared on the other side.

"It was almost dancing in the sky," she said. "It stood still for a few minutes, then in a flash it was gone."

Shortly after, Jeannie Roberts of Washingtonville said she spotted "a large object with lights in the sky." It appeared headed toward the PP&L plant, she said.

That week, Danville News Sports Editor Eric Long also saw a yellow-orange pulsating disc which hovered then flew off at high speed. Long was driving on Route 54 north of Washingtonville shortly after dark at the time of the sighting.

## Star-like light

A Danville RD 8 resident, who works as a medical technologist at Geisinger Medical Center and asked not to be named, and his girlfriend were driving along Strawberry Ridge Road, adjacent to the PP&L plant one clear night in January 1987, when they noticed a strange star-like light hanging in the air over Jerseytown. They were amazed when it zipped away in the direction of Bloomsburg.

The girlfriend drove home alone and saw the light again when she stopped for the traffic light near the plant's gate. It hung in the air for a few seconds, then zoomed off toward Turbotville.

"It gave us a weird feeling," he said. "You'd notice it sticking out. Nothing can move that fast. It was like nothing I'd ever seen before or since. It was noticeable at first, just sitting there perfectly still. I never think about that kind of stuff, but it impressed me to see how it moved away."

The girlfriend made an observation very common to UFO witnesses. She said it was as if the object waited just long enough to be sure she noticed it, then it sped away.

"I saw a meteor once," he said. "This was nothing like it."

Jean Lehout, a former resident of Fisher's Trailer Court, watched "a pattern of stars" come together in formation over the Susquehanna River opposite Blue Hill one summer night three years ago.

"When it came closer, I could see an object with revolving lights — yellow, blue, green, red — over Riverside. It sent out a beam of light that lit up the whole area."

She too thinks a psychic connection exists between the objects and observers. "I don't think they make themselves known to the government or anyone who could make trouble for them," she said.

Leo Costello of Berwick reported seeing strange lights at night, but he feels they are some type of government device.

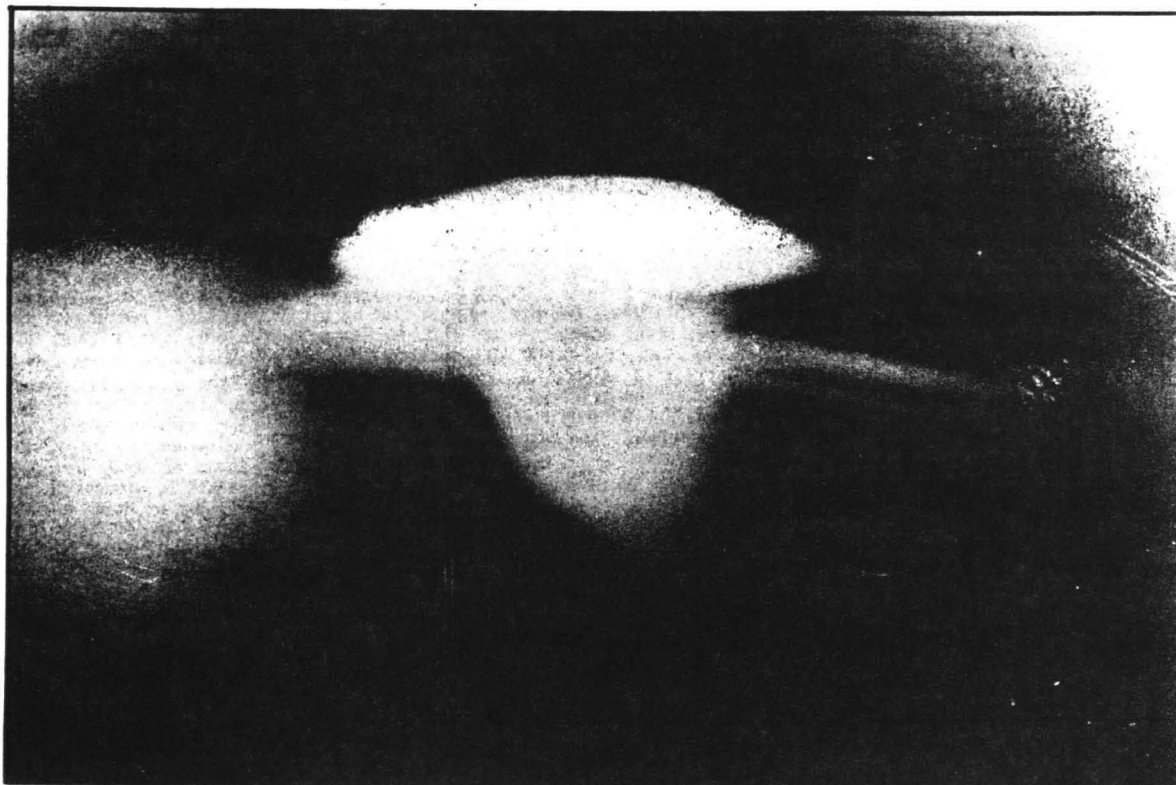
"They look like fake stars, only bigger and brighter," he said. "They move short distances then stop. I think it's the government doing some kind of surveillance."

A woman in Riverside, who declined to be named, reported she watched from the deck of her house



IT LOOKED LIKE THIS — William Hummer of Danville built a model to demonstrate the UFO he and his neighbors saw dropping "cobwebs" in the vicinity of Honeymoon Street.

(Danville News — Mark Tomeo)



BEAVER, PENNSYLVANIA — On Aug 8, 1965, James Lucci, 17, was photographing the moon when a glowing disc rose up from power

as a huge black boomerang-shaped object pass over the area one day last summer. The object released a number of silvery balls or discs as it passed. She called to her husband, who came out with binoculars. He said he was too late to see the main object, but saw some of the discs. They appeared to be at a very high altitude, he said.

## 'Cobwebs'

Perhaps the strangest local story comes from William F. Hummer of 222 Honeymoon Ave., who, with his neighbors, not only saw UFOs, but picked up something they dropped.

Shortly after 2 p.m. May 4, 1981, Hummer was returning home from a motorcycle ride when he noticed "cobwebs" hanging from the houses in his neighborhood, dangling from telephone wires and draped over parked cars. Wispy material was dropping from the sky as Hummer parked his bike and he looked up to see where it came from.

"There was something up near the sun moving around," he said. "It was hard to see, so I went inside and got binoculars. I could see these things — discs — working back and forth and

this stuff was coming down continuously. It was all over the place. It was like a giant spiderweb but when you touched it, it evaporated."

Hummer alerted a neighbor who saw the objects, but got scared and ran back in the house.

"The oxygen man came by and he picked up a piece of it, but it just disappeared from his hand," Hummer said.

The oxygen man was delivering a tank of oxygen for Hummer's sick mother. He too watched the objects.

"They were going in different directions, grouping up then zipping off," Hummer said. "They were working in groups of twos and threes. I'm not sure how many there were, they moved that fast."

One of the things finally moved to where Hummer could watch it with his back to the sun. "It was round and metal with a dome and a kind of peak on it," he said. "It flew off one way and tilted down and I got it good in the binoculars. Then it shot back the other way without turning around or anything."

Hummer said he knew then that whatever he was seeing was not man-made.

lines into view. The object was elliptical and the "tail" was invisible to the naked eye.

"We're talking something highly sophisticated here," he said. "All I could think was, 'what is this, what am I seeing?' This wasn't some government thing. They can't even get NASA right. This was way advanced to go that quick. I wouldn't mind having two in the garage."

The sighting lasted about an hour. Around 2:30 p.m., Hummer's sister, Marie, came home.

"I could see silky cobwebs in great big strands," she said. "It would break off and you could see these things like flying saucers up by the sun. Way, way up, you could see big masses of this stuff — I call it cobwebs — flying around for a long time."

The cobwebs, sometimes called "angel hair," have been reported dozens of times the world over in connection with UFO sightings. Some UFOlogists speculate it is a type of exhaust from the objects, but it never lasts long enough to be analyzed.

Characteristically, the Honeymoon Street cobwebs evaporated within an hour.

"It was white and like ash or dandelion spores," Hummer said. "You could crunch it up in your hand and it

(Photo courtesy PASU) was gone."

Hummer has never again seen a UFO, but he bought a book on the subject after his experience. The book is well-thumbed and contains several famous UFO photographs. Hummer pointed one out. It is an enlargement of the McMinnville, Ore., UFO, photographed by Paul Trent. See page 21.

"That's it," he said. "That's the one I saw. I'm not the only guy who's seeing these things. I don't want to see them again. You're dealing with the unknown."



# Author of UFO abduction study wins award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dr. Thomas E. Bullard of the University of Indiana recently became the first recipient of the Award for Distinguished UFO Research from the Fund for UFO Research, a non-profit organization founded in 1979 to support serious scientific work in the UFO field.

Bullard authored a 350-page study

of abduction reports, one of the most mystifying aspects of the UFO phenomena. Abduction cases involve reports by witness who are taken against their will into what appears to be a craft by UFO occupants for unknown purposes.

Abductions have gained considerable public attention from three major books, "Communion," the

best-seller by Whitley Strieber, and "Missing Time" and "Intruders" by veteran UFO investigator Budd Hopkins.

Bullard analyzed over 300 cases of abductions dating back to the late 19th century, but concentrated on the last two decades. He used the catalog "as a data base for comparative analysis" to find constants and

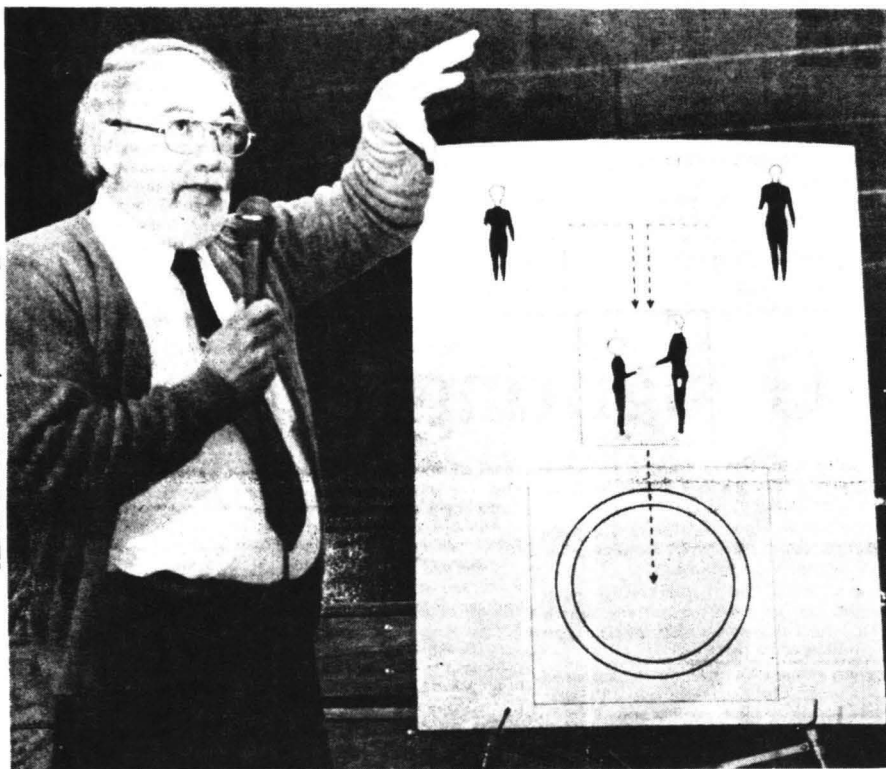
meaningful patterns in the reports.

"Any conclusions about the nature of abductions must leave the question open," he said. "Even if abductions are objective, the beings keep them screened with confusion and the victims are hardly at their best as observers. If abductions are subjective, we confront irrational subconscious experiences with which science is ill-

equipped to cope."

Pointing out the consistency of the reports, Bullard notes the descriptions seem too complex and unusual to repeat by chance alone.

"What we cannot forget is the eeriness of abductions," he said. "The reports never fail to remind us of that."



Tom Weber, an organizer of the UFO Site Center Corp., describes the message which will emanate skyward from a proposed spacecraft landing pad near Elmwood. The figures, observable from passing UFOs, show a man and extraterrestrial coming together in friendship. — staff photo by Jim Anderson

## Elmwood ideal setting for a UFO landing pad

By Jim Anderson  
STAFF WRITER

ELMWOOD, Wis. — Like a massive interplanetary candle in a window, a lighted message emanating from a hillside near Elmwood soon will beam a warm and friendly welcome to wayfaring alien spacecraft, if developers of a UFO landing site have their way.

An announcement two months ago that a corporation had been formed to raise \$50 million for building a 2 square-mile facility to provide a landing pad for spacecrafts and study UFOs has thrust this village of 991 people into the national limelight.

Fund raising is progressing rapidly, and more details about the project — including its message encouraging a close encounter of the neighborly kind — were explained for about 100 residents during a meeting Sunday.

### Ideal location

Elmwood is a natural site for such a project, according to Tom Weber, a Chippewa Falls businessman who founded the UFO Site Center Corp., and Donald Schmitt, co-director and investigator for the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies based in Chicago.

"Elmwood has an unusual set of experiences, a series of incidents, that is highly related to other areas, not only in this state, not only in this country, but throughout the world," Schmitt said.

Many local residents have claimed to have seen UFOs in the

### SCHMITT:

'Elmwood has an unusual set of experiences, a series of incidents, that is highly related to other areas, not only in this state, not only in this country, but throughout the world.'

northeast Pierce County community — the most famous being two reports in the mid-1970s by the late George Wheeler, a village police officer.

Elmwood and other rural communities seem to be most attractive to alien visitors. "Elmwood just happens to be one of those particular towns that, for some reason, UFOs have singled out," Schmitt said, adding that a series of sightings also were reported about a year ago south of Madison, Wis.

"Most UFO sightings are not by accident," he said. "The more we check into this, the more we find that it all seems to be preplanned. So there's some purpose, some intent behind the phenomena."

### Community awareness

The area meets criteria that is almost a prerequisite for the hundreds of sightings he has investigated: It's rural, secluded,

full of hills and valleys and roads are sparsely traveled.

Community awareness and acceptance of UFOs was another reason Elmwood was a good site, Weber added. "There's not a lot of educating," he said. "You were not difficult, as a community, to approach."

While entirely separate entities, the community's UFO Days held the last weekend of July was another factor.

"The fact that your town celebration, that your entire lives, are so entwined in the phenomena, spoke of the community. And it made your community desirable from that aspect," Weber said.

His original vow to the Village Board that the project will not go ahead without community support still holds.

Dubiousness and skepticism go with the territory, Weber said, but his rejection of a substantial donation from a person whose net worth exceeded \$100 million indicates his sincerity. A number of wealthy individuals have offered support, but that particular donation came with strings attached.

When the project comes "we want it to be something that is truly wholesome, and in the clean-spirited way in which we have conducted ourselves to this point," he said.

### Pictorial message

According to the plan, a large pictorial message in lights will catch the attention of spacecraft

tooling along over western Wisconsin.

Separate figures of a man about one-quarter mile long will be seen, Weber said, along with what generally is considered a standard extraterrestrial: a smaller humanoid figure with a disproportionately large head and eyes, but small nose and mouth.

Lines from those will link to a third figure picturing the two creatures shaking hands, with a lighted arrow pointing to the landing pad. The message, basically, is "let's get together here, friend." From there, it is hoped communication will be established.

Sighting a UFO is an extraordinary experience, Schmitt said. For some, it is almost religious.

Those encountering aliens are lucky, he said, "because from then on their lives don't seem so mundane. Little things that

bother so many of us don't bother these people, because they see a different picture. They see things that are beyond earth."

### Dignified atmosphere

Despite secretly acknowledging the existence of UFOs, the official stance of the U.S. government is to debunk them. Discomfort about the unknown makes that an easy attitude to adopt, he said.

Schmitt said Elmwood residents will share the distinction of what will be a landmark scientific achievement.

"Above all, retain a dignity of the town, of what your association with this project — and of the phenomena of the subject itself — will entail," he said. "Obviously, this could degenerate into a circus atmosphere. And I can happily say, speaking for myself, I don't see that happening at all."

BERKSHIRE EAGLE, Pittsfield, MA  
April 22, 1988 CR: B. Greenwood

### Physical evidence?

## Report of UFO over Egremont is investigated

By Erik Bruun  
Berkshire Eagle Staff

EGREMONT — In an incident reminiscent of a scene from the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," an unidentified flying object reportedly was observed in North Egremont last weekend.

The sighting was the latest in a series of reports of UFOs being seen by people along the Massachusetts-New York state line, said Gary Levine, an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network.

"We've had some reported sightings along the border between Columbia County and Berkshire County," Levine said. "We've also heard of other sightings that have not been officially reported. The UFOs haven't been identified as helicopters or astronomical phenomena. No conventional explanations can be made for them."

Police Chief Michael Balcom said a "responsible" resident reported this week seeing a flying object with bright lights hovering above North Egremont. He said the sighting was made Sunday at about 8 a.m. but was not reported until Tuesday night. Balcom forwarded the information to the UFO Phenomena Research and Reporting Center in Seattle. They sent Levine to investigate.

### Physical evidence

Levine said the report seemed to be legitimate. According to the person who saw it, the UFO had an elliptical shape and bright white lights, Levine said. It remained stationary at about a 30-degree angle above the ground for between 60 and 90 seconds before departing, Levine said.

Physical evidence of the UFO may have been left, and tests are being undertaken to determine whether the evidence can be explained, he said.

"Samples are being evaluated because of the nature of the physical evidence," Levine said. "The evidence was left in a very orderly manner. There were very precise measurements involved, which would make one suspicious that it was something of significance."

Neither Levine nor Balcom would reveal what the evidence was, the specific location of the sighting or the person who reported it.

### Other reports

Levine, who said he has a doctorate and has been investigating UFOs for several years, said similar reports have been made in northern and northeastern Columbia County near the Massachusetts border in the last two weeks.

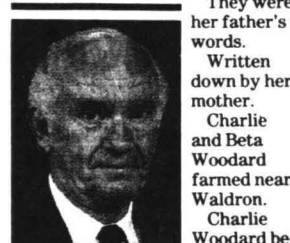
In one incident, he said, a person saw an object with bright white lights hovering over a rural area for several seconds.

If a UFO is sighted, Levine said, it should be reported and a regular procedure is followed. If the UFO center believes the report is legitimate, an investigator goes to the scene to determine what happened. Details of the sighting, such as where and when it occurred, what was seen and who made the sighting are recorded.

Levine said anyone who has made a sighting or knows of a sighting should write him at P.O. Box 1485, Kingston, N.Y. 12401.

# Mother records father's vision of heaven under a cottonwood

— MAYFLOWER.  
MARJORIE SIMON FOUND it as she went through some old family papers.



**Arkansas Traveler**  
Charles Allbright

had a dream or a vision. I thought I had prayed all day and had got nowhere when a voice said to me, 'Go

to the mountains,' and I went. I climbed to the top. Then I saw a higher mountain. I climbed to the top of it."

Up there was a cottonwood tree. "I climbed to the top of the tree. Then a voice said to me, 'Come down, Charlie. Come down, son.'" Charlie Woodard thought it was his father calling him.

★ ★ ★  
"I CAME DOWN TO about eight feet of ground and I saw two men. One was an extra large man, the other not quite as large. It was God and Jesus. (God the larger one.) They were in what they called a Pilot. It was a round room about 10 feet high, eight feet across, with a screen all around and a post in the center of the room. The room had seats with our backs to the center post. They invited me to get in the Pilot."

Charlie Woodard got in and looked back.

"I saw my body lying on the ground by the tree." God and Jesus told him it was about 700 miles up to Heaven, requiring three minutes travel.

"There was about a 20-foot hole in the sky. It came down until it was under us."

"We were in Heaven." ★ ★ ★  
BETA WOODARD ASKED her husband to slow down. Charlie went on, "There was a large lake of water southeast of us and a large green meadow northeast. Then we went west about 50 yards in our Pilot to a wall of green vines. There was lots of room in heaven. It was several miles large."

Their Pilot landed on an elevator and went up.

"I was so amazed and while I was watching, God and Jesus disappeared for awhile. I went through a 20-foot street, through a

wide gate and into another street. All the streets were walled with green vines." The street went clear across Heaven. And it was inside a building.

★ ★ ★  
CHARLIE WOODARD, WHO had left his body on earth, lying on the ground under a cottonwood tree — he went into the Heaven building. "Everyone was dressed in white, standing, smiling, their hands reached out as if to shake hands with me. I went up the street with both hands stretched out. I went up to where God and Jesus were sitting on the Throne."

Now Charlie saw himself dressed in white, like the others. "God had me sit by Him and Jesus on the Throne. I asked them why did they want me to sit on the Throne with them when everybody else was standing up (although there was lots of

seats)." ★ ★ ★  
CHARLIE TOLD, AND Beta wrote down, that the streets of Heaven were gold. And the walls under the vines were all colors, with gold and silver predominant. "There was nobody west of the street that went north and south but God and Jesus. They told me that I could go anywhere I wanted to. I did not know anyone in Heaven but my mother and she acted like all the rest of them. Just smiled and reached out her hand as if to shake hands with me."

★ ★ ★  
MARJORIE SIMON'S father was 52 when he sat in the chair at Waldron and dreamed his dream, or had his vision. He lived on 14 years past Beta Woodard, and was 89 before he learned how much of it was the truth.

## Probe of UFO sighting closed

By TERRI SOMERS  
Press Manahawkin Bureau

THE FEDERAL Aviation Administration officially has closed its investigation into several reports of an unidentified flying object in Atlantic County this week.

Egg Harbor Township police, who were the first to receive telephone calls from residents claiming to have seen a UFO, said they are tired of the continuing reports and are laughing at what they called "sensationalism" in the press.

But one report of a sighting made by a Wildwood radio station reporter, whom an FAA official calls a credible witness, has planted a question in some minds.

Why did so many people report seeing bright lights and something hovering in the air, while radar at the FAA Technical Center, Pomona section of Galloway Township, picked up nothing but two air cargo planes heading for McGuire Air Force Base 20 minutes before the first report of a sighting?

Egg Harbor Township police received the first reports of the UFOs around 9:15 p.m. Tuesday, FAA spokesman Anthony Willett said.

Police said it is not unusual to see strange lights in the sky in that area.

"There are always jets and planes all over the skies around here," Sgt. John DeAngelis said. "It could have been someone flying into or out of Atlantic City, McGuire or Dover, Del."

As news of the sightings spread, the number of reported sightings increased and the area where they are seen grew, DeAngelis said.

"We're getting calls from all over now of

people claiming to have seen it, after they've read about it. Frankly, we're getting a little tired of it," he said.

He admitted the police department was laughing at what he called the "hype" the people and media were making of the sighting.

Southern Ocean County police departments yesterday said they have not received any sighting reports, but expect they might after residents start hearing or reading about them.

The radar at the FAA technical center showed nothing at the time of the sightings despite the clear weather and 12-mile visibility, Willett said.

Willett, who has security clearance to any secretive flights or testing at the center, said no such testing took place that night.

Because the FAA could not confirm anything on its radar, the case is closed, Willett said.

"But what made all this interesting is a call I got yesterday (Wednesday) from a reporter," he said.

"Not only did she see it and was unable to identify it, but she had a rather vivid and direct description of it," he said.

Mary Burckmyer, a reporter for WCMC-AM in Wildwood, was driving on the Garden State Parkway on her way home from work about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday when she saw what she later reported to Willett and continues to maintain she saw.

"I was driving north on the parkway... when I looked up and saw two very bright lights on a flying object," Ms. Burckmyer said.

The object was enormous and elliptical in shape, and was traveling north to south at a steady

speed of about 30 mph slower than her car, she said. The gray metallic-colored object was about 10 times bigger than her car, was about 80 to 100 feet in diameter and was flying 150 to 200 yards above her car, she said.

She said it had two large headlights that glowed white and several smaller white and green lights underneath that blinked intermittently. It made no sound.

"It definitely wasn't a blimp, a helicopter, a plane or a balloon. It didn't have wings or any type of propeller device that I could see," she said.

"I have never seen anything like it," she said. "I was not drinking. I was not tired and I would still swear to seeing it."

The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, an organization supporting the existence of UFOs, said Ms. Burckmyer's description was credible, Willett said.

Ms. Burckmyer said she has been inundated with calls from people claiming to witness the same object, but is concerned about the sensationalism of the sighting and its effect on her journalistic credibility.

"Things have been a little sensational in the press, but maybe that's because I was a little excited the first day after it happened," she said. "I don't know what it was, but that doesn't mean I am saying it was a spaceship or little green men or anything like that."

"I have always considered myself a serious journalist, and it would make me sick if anything I said would hurt my credibility. But I hope because of this, people might take what I reported seriously," she said. "It is my job to report what I see and that is, in fact, what I did."

LEADER-TELEGRAM, Eau Claire, WI - Feb. 14, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

## Experiences of chief made wife a believer

ELMWOOD — Doris Wheeler heartily endorses Elmwood as a landing site and communications center for extraterrestrial beings.

Mrs. Wheeler, 70, is the widow of the former Elmwood Police Chief George Wheeler, the man who spotted two unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in the mid-1970s. She said she was very skeptical about UFOs until George made her a believer.

"I know they're there," she said after Saturday's news conference called by UFO Site Center Corp.

George Wheeler, who died in 1978, always was looking for UFOs, Mrs. Wheeler said. He found his first about 2 a.m. one spring night while on patrol in the northeast side of the village, she said.

Wheeler told his wife that a light kept coming toward him. He thought it was a plane about to crash, and it came close enough

that he dove out of his police car. But the light passed silently over him and headed to the south side of the village, Mrs. Wheeler said.

The police chief drove toward it, but the object headed off to the southwest. He contacted the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and was told that office had received "all kinds of calls" about the object, she said.

Wheeler's second sighting, a year later, "was a little more traumatic," Mrs. Wheeler said.

Wheeler was on patrol at about 10:30 p.m. in Butternut Park when "he saw this big, bright light," she said.

Thinking there was a fire, Wheeler drove to the top of a hill near an old quarry with an electrical substation below and got out of the car.

Wheeler told his wife that he saw a bright "saucer-shaped" thing and "he said he could see the people

moving around in it." A hose-like object seemed to extend from the object, she added.

"George said there was a blue light streamed at him. He said he didn't pass out, but he was stunned," she said.

Mrs. Wheeler said she heard him report the incident on the police radio. Another man and Pierce County authorities headed to the area, she said.

Afterward, Mrs. Wheeler took her husband to a doctor, who could not find anything wrong with him. Wheeler still did not feel well, and a few days later he was hospitalized, first in Menomonie and then in Eau Claire.

"They never diagnosed him with anything," Mrs. Wheeler said. "He had horrible nightmares afterward."

Mrs. Wheeler, who moved to Stillwater, Minn. a year ago, gave her reports and materials about the incidents to UFO Site Center Corp. She said she was delighted when Tom Weber, the firm's founder, visited her in Stillwater.

Weber said an Elmwood woman reported that an unidentified object followed her in her car for several miles. The woman was transporting children at the time, and "the children were terrified," Weber said.

Mrs. Wheeler said her husband's experiences convinced her that

there might be something substantial to reports about UFOs. She



**Doris Wheeler**  
Supports proposed UFO landing site

noted that she and her husband were married for 32 years. "I knew when he was fooling and when he wasn't, and he wasn't fooling," she said.

—Jim Daly



# UFOs leave strange calling cards

By MARK TOMELO  
News Staff Writer

GREENSBURG, Pa. — Unidentified flying objects have left strange calling cards in a pair of cases investigated by Stan Gordon's Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained.

One night in October 1965, a resident of Monaca in Beaver Township watched a 25-foot-wide UFO standing in a hayfield on what appeared to be eight-foot-long beams of light. The object remained in the field long enough for the witness to fetch his wife, and they both watched as the "beams" retracted and the disc rose into the sky with a sound like rushing air and flew away.

The pair described the object as having dull silver metal skin. They could see trees through the light beams and "portholes" of light on the disc's perimeter. A dark circle was visible on the underside as the object flew off.

## Finds metal disc

The husband returned to the field the next day to see if the object had scorched the ground or left any sign of its presence. Instead, he discovered a circular metal disc or plate about two feet in diameter and three-eighths of an inch thick with a one-inch hole in the center lying on the ground below where the object had hovered.

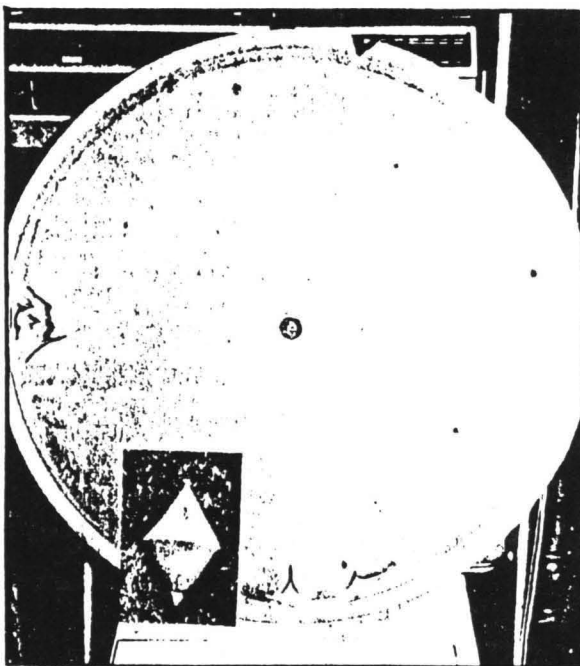
He brought the plate home and set it outside his barn with other objects that comprise the flossam and jetsam of life on a farm — wagon wheels, old plow parts and rusty tools.

The plate sat outdoors for several years before the story of the sighting and the man's find reached the ears of a PASU field researcher. One of Gordon's agents finally contacted the pair, recorded the story and took the plate for metallurgical examination. The field agent noted that despite years of exposure to the elements, the plate did not have a speck of rust on it.

## Questions remain

"We had it analyzed and found it was made of very high quality stainless steel," Gordon said. "It's earthly material, but it still poses a lot of questions."

One question concerns eight little holes burned cleanly through the disc as if by laser. The holes — clean and even — show no sign of "puddling" as they would if they were made with a torch. Similarly, three areas near the



STRANGE FINDS — A Monaca man found this metal disc in a hayfield at the spot he saw a UFO hovering on beams of light. A lower left is a photograph of a strange conical object found near a home in Herminie following a UFO event.

(Danville News — Mark Tomeo)

plate's edge are carved out to different depths. At some points the cuts also go clear through the plate.

Analysts told Gordon the cuts look like cavitation where extremely high pressure has leaked through a seal.

Experts have so far been unable to determine where such a plate was manufactured or what it's for.

"There's no industry or factories around Monaca for miles," Gordon said. "I'm not saying it's a piece of a flying saucer, but it was found at the spot where a UFO was sighted hovering."

"Maybe it is alien," he said. "Maybe they use stainless steel as well. Maybe they got it somewhere on Earth, examined and tested it, and discarded it in that field. Maybe alien intelligences introduced it to mislead witnesses and investigators."

## The Herminie object

In a similar case, a couple in Herminie in Westmoreland County discovered a diamond-shaped object in their yard following a sighting of strange lights in June of 1980.

The couple called their son, a state trooper in Harrisburg, who referred them to PASU. Gordon retrieved this object as well and had it analyzed

and X-rayed.

The Herminie object looks like two cones joined bottom to bottom. It's about 22 inches long, a bit over one foot in diameter, weighs 22½ pounds, is composed of No. 316 stainless steel, and is non-magnetic, hollow, empty and utterly baffling.

"Once again, something weird was left behind after a UFO sighting," he said. "And once again, it could have been made on Earth but we haven't been able to identify where or what for."

The Herminie couple still keep the double cone, perhaps to remind them of the possibilities and mysteries of life.

Stan Gordon keeps the plate given to him by the witness in Monaca. It attracts a lot of attention when he exhibits it at UFO conventions and lectures. It fuels speculation.

The outer edge of the plate is discolored and scored with circular scratches. It looks like it was once sealed into a larger device but came loose, leaked and failed.

But what device, and what did it leak to cause the gouges?

Did aliens make a quick pit stop and repair in that field before moving on?

# UFOs: Are They Up There...or Down Here?

by Wendelle C. Stevens, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.)

Unidentified flying objects are not a local flash-in-the-pan phenomenon. It is true that for any given locality they are briefly reported and then forgotten until the next time, which may be months or years. The fact of the matter is that these exotic activities are being reported all over the world every day.

It is commonly estimated by those who research these things, that an average of 70 UFO observations or contacts take place here on our planet every day of our lives, and despite what you read in the papers and see and hear on television and radio, there is no noticeable diminishment in this activity. There is only a decline in public reporting. The phenomenon has not gone away, but on the contrary is seen to be on an ever-increasing scale. And no part of our world is exempt from this activity.

A good example of this, and one which proved the theory, was the case of the People's Republic of China, completely closed to all outside contact from 1947 to 1979. China also lacked the kind of popular news media familiar to the West, and its news reporting was tightly controlled by the Communist Party. Besides this, the Chinese Communist Party had been fooled by the Russians into believing that the UFOs that did get reported were the evidence of a Western trick designed to fool the wise Chinese.

Despite all this disadvantage, observations were made and clandestine exchange of sighting reports and information was going on, though at a very low level. UFO observations and experiences were carefully kept deep dark secrets in those families unfortunate enough to

have a member who had observed the phenomenon. Few kept records for fear of discovery.

With the relaxing of the closed society in 1979 and the new openness allowed, the Chinese discovered that we were having the same problems with our "Western trick" as they, and that the whole world was experiencing the phenomena with nobody having any real answers. They published a report of a UFO sighting over Peking, and received an avalanche of letters from other observers; they published again and circulated more widely and received literally hundreds of reports. They allowed the formation of an officially approved private UFO research group in Wuhan University, which quickly grew into a large organization and began publishing the first UFO magazine in China, and this was published by the State press. They sold out all 300,000 copies of the first issue in two days. They began to seek active exchanges of UFO information with other researchers around the world and within one year had three UFO journals going.

As we were one of the researchers contacted we were given 600 Chinese UFO reports from inside China since 1947 in exchange for a number of UFO photographs we had. We translated and published our first comprehensive report on UFO cases in China, the first in the English language in the world, in a 352-page hard cover book, privately printed and sold by direct mail. The title is *UFOs over Modern China*. Copies may still be ordered by sending an \$18.20 check for pre-paid shipment to *Southern California Senior Life*, 9075 W. Pico Blvd., Suite 203, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

## MORE UFO SIGHTINGS

On Sunday night, March 13, around 10:10:30, Dennis Warren received a call from his mother advising him that a friend of theirs was watching a UFO. Dennis, who lives on the south side of Pensacola Beach, south of Shoreline Park, took his binoculars out onto the deck and saw two very bright lights moving toward him down the Gulf Breeze peninsula.

The lights went below the tree line near Shoreline Park, but popped back up, first moving westward past Deer Point, then eastward toward Shoreline Park, finally vanishing below the tree line once again. Dennis continued to watch as the lights popped up once again over the trees and moved off to the northeast and out of sight.

"I watched the whole thing through my 7x50 binoculars," he said. "No helicopter or airplane light configuration matched what I saw."

"I'm not going to jump on the band wagon and tell you I've seen a UFO," he quickly added, "but I did see something I've never seen before. The intensity of the lights kept me from seeing what was behind them."

Another viewer states that she was at home in Navarre on Thursday evening, March 17, at 8:50 p.m., when she noticed a very large bright light moving from southwest to northeast. It was over the sound about five miles west of the bridge.

"It got close enough for me to see a light on the bottom, which was the brightest, lights on the top, and a spherical shape. The lights grew very bright and then dimmed. It was not a helicopter, nor an airplane."

The viewer watched as it stopped and hovered, then began a back and forth movement, north to south, then south to north, and north to south again, finally descending slowly near the shore.

"We climbed higher to keep it in sight, then it took on a red hue and went below tree level." The mother and her daughters climbed up on the roof and watched a couple of minutes more, until they could no longer see it. The sighting lasted approximately 15-20 minutes.

"Then we all got into the car to go look for it, thinking we would see it through the trees. We drove about ten miles and, finding nothing, came back."

A third person reported a sighting which occurred on Wednesday, March 20, at 8:30 p.m., in the area of Villa Venyca and Blue Heron Cove. It was close, she reported, on the north side of her house, and very bright with a blue cast. She stated it was small and had windows. She watched it for approximately one and one-half hours.

Viewer stated that it appeared again on Thursday, March 21. It began descending then two airplanes approached it and it disappeared. When the airplanes were gone, the UFO reappeared.

On Sunday, March 24, around 8:30-9 p.m., viewer again saw a colorful object that looked like a blue and red star above the tall trees at Soundside.

"It was huge, with blue and red lights—not blinking—and we could see windows in a circle. It was going down and went behind some trees over the sound. We pulled off Hwy. 98 to get a closer look as it went behind a house."

# UFO Sightings Continue in Gulf Breeze Area

BY DIANA K. HANSEN

Dana Gibson, a hairdresser at Baybridge Hair Design spotted a UFO on her way home last Friday night. She reports, "I was driving east on Hwy. 98 between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. As I neared the Tom Thumb by Villa Venyca, I looked toward the bay. I saw what I thought was a plane. Then I realized it couldn't be a plane. There was a cluster of white lights...but they weren't really white. There were no blinking or red and green lights. It was moving faster than a plane and it was not as high as a plane. It crossed over the highway then hovered for a couple of seconds over the trees. Then it moved back over the highway and shot straight down toward the east."

By this time Dana had pulled into the Santa Rosa Bank parking lot to watch the object. With in a few seconds all of the lights on the object blinked out — and finally the entire craft went dark and disappeared from sight.

Roger McCann, and his 13 year

old daughter, Jennifer, and 8 year old son, Trey, had a very exciting experience on Sunday night, March 20.

At about 8:10 p.m., the McCann's and three adult friends spotted three UFO's hovering in a triangular position above the beach. "We were about one half way between the second water tower and the National Seashore," Roger reported. "One of the ships was larger than the other two."

The owners of McCann Insurance Agency and the Jolly Roger charter boat, Roger had been very skeptical about the reported UFO sighting in the area. "I have never seen any of the pictures or articles that have been published," said Roger, "so I don't know what everyone else has seen. I just know that these were not experimental aircraft...this was for real."

The group had been watching the crafts for about ten minutes when another small ship whizzed by about 1000 yards offshore. They were able to get a good enough view to give this description: "It was

kind of oblong — almost like you'd see in a space movie. There were four strobe lights on the top of the craft. The lights were pulsating. Toward the lower middle of the craft there was a row of yellow lights that were fixed...these were portholes we think. Along the bottom of the craft there was a row of rotating lights. They were a yellowish color."

The group of six were all trying to share two pairs of binoculars so things were confusing at times. But two of the group reported seeing blue beams shooting out from the largest ship. One observation was that the largest ship seemed to be pulsating — changing shape.

The ships moved out of sight once an aircraft appeared in pursuit. But not before the group enjoyed about 15 minutes of entertainment by the UFOs.

Now I'm anxious to see the pictures and articles that have been in the *Sentinel*," said Roger. "This was the most exciting thing I've ever seen in my life."

"I never saw them go up," said the sighter. "I just saw them go down, then reappear." The viewer also mentioned a large amount of aircraft in the area that night.

"But you could tell a distinct difference between the airplane and helicopter lights, and these weren't airplane or helicopter lights," said the viewer.

because they were too erratic," said the viewer.

The objects were bright clear lights which hovered above the trees a few minutes, then dropped down disappeared, then appeared again moments later.

"Then, one at a time, the lights would appear four to five times brighter then drop down and disappear."

BY ALLISON BROWN

Wednesday, March 23, 1988, from 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. on Pensacola Beach overlooking the sound.

The viewer saw a total of three objects; two concentrated in Gulf Breeze east of the Hospital, and the third one over by the Tiger Point area.

"It had to have been the craft

Myth - or for real?

UNION-NEWS, Springfield, MA  
April 20, 1988 CR: G. Earley

# USAF books closed on UFOs, but the stories won't go away

By STAN FREEMAN

Officially, the U.S. Air Force closed the books on unidentified flying objects nearly 20 years ago, but there are those who insist UFOs are not going to go away that easily.

"It's been estimated on a worldwide basis that there are 100 UFO reports per day," said Ray Fowler of the Mutual UFO Network in Wenham, a private organization that investigates UFO reports in Massachusetts.

"And the latest polls show that the amount of people who believe that UFOs are real has steadily increased," he said.

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Between 1948 and 1969, the U.S. Air Force investigated 12,618 reported UFO sightings under Project Blue Book. Out of that total, 701 sightings remained unexplained, about 5 percent of the total. Weather balloons and hobbyists' model airplanes turned out to be some of the objects, once they were identified.

The investigation included analysis at University of Colorado of 35 snapshots taken by people of what they claimed were UFOs. Of those, nine were judged to have evidence of probable fabrication, seven were classified as photos of manmade phenomena, 12 did not provide enough information to make a judgment, and seven were classified as possible fabrications.

The analysis found that none of the photographs were of "real objects of high strangeness."

When Project Blue Book ended, the 21 years of data was reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences and the conclusion was made that "little of anything has come from the study of UFOs that has added to scientific knowledge, and that further extensive study of UFOs is not justified."

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At Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, there are no UFO reports on record by pilots flying in or out of the base, said Air Force Reserves spokesman Frank Faulkner.

At Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Conn., the story is similar.

"I've been here two years and I haven't had a pilot who said they saw one," said Mike Ross, a spokesman for Bradley.

At the Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Control Center in Nashua, N.H., which monitors the high altitude air space over much of the northeast, pilots make one or two reports of unidentified flying objects a year in the region, said FAA spokesman Gordon Heritage, although no investigation is generally done to find out what the objects might be.

However, reports of UFOs are occasionally called in to the airports and control centers from area residents who believe they have seen something suspicious. And sometimes those calls are informally referred to the Mutual UFO Network by officials.

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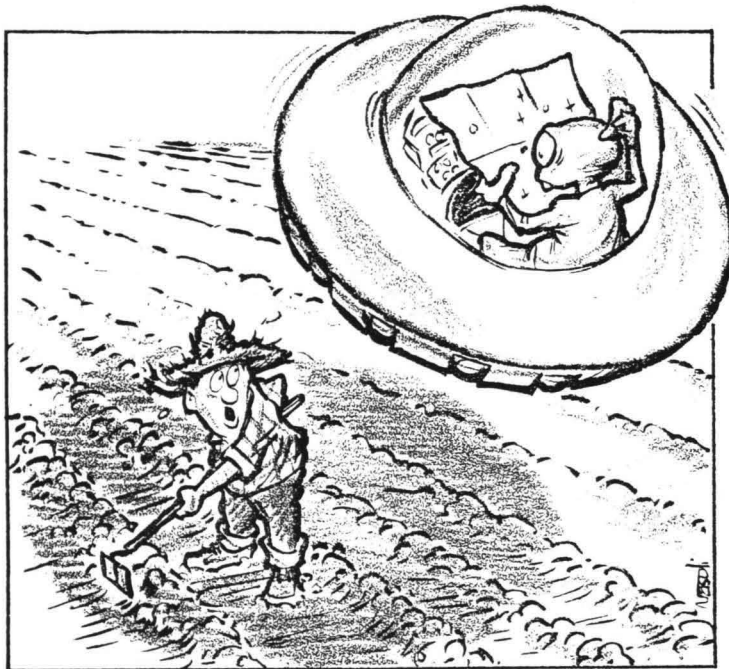
In Western Massachusetts, a typical UFO sighting came on Sept. 10, 1987, between 1 and 2 a.m., when calls flooded into local police stations in Springfield, Wilbraham and Westfield. A fleet of craft flying just over house rooftops, identified by callers as either military-type helicopters or UFOs, shook people out of bed with loud and frightening vibrations.

Officials from area airports and military bases and the Federal Aviation Administration had no explanation for them, where they came from, what they were doing or where they were going. And UFO enthusiasts were quickly aroused.

It was not until two days later that officials at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire took responsibility for them, saying only that they were UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters on their way to the base in the middle of the night.

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Ray Fowler, a resident of Wenham who investigates many of the



"It's been estimated on a worldwide basis that there are 100 UFO reports per day."

—Ray Fowler,

Mutual UFO Network, Wenham

Massachusetts reports for the Mutual UFO Network, is the author of five books on UFOs.

"About 80 percent (of UFO reports) can be explained away as misinterpretation of natural phenomena or misidentifications of common man-made objects," he said.

Contrary to the conclusions of the Air Force study, Fowler believes "only a very few are hoaxes, and about 20 percent remain unexplained after investigations."

"One of the big waves (of UFO sightings) in Massachusetts was in 1966 and another in 1973. During that period we were getting so many reports that we could pick and choose," he said.

Even during a period of slow down in reports, there may be several reported sightings a week, he said. And he estimated that only one in 10 sightings is actually reported "either because people do not know where to report them to, or they fear harassment if they do."

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Since the Air Force Blue Book study ended, those who have continued to promote the idea that UFOs are in fact alien craft from outer space tend to frequently repeat two arguments — that the U.S. government actually decided UFOs are ships from outer space but has decided to hush it up for security reasons, and that the media is conspiring to keep the UFO story out of the news.

However, these same people are often charged with trying to keep the UFO issue alive to increase profits from their own UFO books, conferences, clubs and other schemes.

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"There is no question that UFOs exist, and I mean extra-terrestrial craft," said John Wallace Spencer of West Springfield, an author of several books on UFOs, including one linking UFOs to disappearances of ships and people in the Bermuda Triangle.

Spencer claims there have been "hundreds and hundreds" of legitimate landings of alien spaceships, but, he said, "It seems very clear that they don't want to come in contact with us."

A former UFO investigator for the U.S. Air Force, Spencer claims the Air Force owns film footage of UFOs taken from American planes that would prove they are in fact alien ships but has decided to keep it under lock and key.

He said he became convinced that UFOs were real while investigating a reported sighting in Iowa for the U.S. Air

Force. A huge circular zone was burned into a soybean field and there were no tracks leading out from the area.

"Whatever did it had to fly in and leave the same way," he said. "It had to be the size of a three-bedroom house. And it did leave certain tripod landing marks."

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Fowler also maintains the U.S. government is suppressing the truth about UFOs. In fact, he maintains such craft have crashlanded and been recovered by the Air Force.

"There seems to be solid evidence they have hardware and even perhaps, if you can believe the rumors, they actually have bodies."

He believes the truth is being suppressed because government officials are frightened by their "inability to cope with the public reaction."

A former planner of weapons systems for GTE Inc., Fowler also believes alien craft have continually disrupted American weapon systems. And he believes alien cultures have been continually monitoring Earth cultures for centuries and the main reason they have never made contact with earthlings is that, "like anthropologists, they would not want to contaminate the cultures they are investigating."

Yet, Fowler considers himself one of the "serious" UFO buffs.

"You have the serious researchers who are investigating the phenomena in a scientific and careful manner. On that side of it, yes, they do publish books."

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On the other side, says Fowler, "You have the really kooky types who claim to go to Venus and have tea with the Venusians," who hold UFO symposiums and conferences and "charge \$250 a head."

"The problem is they are muddying the waters for the serious UFO research. The serious people are always afraid of being tainted by them," said Fowler.

Asked why, after all these years of reported sightings and landings, there is still no direct, indisputable evidence for the average person in the street, for instance a spaceship that lands in broad daylight and stays around long enough so that television cameras can photograph it at length, Fowler answers he does not know why.

"But just because we don't have one in a garage somewhere, does that mean we should stop investigating them?"

## Astronomer says sky sightings similar to activities in New York, Okla., Va.

An astronomer from Bethel, Conn., Phillip Imbrogno, says the sky sightings in Little River County bear resemblance to other sightings occurring in the Hudson Valley area in New York State;

Wytheville, Va.; Tulsa, Okla.; as well as parts of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota.

Imbrogno talked with the Little River News by telephone after being seen on an edition of "Gerald" last week

discussing unidentified flying objects.

He co-authored a book, "Nightseige," with the late Dr. J. A. Hynek, a professor of astronomy at Northwestern University in Chicago. Hynek was closely associated with the Air Force Blue Book Project which investigated unknown

phenomena until the project was abandoned in 1969.

Imbrogno said he was interested in hearing about the phenomena being sighted in the county and requested information from the Little River News which has been forwarded to him.

He speculated the phenomena may be military experiments of a highly sophisticated nature being tested in various areas of the country or could be documented sightings and plotting maps of the areas sightings occur, can be gathered, Imbrogno said he might

be convinced to come to the county and assist in the investigation.

He is a professor of astronomy for a college in White Plains, N.Y., teaches high school, and is on the Board of Directors for the Bowman Observatory. Imbrogno said he was sidetracked into the investigation of sky phenomena and has authored other books on the field of astronomy.

—Jeanne Jackson

LITTLE RIVER NEWS, Ashdown, AR — March 3, 1988





## FOREIGN NEWS

# DR JAN'S FLYING MACHINE

By John Wilson

**REVOLUTIONARY spacecraft built in New Zealand and powered by energy from our hydro dams.**

That's the dream of Otago University lecturer Dr Jan Pajak whose electricity-powered flying saucer designs are already attracting international interest.

Dr Pajak has called his devise the Magnocraft and believes it will be in production before the year 2036.

He says the Magnocraft will have great potential for "opening unlimited cosmic resources for colonisation and exploitation".

The craft could also become moveable space homes for thousands of New Zealanders, he says.

### Space

One of Dr Pajak's supporters, Southland publisher Tom House, says the Magnocraft could be used in a New Zealand effort to combat terrorism "or an ingeniously contrived jaunt into space".

Detailed plans supplied by Dr Pajak show a craft that works via a powerful arrangement of electromagnets, drawing electric power from New Zealand's hydro-electric grid.

The spacecraft is con-

## It can travel through solid objects and runs on hydro dam power

trolled by constant adjustment by the pilot of a super-powerful electromagnetic flow.

Its main motor is centrally located with smaller motors situated around the edge.

Dr Pajak says the Magnocraft's super-powerful magnets will be able to lift themselves "and the mass of the spacecraft attached to it as a result of the repulsive interaction with the magnetic fields of earth, sun and galaxy".

The Magnocraft principle is the logical development of the electric motor, he says.

The craft will be silent in flight and will be able to travel at almost 70,000 km/h — even through solid objects.

Trips to the bottom of oceanic trenches and even to the centre of the earth will be possible too, he says.

The Magnocraft will be undetectable by radar, Dr Pajak says.

According to Dr Pajak the idea has been around for ages and is probably how most flying saucers are powered.

He believes a squadron of them crashed over the South Island in 1178 AD, causing widespread death and destruction.

In Southland, where Dr Pajak lectured at the Community College in Invercargill, interest in the Magnocraft was so high that he ran a course of public lectures on the sub-

ject. One of the lectures dealt with tunnels made during underground flights by magnetic vehicles.

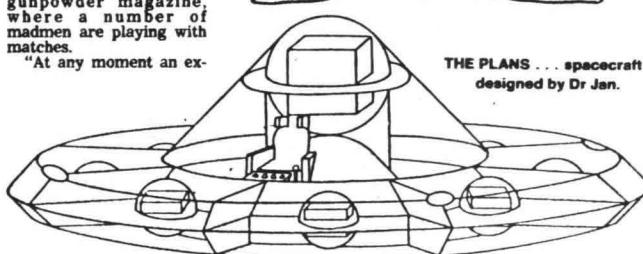
"The ability of the Magnocraft-type flying vehicles can be used to explain the variety of UFO shapes," says Dr Pajak.

Dr Pajak says: "We are living in an overloaded gunpowder magazine, where a number of madmen are playing with matches."

"At any moment an ex-



THE PLANS... spacecraft designed by Dr Jan.



plosion could blast this planet.

"We would sleep more peacefully if we had in our garage a Magnocraft prepared for an interstellar trip and, within the range of its flight, a cost planet

of dinosaurs waiting ready for colonisation

"However, instead of completing this spacecraft we are arguing, dividing ourselves and dissipating our sparse intellectual re-

sources." He concludes: "Our present aim should be to survive the atomic threat, and almost the only way of permanently escaping this danger is to build the Magnocraft."

## FACT FILE

**POLISH-born Dr Jan Pajak is an engineering and computer specialist.**

He spent the first 36 years of his life in Poland where he gained his education and scientific experience.

He was also an early member of the Polish free trade union Solidarity.

Dr Pajak, 42, has a swag of degrees and qualifications.

In 1970 he graduated from the Technical University of Warsaw with a master of engineering degree and began work as a lecturer.

His scientific specialisation is Computer Assisted Design.

Dr Pajak completed his doctorate and

became a doctor of technical sciences in 1974.

While lecturing he worked part-time in Polish industry as a scientific adviser.

In 1982 he took up a post doctoral fellowship at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, and then became tutor in computer programming at Invercargill's Southland Community College.

In 1988 Dr Pajak became a senior lecturer at Dunedin's University of Otago.

Throughout his career, he has published a number of scientific papers and treatises on his research for circulation and discussion among international experts.

He became a New Zealand citizen in 1985.

TRADER, Leicester, England - May 4, 1988 CR: T. Good

# EYES TO THE SKIES

**Leicester can expect a major UFO 'invasion' claims one of Britain's leading investigation bodies!**

Local people are being urged to join the investigators in searching out and recording the influx of unidentified flying objects that will whiz or hover across the city.

Clive Potter, Midlands Regional Co-ordinator of BUPRA (British Unidentified Phenomena Research Association) told the Trader: "The phenomena of the UFO appears to work on an 11-year cycle, apart from a flow of reports in between, which are small in number.

"Leicester's last large increase in UFO sightings was in 1977 which included the 'cigar-shaped' object which hovered over the city and was widely reported by the media following countless sightings by members of the public," said Mr. Potter.

"We are therefore anticipating further UFO activity in 1988 and would appreciate any support from the public — whether it be the reporting of UFO sightings or involvement with us in serious and genuine investigative work."

Mr. Potter, who also operates the Leicester UFO

Investigation Centre, said that "serious investigators" should have an "open mind" to anything they come across or to people that they interview.

He also warns that there is a lot of mundane ground-work involved and that around 90 per cent of sightings can be dismissed fairly quickly as "natural phenomena."

"The Midlands area has always been fairly active in reported sightings of UFO's and very few of them are hoaxes — although many

can be explained," he added.

Mr. Potter has received reports from a cross-section of the community concerning UFO activity including aircraft pilots and Leicestershire policemen. All reports of witnesses are treated with the strictest confidence.

Clive Potter can be contacted by writing to: Leicester UFO Investigation Centre, c/o 31 Grove Road, Leicester.

Meantime, he advises: 'eyes to the skies ...'

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England - June 12, 1988 CR: N. Oliver

# Probe that is going round in circles

by ALFRED LEE

A MAJOR investigation begins shortly before dusk today to try to solve the perplexing riddle of crop circles.

At a top secret location in Hampshire a team of 15 scientists will switch on a bank of infra-red cameras, videos and other recording apparatus in the most serious attempt yet to explain this world-wide phenomenon.

The circles—precise rings of flattened crops like corn and barley and usually about 30 feet in diameter—have been regarded as one of the strangest mysteries of modern times.

During the last 20 years the circles have been found in dozens of countries, including the U.S.,

Australia, Japan and Italy. More than 70 cases were reported in Britain alone last year, many in Hampshire.

Professor Archibald Roy, of Glasgow University's astronomy department, said: "This is the most serious research being carried out anywhere in the world to find out the cause of the rings."

"The circles are a tremendously intriguing mystery—the most baffling thing I can think of."

"I have no idea what causes them —but they are so geometrically precise they could not have been made by anything natural like a whirlwind," said Professor Roy, who will be kept informed of the investigation.

There is often a five-foot ring of untouched vegetation around the circles and then another similar band of flattened crop.

Some of the circles have small satellites of flattened vegetation, north, south, east and west of the main ring.

This investigation is being co-ordinated by Colin Andrews, a senior engineer with Hampshire's Test Valley Borough Council.

The equipment, including monitors capable of recording minute sounds and abnormal changes in magnetic fields and temperatures, will be trained on a large field typical of those where circles are found.

The machines will be monitored every four hours for 10 weeks.

Scientists have ruled out hoaxes as a cause because of the sheer number and size of the circles and their different locations.



A car speeds past the mystery circles

Woman claims she saw hovering 'beachball'

# UFO investigators put 'triple sighting' in record books

A UFO investigation group has logged the sightings of a Doncaster woman.

Cleaner Iris Blakeborough claims to have seen an unidentified flying object near her Cantley home three times in the past few weeks.

Now she has armed herself with a high-speed film in her camera to take a picture of the UFO if it should return.

Mrs Blakeborough, of Bardolf Road, first spotted it through her patio doors, hovering over the playingfields of nearby Hawthorn school.

She likens it to a large beachball with a floodlight underneath.

by  
RUSS NEWTON

"I'm convinced it was an unidentified flying object. All the school playingfield was lit up for about an hour before it moved off."

The Blakeboroughs saw it again the following night and a few days later as she made her way to the college at Bessacarr where she works.

Mrs Blakeborough says her brother also saw it on the second evening near the Dons' Tatters Field ground.

Her claim has now been logged by the Lancashire-based Direct Investigation Group of Aerial Phenomena.

Spokesman Steve Balon said: "We collate all reported sightings and then see if there is a connection between them."

"We would be interested to hear from anyone else in Doncaster who may have seen this UFO."

CHASE POST, Cannock, England - March 17, 1988

# UFOs OVER CHASE: RAF CALLED IN

by  
LYNETTE LLOYD

It was this week confirmed that RAF Strike Command - the nerve centre of the RAF - is 'extremely interested' in a huge number of unexplained UFO sightings over the Chase area.

In the last month there have been no less than 38 unexplained sightings - 26 of them over Rugeley, and others over Burntwood, Boney Hay, Lichfield, Brownhills, Willenhall and Walsall.

The normal monthly average is four. Of these two may well be explained away.

The figures were confirmed by John Hurley of the Unidentified Flying Objects Studies and Investigations, who is in the process of submitting a report to Strike Command.

"Something very strange

is going on," said John. "These people are quite definitely seeing something extraordinary."

"They are the unexplained sightings which can't be pinned down to being aircraft or air balloons or constellations in the sky."

"In just two hours over Rugeley we had 16 sightings. One of them was from a very frightened 12 year old girl who was with two friends when they saw a huge oval shaped craft hovering at around 600 feet. The bottom of the craft was covered in green, blue and white lights and had a small blue light which moved in and out of the object. It made no noise as it hovered, only when it moved off at a fast pace" said John.

"Whatever she was, it terrified her and she's been

CR: T. Good

too frightened to leave her home since," said John.

"We had similar sightings from four police officers - two in Walsall and two in Willenhall."

Many of the people who've spotted the craft give descriptions that are amazingly similar.

Most of the sightings occur at night, after 10.30pm.

A Lichfield man spotted a 'cigar-shaped' object hovering over a Lichfield church one morning recently, just before 8am.

Mr Edwards, of Friday Acre, said: "It was huge and had a mushroom shaped top which came down to a long cigar shape underneath."

The latest incident came on Saturday when two men spotted a 'cigar-shaped' object near Rugeley Road in the Hazel Slade area.

The two men, Robert Brough and Andrew Onions, say the object rose from behind trees



Tea-hee... how the teabag UFO might look

## Teabag UFO zaps Pauline

SCHOOLGIRL Pauline Emerson was stirred up yesterday - after a close encounter with a teabag-shaped UFO.

Pauline, 14, was feeding animals in her garden when the smelly spaceship - black with little perforations - zoomed within five yards of her.

Now she is off school and taking tranquillisers to get over the shock.

Yesterday she said: "It was like a teabag. It was so black it shone out. The smell was really disgusting."

"Charlie, my horse,

was trembling and my radio went off."

Her mum Barbara was inside their home near Godmanchester, Cambs, at the time and remembers it shaking and the sensation of oxygen being sucked from it.

An education welfare officer who interviewed Pauline afterwards said: "She is a truthful kid, she wouldn't make this up."

Earlier this week a school dinner lady reported UFOs shaped like oranges flying over Beeston, Notts.

## Message in the sky for sceptics

Dear Sir, You may be interested to hear that I too saw a curious flying object over Kensington a few years ago ("Flying Saucer squad prompts UFO dispute", 6 January).

Trained sceptics, such as scientists - or journalists - have difficulty believing anything they cannot see or explain rationally. But, although a sceptic from way back, I observed, at 1.30pm on a clear summer weekend, a round object in dull metal, seamless but shaped like two deep frying pans joined together by the rims (an admittedly impulsive, but precise description, which was received with predictable hilarity by the news editor of the paper for which I wrote at the time).

The RAF UFO-sighting official, to whom I reported what I had seen, seemed unsurprised and asked pertinent questions.

I have serious doubts that these things are operated by tiny men or elongated, ethereal (and adorable) beings, but having seen one, myself, in daylight over central London, I am certain they exist.

Sincerely yours,  
GITTA SERENY  
London, W8  
12 January

## UFO interest hotting up

MOTORIST Chris Triggs has renewed UFO enthusiasts' interest in Derbyshire. Salesman Chris spotted a circular white, blue and green sparkling light in the sky on his way home.

The object, which he described as the size of a plate, was travelling at about 100mph from east to west.

Chris, from Leeds, was travelling on the A38 between Burton and Derby.

Now a UFO investigator is to look into a spate of sightings in the Derbyshire area.

Mrs Elsa Lee, assistant director of a UFO society based in Yorkshire, reckons Chris's bizarre experience could well be linked to another sighting.

Mr Geoffrey Thorneycroft also spotted what he thought was a mother ship and four smaller ones high in the sky above Chesterfield the same evening earlier this month

# 'Silpho saucer' secrets revealed

By Iain Meekley

The 31-year-old mystery of the "Silpho Saucer" has given up some of its secrets.

The Evening News has traced what is believed to be the last surviving member of the three-man group involved in the UFO controversy.

And the 75-year-old retired Scarborough businessman - who does not want to be named - now says of the object he saw on the moors after a strange red light swooped from the sky: "I think it was man-made."

The eyewitness to the event, in December 1957, added: "I don't know if

there was a deliberate hoax involved. But I don't believe the object came from space."

The discovery, disappearance, and later recovery of the "saucer" - 18 in in diameter, and said to contain copper scrolls inscribed with mysterious hieroglyphics - earned the derision of the press, but excited UFO buffs.

One enthusiast even claimed to have deciphered part of the "message", and announced: "The disc from which these samples were taken originated in Mercury, was launched from a scout ship, which then went on to Yeovil."

But the eyewitness, who was in the car near the scene of the "landing", said: "All I saw was a red sort of orb, which seemed to descend in an arc. When I got out of the car to have a look,

there was this object nestling in the heather."

"There was a young man and a woman near it, and by the time my companions had got out of the car, both it and the couple had gone."

The smartly-suited former businessman said he told local solicitor Anthony Parker - a member of a society interested in space travel - about his experience.

Mr Parker, who, when the story came out, used the pen-name "Antony Avendell", was "immediately interested", and suggested placing an ad in the Evening News, offering a reward to the finders of the object.

The ad was answered, and after one abortive attempt, a handover of the "saucer" was arranged.



"I arranged to meet the people who answered, and Mr Parker gave me the money," said the eyewitness. "It wasn't a bad sum, quite tempting at that time."

At the meeting, he was given the object - wrapped in a lentil sack.

"It was the object I had seen on the moor," he said.

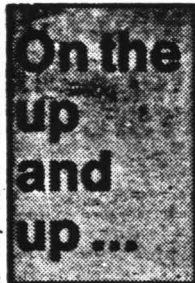
### Mysterious

The ex-businessman said he did not see the object opened, and knew nothing of the mysterious scrolls said to be contained inside.

"After Mr Parker collected it, I never saw it again, and I've no idea where it might be now."

"Wherever it came from, I'd say that it was something that had been fashioned by human hands."





Jet fighters have been chasing UFOs across Rotherham's night skies, it was claimed this week.

Dozens of RAF planes and helicopters have been spotted "darting" across the hills — and local UFO investigators are sure the alert has gone out to watch for mysterious lights and objects over the town.

"We're convinced that they know there's something going on and they're trying to track whatever it is up there," said UFO journal *Quest's* overseas liaison officer Mick Hanson this week.

Eight of this year's 27 reported "sightings" across the UK have been over Rotherham — and several local UFO investigators are staging night-time vigils at hill-top points around the county in a bid to capture their findings on film.

Reports from the town have included a bell-shaped object seen over Kimberworth and a brightly-lit "cross shape" over Eastwood.

But investigators are puzzled by the course the UFOs seem to take.

"They all either go towards Wentworth or come from there," said Paul Garner, of Dene Crescent, East Dene.

"We don't know why they should go there or why there should be such an increase since the start of 1988 — but we know that last September, a Russian astronomer reported seeing an unidentified manned spacecraft moving into our solar system and towards Earth."

An RAF Finningley spokesman said there had been no reports of UFO sightings or any increase in the amount of flying activity in the area.

All the Rotherham reports will be discussed at the UFO society's annual conference to be held in the town's Bailey Suite on March 26.

STAR, Oxford, England - April 14, 1988 CR: T. Good

# DAVID'S CLOSE ENCOUNTER

## Mystery red glow follows his car

By ROY COOPER

**MOTORIST** David White couldn't believe his eyes as he was driving home at night on Sunday.

In the sky a red glow followed his car travelling several hundred feet above.

And when he stopped at a crossroads, the red light stopped too.

David, of Stratford Street, Oxford, wound down his window, but there was no sound at all from the mystery object.

"I thought I was going crazy. Just for my own peace of mind, I drove back across the Downs to see if I could get closer to it.

"I drove off towards Wantage and it moved with me again. I kept flashing my car lights and when I stopped again, it stopped and was just sitting stationary above me.

"I went through Wantage and I could still see it as I drove towards Faringdon.

"Then, two or three miles on that road, it disappeared. Just like that!"

David, boss of Artwork and Illustration Studios, Cowley Road, Oxford, had his close encounter with the mystery UFO on Sunday night as he drove home from Blewbury.

"I first saw the red object at precisely 11 pm. When it vanished, it was 11.41 pm — I looked at the car clock.

"It couldn't have been a plane as no plane could just stop still in the sky without even a sound.

"The second time I

stopped, I could see that it was a red light and at the centre it was white. There was no shape to it and as I kept looking at it, it was zig-zagging up and down," David said.

He thought the object could be seen over the Didcot Faringdon skyline at around midnight.

"I knew everyone would say I was potty, or that some RAF pilot was having a damn good laugh at my expense, but it was really weird and I have never seen anything else like it," he added.

Wantage Police said they had not had any calls about a mystery object.

And RAF Abingdon confirmed that no planes had been flying from the base that night.

"We do get reports of UFOs and we pass them on, but we haven't had any calls about mystery objects on Sunday night," a spokesman said.

CHAD MEDON & DUKERIES

ADVERTISER, England - Feb. 11, 1988 CR: T. Good

## Seen a UFO lately?

Following a recent article in *Chad* about the sighting of a UFO at Ravenshead a sitting coordinator of the National UFO Investigation Society, Mr Denis Harriman, has appealed for information from anyone who has seen a UFO.

He explained that since 16th August last year there have been several sightings of UFOs in the Midlands.

The most commonly shaped object that has been spotted several times was described by Mr Harriman as being 1,000 feet long and shaped like a bullet.

They are said to fly both backwards and forwards and have several lights on them. Smaller, 100 feet long objects, exactly the same in shape as the bigger version,

are said to emerge from them and Mr Harriman claims that these have swooped down onto cars.

Strangely, Mr Harriman refused to give details of where exactly the UFOs had actually swooped down onto vehicles, claiming that, in the past, if specific areas have been mentioned in newspapers they have actually stopped appearing in that particular location.

In some cases UFOs disturb electrical circuits and animals are said to be oddly affected by them.

Anyone with information on UFO sightings should contact Mr Denis Harriman on 0331 74461, his address is 14 Sydney Road, Draycott, Derbyshire DE7 3PX.

LEADER, Aberdare, South Wales - April 28, 1988 CR: T. Good

## UFO sighted by foreman

JOHN Rees had a strange encounter of an unusual kind while he was out walking his dog in Cwmdare.

Something caught his attention in the sky — it was a luminous object moving along a spiral path in a northerly direction towards Neath.

"I would not have bothered to take a second look," said John, "if it had not been for the spiral path and the intense luminosity — and two downwardly directed parallel beams.

"It had a cylindrical shape, like a lager can. The clouds were pitch black on the horizon but the moon was above the cloud line and it was very bright. Fortunately the object stayed above the cloud line and I was able to keep it in view.

"It moved towards Neath and then back, in a southerly direction towards the Maerdy mountain. I was watching it for about three-quarters of an hour.

"I usually meet a teacher when I am out walking the dog between 10.15pm and 11. I was hoping he would come by so I could have someone to verify the sighting, but unfortunately he did not turn up this time.

John, 49, a foreman at Enghart Fans on the Hirwaun Industrial Estate, took a bit of a ribbing from his workmates when he started talking about it. Undeterred, John, who is closely linked with local operating groups and a warden of Cwmdare Youth Club, is sticking to his story.

"I was shocked I can tell you. I have never seen anything like that before. I thought it was a plane out of control at first. Planes do fly over the Cynon valley at that time of night. I have never believed in UFO's but there is no doubt that I saw something out of the ordinary. There was no noise from it.

"I wiped my eyes then I closed one of them to make sure I was focussing right," said John, adding that he had drawn pictures of the object and its trajectory for his workmates, but they were treating it as a joke.

"I am hoping that someone else will now come forward with the same story," said John, whilst workmates uttered asides like: "Beam me up Dr John."

A police spokesman said there had been no other reported sightings on the night in question.

EVENING PRESS, Guernsey, England - April 15, 1988

## Bright light seen moving at speed

WHILE taking a 'breath of fresh air' outside his home at Route de Quanteraie, St Peter's, Charles Bradley saw a 'very bright light' in the North West.

At first he thought it was a planet, possibly Venus or mars, which are known to be very bright, but when the object started moving he changed his opinion.

Mr Bradley first saw the object at 11 p.m. on Wednesday, and he continued to watch it while it behaved 'erratically', circling round the area for several minutes, before it returned to its stationary position.

His wife also saw the object, which Mr Bradley thought was at a height of about 4,000ft.

After almost 40 minutes it disappeared toward the North West travelling at 'terrific speed.'

The airport were unable

to say if any aircraft had been in the area at the time.

Local UFO investigator Paul Tinsley, of the Skyscan group, had not heard of the sighting, but said that he would contact the group's headquarters in the UK to see if it was worth further investigation.

Skyscan are a Worcester-based organisation who research confirmed UFO sightings, and attempt to find a rational explanation for them.

CR: T. Good

SEVENOAKS CHRONICLE, Kent, England - May 20, 1988

## Men spot UFO over hamlet

THE subject of unidentified flying objects arouses a certain amount of scepticism in most people's minds and Mr Martin Salisbury of Heavenham would have numbered himself among the disbelievers until recently.

On Sunday May 8 however Mr Salisbury could find no rational explanation for the low-flying silent object which passed over his house at 10.30am, covered in flashing lights. He had just returned with a friend from playing squash and both men saw the object.

Mr Salisbury said: "It seemed to be about three or four miles up, which rules out the possibility of it being a satellite as they fly at about 100 miles high. It could not have been a commercial jet as one went over a little later and we could hear that clearly, whereas this object was totally silent."

The object apparently flew from west to east fairly fast, passing over Mr Salisbury's said: "It seemed to be about three or four miles up, which rules out the possibility of it being a satellite as they fly at about 100 miles high. It could not have been a com-

mercial jet as one went over a little later and we could hear that clearly, whereas this object was totally silent."

The object apparently flew from west to east fairly fast, passing over Mr Salisbury's house in Watery Lane where he and his friend Mr Peter Bryant of Beckenham saw it.

Mr Salisbury said: "There are very few houses along the road, so I doubt if anyone else saw it. I am just thankful that Peter saw it too, or I would think I was going mad. I have always been fairly rational but I cannot find any reasonable explanation for what I saw."

A spokesman from Biggin Hill Air Traffic Control said: "We close here at 8pm, so no aircraft would fly over with our permission after that time. We do have many different types of planes under our control which often have coloured lights, so Mr Salisbury could have seen one of those."

Mr Salisbury however stressed that the lights flashed from side to side and jets generally have static lights on their wings.

CR: T. Good

NEWSLETTER, Stafford, England

May 20, 1988 CR: T. Good

## Did mystery lights reveal secret flights of F-19?

TWO mysterious objects seen flying across the Stafford night sky have led to renewed speculation over America's most secret war plane.

The sighting has added to mounting suspicions that the Stealth F-19 radar-proof fighter is being test flown regularly in and around the Midlands and East Anglia.

Both British and American governments deny the existence of the F-19, but the specialist defence magazine, *Jane's Weekly*, has confirmed that rumours of it are strong.

The odd triangular shapes (pictured) were reported by Eileen Ballard, of Fernwood, Stafford, at around 10pm on Monday. She saw them with friends and immediately

reported them as UFOs. But the British UFO Research Association says it believes what Mrs Ballard saw were not UFOs, but two of the top secret USAF Stealth fighters.

Despite the official denials, BUFORA say they are flown on secret tests at night from RAF Alconbury near Peterborough, where they say a small squadron is stationed.

Mrs Ballard, a statistical officer with Staffordshire Police, was in the garden of her neighbours, Colin and Anne Paterson with another Fernwood couple, Richard and Gillian Weaver, when she saw the strange objects flying towards them. "We were standing in the

garden when two spotlights came through the sky towards us so that we couldn't see anything else," said Mrs Ballard.

"They banked over and went into side by side formation, one above the other, and flew slowly across the sky without any noise at all.

"They flew very close together and were triangular in shape, too high for micro light aircraft and too low for normal aircraft. There were a lot of lights underneath, red and green, around the edge and within that lots of others."

Director of investigations at BUFORA, Jenny Randles, said yesterday it sounded like the top secret Stealth aircraft.

"We've had quite a spate of these in the Midlands, about a

dozen since December.

"Of course, there is a veil of official secrecy, but we think there may be a small squadron secretly based in Britain at RAF Alconbury."

Mike Daly, assistant editor of *Jane's Weekly*, said nothing could be said about Stealth for certain, but that flights from Alconbury were rumoured.

"It's all a big secret, but the US is rumoured to have 40 Stealth F-19 fighters and there are reports that the Americans have flown them to East Anglia from California in the back of a Galaxy, reassembled them there and test flown them." But two together all lit up over a populated area would seem

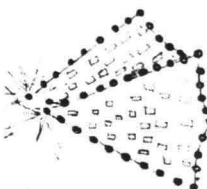
very odd, though I suppose they would need lights if their

would make more sense to fly them over the North Sea."

Lockheed are said to have built the F-19 in a project named Have Blue. They are covered with non-metallic material designed to absorb rather than reflect radar transmissions.

Mrs Ballard said: "I was in the RAF myself for four years and if these were planes, they must have developed something pretty fantastic that defies all the laws of flying."

A spokeswoman at RAF Alconbury denied any knowledge of Stealth F-19s and said that there were certainly none stationed there or any ever flown in at any time.



A rough sketch by Mrs Ballard of what she and her friends saw over Stafford this week.

Flight path wasn't generally known. Even so, I'd think it

MAIL, Oxford, England - May 12, 1988 CR: T. Good

## Thame women claim they saw two spaceships

CLAIMS by a Brill family that they saw UFOs in the night sky have been confirmed by two Thame women.

They saw what they believe were spaceships on the same nights.

"We kept quiet because we thought we'd be laughed at. But we certainly saw something," they said.

"We watched at least two through binoculars on different evenings and they were certainly moving," said Mrs Marie Smith of Wellington Street, Thame.

He graduate daughter Julia, 26, spotted them first from a bedroom window.

"When we saw the Oxford Mail story about the Brill people, we knew we hadn't been seeing things."

"I wonder how many other people saw them, but like us kept quiet for fear of being ridiculed," she said.

The Brill couple, Faye

and Keith Walker from Brae Hill Road and their neighbour Mr Eric Crawford saw the UFOs at the weekend.

They told the Oxford Mail that the objects were circular and rimmed with light.

Mrs Smith said: "When we saw them they seemed to be over St Mary's Church and then disappeared towards Buckinghamshire."

"On one evening there were certainly two objects together," she said.

Julia, a science graduate from Salford University had a UFO experience in the north.

She said it trailed her car and stopped when she stopped. It frightened her a lot.

"Other people must have seen these things — but fear of ridicule is a great silencer," said Mrs Smith.

CHINA'S official news agency Xinhua has reported with all seriousness that a football size UFO visited a 10-year-old boy's house, shrunk him to the size of a thimble, beamed him up and flew off.

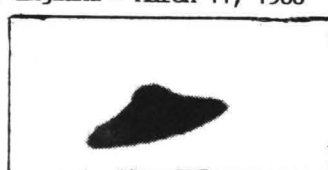
The boy was having a meal with his parents when it happened. One minute he was eating his rice and the next a shaft of bright light enveloped him and he shrank, according to his parents.

The startled parents saw the light was coming from a flying machine about the size of a football hovering in the doorway. Suddenly their son was whisked into it and the machine vanished.

The agency says the story is being investigated with all seriousness as a UFO event.

GAZETTE, Eastbourne, England - May 25, 1988 CR: T. Good

WALSALL OBSERVER, Staffs., England - March 11, 1988



Is it a bird? Is it a plane?

# NO — IT'S A UFO!

A BURST of UFO sightings have been reported around Walsall — raising questions about 'flying saucers'.

The latest sightings came this week from four hospital workers and a newsboy, and follow recent reports including those of four policemen out on separate patrols.

Three orderlies and a staff nurse at Walsall's Manor Hospital this week told of their experience.

Mr Gordon Bennett, a hospital orderly for seven years, saw two bright lights in the sky near his home in Streetly.

"It was about 7.30pm and I just happened to look up above some bungalows while walking back from a friend's house."

"I saw these two stationary, brilliant white lights. They were not the lights on an aeroplane's wings and were too far apart," said Mr Bennett.

Mr Bennett, 56, of Beechcroft Crescent, Streetly, mentioned the lights to colleagues the next morning — and three said they had seen the lights at different intervals on the same night.

Mr Chris Passam, from Walsall Wood, saw them while walking the dog and staff nurse Mrs Lynne Aston while leaving the hospital.

Mrs Eddie Knowles, from Bloxwich, saw them through his living room window while watching television.

"I'm certain they were not stars and they were quite high up. There is no way they were an aircraft's lights, even though Walsall is on the main flight path between Bir-

Story by  
STEPHANIE SPEAR

tingham and Manchester," said Mr Bennett.

Meanwhile, 'Walsall Observer' paperboy Peter Horne claims he spotted a UFO while out on his round.

Peter, 13, of Brockhurst Crescent, saw a long, silver object above houses in West Bromwich Road at 7am.

"It was cigar-shaped, and at first I thought it was a lamp post in the distance. But then it started to move," he said.

The object disappeared behind some trees, but 20 minutes later he saw it again.

"It didn't have any flashing lights, so it could not have been an aircraft, and I could see clearly," said the Great Barr Comprehensive school pupil.

Said Mr Brian Griffin, who runs the newsagents: "I told him he hadn't woken up yet — but later he came dashing in saying he had seen it again."

"I went out, but could see only a small dot in the distance."

"All I was worried about was if they got beamed up by the aliens before they delivered the 'Observers'!"

★ Have you had a 'close encounter' or UFO experience? Drop us a line or call us on Walsall 27584.

CR: T. Good

DORKING & LEATHERHEAD ADVERTISER, Surrey, England - May 19, 1988 CR: T. Good

## Bookham couples spot UFO

A MYSTERIOUS black oval appeared in the skies over Bookham on Sunday night leaving one man convinced he had seen a UFO.

Gerald Wales was outside his home in Little Bookham Street, washing his car, when his wife Teresa, pointed out a strange object in the sky, looking towards Effingham.

"It was an oval-like shape — like an egg cut in half but longer than a normal egg shape," said Mr Wales.

"There were four legs sticking out at the bottom. It was black with no lights and no windows and it made no noise at all."

The sighting came at around 8.40 and Mr Wales pointed the object out to

his neighbours, Dick and Susan Killett, who also saw it.

As they watched, the object moved slowly — "about the same speed as the Goodyear balloon" — towards Guildford and went out of sight behind the roof tops.

Mr Wales contacted Leatherhead Police about the sighting.

A police spokesman said: "If we get a number of calls we will investigate this kind of thing but when there is only one call, as in this case, we tend not to do much about it."

If you saw something similar on Sunday evening we'd be interested to hear from you. Call us with the details on Dorking 886661.

## Steve's plea on UFO

LOCAL UFO investigator Steve Balon is appealing for more information on the sighting of an unidentified flying object in Westleigh.

Mr Balon received a cryptic message about the Thursday's sighting during a very brief telephone conversation. The caller described himself as a relative of one of the two women who saw the object.

The man, who did not give his name, said that the women had been walking in the area when suddenly a huge orange triangular object swooped down from the sky at them before disappearing. The two were apparently very shaken by the incident.

Mr Balon, the North-west investigator for the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, said that

he had received no other reports of similar sightings in the area at that time.

He has, he says, investigated and researched unidentified flying objects for about 25 years and although the sighting of a triangular object is unusual it is not unique. Several reports of similar shaped objects in the Atherton and Wigan areas.

Anyone wishing to contact Mr Balon with information on sightings should write to him at: 10, Woodlands Avenue, Pennington, Leigh, WN7 3HL.

LEIGH JOURNAL, Lancs., England April 7, 1988 CR: T. Good

CELEBRITY, London, England - May 26-June 1, 1988 CR: N. Oliver

# BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED — OR NEEDED WHEN IT'S A REAL-LIFE SPACECRAFT

ACCORDING to director Matthew Robbins, he had to pretend to be a flying saucer whilst making his new hit movie, *Batteries Not Included*.

This delightful film tells how a New York couple are rescued from wicked property developers by a tiny UFO and its fabulous metal occupants.

But the extra-terrestrial effects had to be dubbed on afterwards and it was necessary for the actors to appear to be watching visitors from outer space. So, Robbins bravely substituted the set mimicking the activities of these space-age imps!

## Fantasy

This is Hollywood fantasy. But it just might have been possible for Robbins to recruit some very unusual extras, had they known where to look. Because there have been astonishing real cases where tiny UFOs and their even tinier pilots have been reported.

Eddie Ramsey saw one. One dark night in April 1975 he had the fright of his life while crossing a hump-backed bridge near Stockport in Cheshire.

"A brilliant green streak of light appeared, growing gradually wider

Jenny Randles — top UFO investigator — discovers truth is just as strange as film fiction

as it approached me," he recalls. This shot at amazing speed from fields to the left and came to an instant halt, just yards in front of him, hovering over the bridge like a praying mantis. It was cigar-shaped and no more than a foot and a half in length.

"It was just out of my reach," Ramsey adds. "A cover or shutter was slowly rising. It fully opened to reveal a brilliant fluorescent green screen, which reminded me of an old-fashioned TV set."

The staring match between terrified human being and decidedly non-human machine lasted about 10 seconds until the cover slid

down and the object left the scene with the speed of a bullet.

Eddie Ramsey forever regretted that he could not see what was inside the little UFO. But for a teenage girl and her elderly companion in Fencehouses, County Durham, that wish came frighteningly true on September 3, 1976. And they forever regretted that they had seen inside.

Crossing some derelict building land in this small mining village they spotted a most bizarre object. It was dome shaped and only five feet in size.

They noticed how all the sounds around about them faded out, which is a common feature of close encounters known by the fairy-tale name of the *Oz Factor*.

## Reluctant

These reluctant visitors into Oz found that time had slowed down to a standstill (indeed later the watch worn by the elder woman was ten minutes slow on real time). But strangest of all, out of nowhere popped two of the most incredible beings.

"They were just like little dolls, only eighteen inches tall, sporting

long white hair parted down the middle and huge staring eyes like marbles," the women revealed.

The women were so terrified they thrust their hands up to cover their faces. After this, the memory faded and the scene became confused. Ever since they have steadfastly refused to reveal what happened next. It remains locked in their subconscious as some ghastly secret.

But perhaps the oddest toy-like UFO ever seen, made an appearance in front of a startled warehouseman on December 5, 1977, when he was working inside a building on the Isle of Dogs, London.

At first he thought that the floating, tennis ball shape was something caught inside his eye. He rubbed them, but it remained there, drifting amongst the packing cases like a lump of blotchy jelly.

"It was almost like a glowing butterfly dancing around the warehouse," he said. "I was sure I was seeing things, until the factory cat spotted it too!"

This brave moggy, with no apparent fear of alien invaders, chased the intruder all over the room, leaping up in a futile effort

to swat the thing.

## Vanished

Eventually, with extraordinary versatility, the baby UFO vanished, presumably to return wherever baby UFOs come from. It was never seen again.

Matthew Robbins' movie derives its title from the annoying small print often found on children's electronic toys. You open the box, carefully assemble them and then discover that, as the manufacturers have warned, batteries are not included. Without them, you cannot get the mass of wires and circuits to walk or fly.

If these stories of real miniature UFOs are to be believed, art may just be imitating life. These genuine tiny craft do not seem to include batteries either.

Whatever causes them to fly, it certainly isn't an HP7!





EVENING STANDARD, London, England - June 8, 1988 CR: T. Good

## The Yeti is out there, says mountain man



CHRIS BONINGTON:  
"Who knows?"

YETI hunter and mountaineer Chris Bonington today revealed the discoveries he made as he searched the Himalayas for the Abominable Snowman.

But the legendary half-man half-ape creature, if it exists, can breathe a sigh of relief along with bookmakers William Hill who faced paying out £1 million if the yeti was found.

For there was no conclusive evidence—just one possible sighting, an unusual set of footprints in the snow and unidentified animal droppings.

Mr Bonington, who spent ten

by Lesley Yarranton

weeks climbing the remote 23,000ft Menlung Tse peak, said: "There certainly isn't any conclusive evidence one way or another, but there are a lot of unanswered questions."

"I personally am convinced there is something there, but just what it is who knows, and I rather hope the yeti manages to remain as elusive as it has to the present times."

Evidence produced by the team, which is being examined by Natural History Museum experts, includes:

- Two sheepskins cleanly severed from their carcasses, as if by a creature using a cutting tool. The mountaineers were assured that if Tibetans had removed the valuable skins they would have used them for clothing or bedding.

- Photographs of footprints measuring 12ins by 3-4ins lying 4ins deep in the snow thought to have been made by a creature walking upright on two legs.

- A sighting by BBC film producer John Paul-Davidson who accompanied the mountaineering team. As he

was climbing he felt the sensation of being watched and through the blizzard saw the dark shape of a creature standing on two legs watching him.

- The curious disappearance of two ski sticks left by the mountaineers at a height of 19,000ft.

- Unidentified "sizeable" animal droppings found in a secluded valley.

Natural History Museum scientist Iain Bishop has examined the sheepskins and found "nothing unusual".

"We have seen no pieces of yeti, nor any pieces claimed to be yeti," he said.

NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton Beach, FL - July 8, 1988 CR: R. Reid

## Scientists mull Mars mystery



1976 PHOTO BY VIKING PROBE SHOWS FORMATION

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unusual formations on the surface of Mars — including a mile-long rock shaped like a human face — may have been carved by a lost civilization or could be just "a trick of nature," four scientists said Thursday.

In either case, they said, the mysterious outcroppings demand further scrutiny by spacecraft.

The scientists, including a former astronaut, said that a photograph taken of the Martian surface in 1976 by NASA's Viking spacecraft clearly shows a face

that could have been carved out of a Martian mountain a half million years ago.

And the sphinx-like image that stares outward from the planet may be part of a complex, as evidenced by other unusual formations nearby, which was built by a civilization that has since disappeared, the scientists said.

Or, they admit, it could all be "a trick of light and shadow."

Brian T. O'Leary, a former astronaut and an expert on Mars, said there is sufficient uncertainty about the origin of the rock face that it should be a major target for future spacecraft sent to Mars.

"The feature is sufficiently exciting that we must go back to Mars and photograph it at a higher resolution," said O'Leary, speaking by phone to a news conference.

O'Leary said that last January he asked Soviet space scientists who were preparing to send to probes to Mars to examine the area where the face appears. He said the Soviets were interested, but replied that their spacecraft was not technically designed to study the Cydonia region of Mars, where the site is located.

The Soviets launched a probe toward Mars on Thursday and plan to launch a second one later this month.

The news conference Thursday was prompted by a study of the Viking photographs conducted by Mark Carlotto, an optical engineering expert.

In an article published in *Applied Optics*, Carlotto said that a computer enhancement of the Viking photographs shows that the face and various other nearby features appear to have been carved by "intelligent design" and not by the random forces of nature.

Carlotto said at the news conference that a sophisticated statistical study of the shapes, compared with other outcroppings on Mars, shows that "the face is not natural."

"It's extremely unlikely that it's a trick of light and shadow," said Carlotto.

Richard Hoagland, founder of an organization of scientists called "The Mars Project," said that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration found the face-like stone formation in the Viking photographs more than a decade ago, but dismissed it.

"There is such a bias against something like this that there was no official attention given to this data," said Hoagland.

Hoagland, however, said he has studied the photos for years and has discovered that in addition to the face there is "a complex of unusual objects" that he believes could have been built by "intelligent design."

The complex, which he calls a city, include a five-sided mountain

that resembles a pyramid, a grouping of rocks that he said could be a fortress and a massif that he believes could have been part of an astronomical marker.

Hoagland said that a line drawn from the center of the city, across the face to the massif, or cliff, would line up exactly with the sun at the moment of Mars' summer solstice, as it would have occurred 500,000 years ago. He said Mars has shifted on its axis since and that the solstice angle now is different.

He said the alignment that he has found is unlikely to have been natural.

"Geologically, the odds are one in 300,000 that this would be there by chance," said Hoagland.

Gerald Soffen, the chief of space and Earth sciences at the Goddard Space Center and a mission scientist on the Viking missions, said that NASA scientists spotted the face in the Viking films "but never took it seriously."

"NASA has never taken a position that it is nonsense or science," he said. "But I admit that NASA has not shown much interest."

Soffen said that some of the world's finest geologists have examined the photos from Mars and "even those who were looking for something bizarre never picked up on it. They said what we were seeing is light and shadow."

Randolfo Pozos, the executive director of The Mars Project, said that members of the organization, whom he did not name, are divided about the origin of the face on Mars.

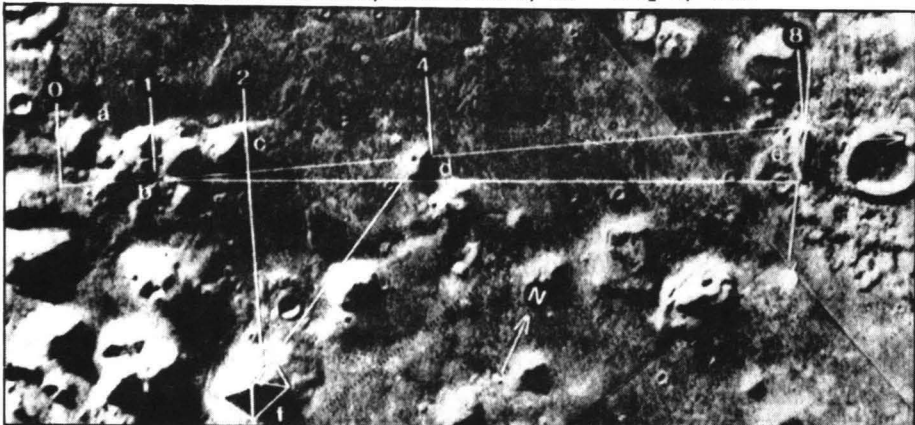
"Some of our group feel this is a lost civilization," he said. "Others think it is just an interesting geologic formation."

NASA plans to launch an unmanned probe, called the Mars Observer, in five years, and Hoagland said it will have on board a camera that could settle the question about the origin of the stone features on the planet.

Soffen said that the features could possibly be photographed, but he knew of no firm plans to do so.

"It could be this kind of thing (publicity) that could stimulate someone to point a camera at it," he said. But he added: "I'm not going to spend my time on something like that."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - July 9, 1988



**MARTIAN FORMATIONS** — Unusual formations on the surface of Mars, including a mile-long rock shaped like a human face, may have been carved by a lost civilization or could be just "a trick of nature," four scientists said Thursday. Features suspected to be of non-natural origin are shown in this photograph taken of the Martian surface in 1976 by NASA's Viking

spacecraft. They are (A) "The City," a collection of features whose major axis is parallel to those of "The Face." (B) "The City Square," at the exact lateral center of "The City." (C) "The Fortress." (D) "The Face," one mile from crown to chin. (E) "The Cliff," perched on the pedestal of a massive crater. (F) The 5-sided "D&M Pyramid."

## One night at Sleepy Hollow

Last week I experienced a close-up sighting of a large strange four-legged creature that in comparison to an extra large gorilla would make the gorilla look like a chimpanzee.

I was at Sleepy Hollow where the ramp bridge goes across Loyalhanna Creek with the intention of doing some lantern fishing. I parked my car and I was in the process of lighting my lantern when I heard a scuffling racket up on the hillside in the woods only 25 feet away from me. It also sounded like bursting wood.

I got my three-cell spotlight. I studied the large creature in every detail. It had reddish brown fur, extra large fiery eyes that glowed orange color like a bear's eyes. I also noticed that the eyes were constricting due to the bright light at close range.

The creature was furious at my invasion of his privacy and its intentions were to attack me. Its intentions were obviously clear. This happened Tuesday night, May 17th, 1988 at exactly 11:30 p.m. When the creature started coming toward me in an unfriendly

manner, I hastily made a run for the safety of my car. I turned my car around and I plainly saw the creature at very close range in the bright headlights of my car.

I am 67 years of age, I do not drink and I am of sound mind. I am an experienced hunter, tracker and live trapper, with 50 years experience.

This creature was very, very big and very, very strange and dangerous looking. It definitely was not a bear or a gorilla. It was too big. The size was unbelievably enormous.

SAMUEL J. SHERRY SR.  
Ligonier RD 1

*Editor's Note: Mr. Sherry's report should be taken seriously, indicates Stan Gordon of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU). There have been other reported "bigfoot" sightings on both sides of Chestnut Ridge in recent months, he says. "I have no doubt people are seeing something," he said. "Many of the sightings have been in broad daylight." For more on the subject, see "Generally Speaking."*

# Waiting For (yawn) Bigfoot

*So, has anyone seen the Yeti, yet?*

STORY BY T. C. BROWN ■ PHOTOS BY TIM JOHNSON

**M**CARTHUR, Ohio — This was not to be a typical trek into the wilds in search of an exotic animal. No, nothing was ordinary about this expedition.

First, we were stalking that never-captured, rare beast, Bigfoot. Second, hunters would use women to snag the creature's curiosity and draw it out of the woods.

And we weren't scouring the majestic Himalayas or the tangled timberlands of the Pacific Northwest. We were bound for our own back yard near the Experimental Forest several miles from this sleepy little burg in southern Ohio.

Local scuttlebutt for dozens of years has put Bigfoot — a k a Sasquatch, the Yeti, the Abominable Snowman — in the area. We hoped to bag him, or her, with eyewitness accounts and photographs. Forget about the arsenal that the organizers brought along, but more on that later.

**WITH TIM JOHNSON**, a *Dispatch* photographer, I headed south to link up with Bob Gardiner, a Bigfoot aficionado for 20 years. Gardiner, 45, formed the North American Sasquatch Research Team in Columbus in 1974. He has never seen the hairy creature, but he aimed to prove its existence this time with the help of friends and the news media.

Everyone was to gather last Thursday at a home just outside the village.

Pulling up behind a double line of Ranger and Bronco trucks in front of the meeting place, we mentally prepared for an exhausting hike into the boondocks.

In no time, danger reared its ugly head. High-balling tractor-trailer rigs nearly sucked us over the gravel on the berm of Rt. 50 as Mike Claar, 39, of Hamden, Ohio, led us on foot toward the camp.

The walk along the highway, although short, took longer than the trek into the woods. In clear earshot of traffic, we stopped on a slight rise under the shadow of a ramshackle cabin overlooking a ravine. Tall, straight-as-an-arrow maple trees wrapped the area with a thick foliage roof.

**GARDINER SAID** the beast had been seen cruising through here on several occasions. Claar took us to a creek where a medium-sized paw print with toelike impressions was plastered in the mud. It had been made within the past 12 hours.

"I think one of these big creatures is traipsing around," said Claar, as we examined a second print.

If Sasquatch was near, he wasn't alone. At one point, more than 20 people were rambling about... most of

them news reporters, photographers and television camera crews, some drawn by a story in *The Dispatch* about Gardiner's upcoming expedition.

As time wound down, television klieg lights replaced the sun. Cameramen shot pictures of other cameramen. If Bigfoot appeared now, he'd need a pair of Wayfarers to shade his eyes.

Gardiner, seeking media validation of his quest, got more attention than he expected.

"There are too many media and too many TV people," he said at one frustrated junction. "You just can't do it that way."

As dusk faded to black, it was apparent that the hunt would actually be a sit. Gardiner hoped to draw Bigfoot to the camp while two or three others listened for its approach from outside the area. We all were bait.

**GARDINER BROUGHT** enough fire power to start a *coup d'etat*: two elephant guns; a shotgun; twin .45-caliber automatics, hanging in holsters beneath his armpits; a .357-Magnum; and a .44-Magnum. Other hunters lugged two shotguns and four large-caliber pistols. As our final line of defense, Melody Bowman, 33, of Columbus carried a canister of Mace.

As the night progressed, the pros told Bigfoot stories over a blazing fire while we amateurs bet on who would

run the fastest if the furry fellow made a guest appearance.

Just after 10 p.m., Claar, posted outside the camp, heard a "babylike" cry in the woods across the highway. Several of us went in pursuit with a Louisville, Ky., television crew and its night-vision camera.

Within 30 minutes, two shrill howls pierced the night. No one doubted the form of beast. Inebriated local residents, aware of the hunt, yelped out car windows as they drove past.

While we were away from camp, the walkie-talkies quit and Gardiner put everyone on "red alert." Electronic equipment often malfunctions when Sasquatch is nearby, he said.

The scene was tense when we returned to camp. Everyone stood at the perimeter peering into the woods. Something was circling.

The television crew fired up its night camera. Gardiner held his rifle ready. The camera zoomed in on a glowing eye moving within 100 meters of camp. If Bigfoot was afoot, it was doing a belly crawl. The eye was very close to the ground.

**AFTER THE excitement** died, so did the campers. A rough night sleeping on a bed of rocks under a lean-to in the rain did little to boost my enthusiasm for my first big game hunt. Claar stayed up all night on watch. He heard something around 2 a.m., but had little to fear. Guttural, chain-saw snoring rumbled through the camp, keeping away all life forms.

A man living more than a mile from our camp later told Lexington, Ky., television reporter Dave Shuffett that he heard unusual sounds at 4:30 a.m.

"It was like a bull-a-bellering, it was," he said, refusing to give his name.

**IN THE morning**, the Louisville television group took its night camera home. Milt and Susan Erb, along with Bowman, arrived from Columbus with more unhappy news: a WCMH-TV newscast in Columbus had described the women in the expedition as Bigfoot bait.

The women were not pleased. "It makes me feel like I should run around naked, and I've had my clothes on the whole time," said Melissa Phelps of Somerset, Ky.

"It about makes it sound like we were tied to a tree," added Linda Wygle of Delaware, Ohio.

Gardiner hoped to lure Bigfoot with women because he believes the creature is curious about females and children.

The remainder of Friday was uneventful. More media interviews, a tromp through a graveyard where Gardiner detected odd smells several years before and a hike around a ravine where we found evidence of wild turkeys and saw two turtles making whoopee. During the afternoon, distant barking sounds were heard. "That's it," veteran Bigfooters said. Sounded suspiciously like a dog to me.

**BY EVENING**, Johnson and I decided to make our own tracks — for home. The adventure was stagnant and the adventuresome were in dire need of a hot shower and a cold beer.

One last muddy imprint was noted as we dragged ourselves back to our truck. With a glance and a wave, we bid adieu to Bigfoot country and pondered the tongue-in-cheek opinion of Bill Roberts of Somerset. He figured out why the creature was a no-show.

"He may have sat around and watched us and decided there was no intelligent life around the campfire at all."



Bob Gardiner, head honcho of Bigfoot expedition, passes time in Ninja meditation position



Melody Bowman peeks around shotgun barrel as Bernie Ballard, left, and Gardiner keep vigil for Bigfoot



## 'Mark Of Devil' On Man

Michigan, USA

A curious electric phenomenon is reported from Fayette township, Hillsdale county. One evening a lively thunder shower passed over that region, during which the play of lightning was peculiarly frequent.

Just before the storm broke, Amon J. Briggs, a farmer living midway between Hillsdale and Jonesville, who is quite bald, his head being smooth and shiny, went into his back yard to frighten away some cats that were fighting on the woodpile. So intent were they on exterminating one another as to allow Farmer Briggs to approach within a few feet.

At the same instant there was a great crash, and an electric bolt struck the woodpile, scattering it and stiffening the cats in an intense rigor mortis.

Aside from a prickly sensation and sudden contraction of the muscles, Mr Briggs experienced no unpleasant effects.

The fluid passed down his body, tore the works of his watch to pieces, breaking the cover, ripped his left trousers leg from top to bottom, and burst his left boot.

When he entered the house his wife fainted. Unconscious of the cause, the farmer hastened to bring her to.

The first words she uttered, "Oh, Amos, the Devil has set his mark on you!" excited his curiosity, and he looked in the glass and found the image of a black cat photographed in silhouette on his bald front.

Curiosity being satisfied, they tried to remove the obnoxious marking, using such homely remedies as soapends and scouring-brick, vinegar and ashes, etc, but to no purpose. However, in the morning the picture was much faded, and by noon it had quite disappeared.

October 22, 1887.



# Saga Of Strange Creature Growing

By CURT HODGES

and  
TAMMY SMITH

The list of Jonesboro-area people who have spotted a tall, dark, furry creature west of Jonesboro is growing, and they all agree on how the creature looks and moves.

The ice was broken Tuesday night when Jackie Newberry, a Weiner School District bus driver, called *The Sun* to report: "This creature came in front of our bus."

Several others called Wednesday with stories of sightings and the speculation game is on — whether it's a bear, a hoax or maybe the legendary Bigfoot.

The majority of people calling *The Sun* Wednesday said they have kept their sightings a secret because they were afraid no one would believe them, or would think they were crazy. The article in Wednesday's newspaper helped

them change their minds.

Newberry said he was driving toward Weiner on Arkansas 349 near Westside School when the black, furry creature came out, crossed the road and disappeared into the woods around 9:15 Tuesday evening. In the school bus was a coach and about 15 students all returning from a baseball game in Walnut Ridge.

Newberry said the bus was starting up a hill near the Westside School District "when this black, furry creature came out — It had a stride like a man." He said it was about six or seven feet tall.

"It's eyes glowed in the dark, and human's eyes don't do that," James Locke, one of the Weiner baseball players who was sitting in the front of the bus, said. "I saw something black running across the road. At first a deer popped in my mind, but it was too tall and

black to be a deer. Then I thought maybe it was a bear, but it was too tall. It ducked down and went into the woods."

Locke and Newberry both said the incident scared them. "Goosebumps went up and my stomach started turning," Locke said. Newberry, a hunter, said: "I've seen a lot of things, but I've never seen anything like this. And I don't scare easy." He insisted that it was not a bear.

The 15 students on the bus were so shaken up they wouldn't walk home from the school, even though many of them normally do. Newberry said, "We had to take each one of those boys home. They said: 'We're not walking tonight.'"

Newberry and a coach that was on the bus, Mike Kinard, went to the area again Wednesday to look for footprints, but found only one spot "where something's foot hit, but we couldn't make it out." He also said: "It might be totally unrelated, but there was a big, dark gray matted

sed the highway generally from west to east (or north to south as the highway lies). He at first thought it might have been a prank.

"It crossed the highway in three strides and looked at me, or toward my vehicle, over its left shoulder," he said. The creature's eyes glowed. He said it was dark and might have been dark brown in color.

"I'm 55 years old and I have never been so terrified in my life," he said.

"If he's any more frightened of methan I am of him, then he's terrified. I really wish I had not seen it. I shook for 30 minutes."

He said he has had dreams and nightmares about it.

He loaded a shotgun with double-ought buckshot and propped it near the door, but later said he would not want to see the creature shot.

Gibson believes that the creature

or creatures, whatever they are, are moving around looking for water due to the very dry conditions. He also fears for their safety.

"I would hate for it to be shot," he said.

Doug Golden Sr., a patrol officer with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, told *The Sun*, "We found what we believe to be a bear print 200 yards from where the sighting was made on 349. We're not saying this is a bear." But Golden added that there have been several sightings of bears in that area. He did say it was "rare" for a bear to cross the highway several times in front of vehicles.

Bears are nothing new in Jonesboro and this area. In 1959, the Game and Fish Commission obtained several black bears from Minnesota. Unfortunately, those bears had been living in state parks

hope people don't get trigger happy — I want to emphasize that." He believes if it isn't a bear, it must be a hoax.

A spokesman for the Golden Grotto said he knows of no hoax going on with a gorilla suit. "All our gorilla suits are accounted for — They're all here."

Robert Zachary, district supervisor of the Wildlife Management Division in Craighead County said he, by nature, has to remain skeptical of such reports.

"I don't have a good explanation for (the sightings)," Zachary told *The Sun*. "As a member of the scientific community I have to be a little skeptical.

"If I were making an educated guess," he said, "I would say it is a bear."

He said a bear sighting was received and investigated south of Jonesboro on May 7.

Zachary also noted that it is not his intention to discredit anyone. "They think they saw what they think they saw," said Zachary.

But, while Sasquatch and other such creatures have been seen, and even photographed over the years, none has been captured nor have any remains of them been found. Also, Zachary said, there have never been any reports of any human being harmed by one of the creatures.

Even Arkansas State University basketball coach Nelson Catalina has seen the creature.

Catalina said he was returning from the Newport High School athletic banquet on the night of May 9 and had just turned left at the intersection of 226 and U.S. 49 spur and was driving north on 226 when he saw a tall creature crossing the highway in front of his car, leap across a ditch and scramble up a dirt embankment.

He said it appeared to be at least seven feet tall and at first he thought it was someone pulling a prank. "I slowed down, thinking there may be some kids up the road waiting to see a reaction," the coach said. But he saw no one.

If it was a gorilla suit, Catalina said it was a well-fitted one.

He still thinks it was someone playing a trick.

But, he was not certain enough that it was a prank to spread it around. He only told neighbor and friend Skip Highfill. But, Highfill laughed at him.

Wednesday morning, however, he overheard two women in the ASU Convocation Center talking about a creature they spotted west of Jonesboro Tuesday night.

Catalina could not hold his secret any longer.

Janna Bowen, who works in the ASU ticket office in the Convocation Center, said she and Teresa Ryan were returning from Weiner and were near the Oak Grove Church on Arkansas 349 when they saw a startling sight — something black leaped in front of their car and crossed the highway.

She said they had just talked about the sharp curves in the highway at that point and were concentrating on the road.

"Teresa would not talk about it at first," Janna said. "I asked her, 'Did you see what I just saw?'"

Teresa answered that she did. But they said the creature did not look at them and they did not see its eyes glow like others have reported.

"I thought at first it was a man in black coveralls," Janna said. She then saw it was hairy or furry and was tall and slender with long legs and long arms. She said it appeared young as it strided across the highway. She also feels like the creature is male due to the way it walks.

She said it crossed a ditch beside the highway and disappeared into the "deep, dense, dark woods" near the highway.

Gibson said there are about 65 acres of dense woods on the south side of the highway, which actually travels east and west at that point. He said the woods are so thick that a person would have difficulty walking through them.

Joe Cagle of Leachville, said he was not certain what he saw.

"We were amazed. We don't know what we saw," Cagle said.

Cagle was with his son-in-law and daughter, Mack and Sheila Lanthrop of Batesville. They saw the creature on Arkansas 226 near the same area as Coach Catalina about 10:15 to 10:30 on the night of May 5.

It was running along the highway beside their car as they headed toward Jonesboro. "I thought at first it was a cow," Cagle said. They could not see it well until it ran in front of the car across the highway from east to west. It seemed to have come from behind a nearby house, he added.

"It crossed the highway in three strides," Lanthrop, who operates King Pizza in Jonesboro and Batesville, said. It leaped the ditch and fell on all fours, scrambled up and ran into nearby woods.

Both Lanthrop and Cagle said it looked back at them when it fell and they say one of its eyes shined.

They do not believe it was human, nor that was it a bear.

Cagle said he is a hunter and has seen bears in the woods. "They will stand up on their hind legs and take a couple of steps," he said. "But, bears run on all fours, not on his hind legs.

"I never did believe in this (Bigfoot) stuff," Cagle said. "I don't know what we saw, but it was not a bear and it was not a man."

He said it was seven feet tall and slender.

"It was coal black and shiny," Cagle said. "It was beautiful."

Lanthrop said it appeared almost blue-black and had what he described as feathery looking fur along its legs, which he described as flags, like some long-haired dogs have.

Lanthrop said he turned his car around and drove back, stopping at the house. He said dogs at the house were barking furiously. The resident said his dogs had been barking a lot before that and for several days.

Cagle said he returned to the site the next day to look at the ground where the creature fell. He said there were scuff marks on the ground, which was dry and hard, and he could make out marks that appeared to have been made by running feet. He said the creature's strides were six or seven feet long.

He said it took only three strides for it to cross the highway and it ran with its knees slightly bent like a sprinter.

Some of those who saw the creature agreed it looked like a drawing of Sasquatch that has appeared in Reader's Digest.

But, is what they saw really Bigfoot, a large bear or someone playing a prank?

They're not sure, but they all agree that they saw something. As Cagle put it: "It was something I had never seen before."

One man perhaps summed up the feelings of everyone involved. "The mystery of it sends cold chills up your spine."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - July 10, 1988

## ■ Jonesboro

**BIG SNEAKER** — Bigfoot has returned to Jonesboro, but this time he left a trail of hair, officials said. Two teen-agers spotted the "creature" on state Highway 349 one night about a week ago. Even though they believed the furry creature was a man in a gorilla suit, they decided to wait until the next day to investigate. When they returned, the teens found a three-inch square of shiny — and fake — hair. The first sightings were reported in May, but officials didn't know what to make of it. A wildlife officer found tennis shoe tracks at the scene, prompting him to dub the creature "Big Tennis Foot."

# Scientists Probe Mystery Of Ball Lightning

Shortly after a thunderstorm last summer passed through the Hungarian town of Abony, about 80 kilometers southeast of Budapest, three neighbors observed a reddish ball measuring a half meter in diameter floating slowly toward the home of a factory worker.

The ball touched a television antenna on the roof and split into five smaller spheres, and seconds later the family's Soviet-made television lay shattered, its knobs popped off and metal parts scattered.

The room was full of dust from a hole where one of the mysterious globes had drilled three centimeters through the wall to find the electric system. The wiring in the adobe home was gone — vaporized — and the broken electricity meter registered the equivalent of 27,000 yen worth of power.

A pile of papers that had been on the wooden table disappeared without a trace, and crockery and windows were smashed, ac-

coring to the factory worker, who had been watching television at the time.

The scene may sound like the stuff of science-fiction films or an anthology on the supernatural, but according to nuclear safety engineer George Egely who investigated the incident, it is the work of a little-understood phenomenon called "ball lightning."

Egely, a researcher at Hungary's Central Research Institute for Physics, was among some 30 scientists from eight countries who gathered at Tokyo's Waseda University from July 4 to 6 for the first international conference dedicated to ball lightning, a rare and mysterious phenomenon that some scientists say could hold the secret to an unlimited and non-polluting source of fusion energy.

Armed with photographs, videocassettes, theories and artifacts — a warped brass bracelet, a plastic casing of an evaporated wire — the scientists

sojournd to Tokyo to ponder the riddle of ball lightning.

Records depicting the free-floating balls that travel for several seconds to dozens of minutes, sometimes penetrating keyholes and even closed windows, date back over 1,000 years, according to experts.

But so far attempts to explain the sometimes deadly phenomenon have failed.

Indeed, for years many scientists doubted the existence of ball lightning, which vanishes as quickly as it appears, sometimes with a bang so powerful that it seems to defy the laws of physics.

Today, a majority of scientists believe ball lightning exists, according to researchers at the three-day symposium.

The meeting, called by Waseda physics professor Yoshihiko Ohtsuki, was in part an attempt to lend legitimacy to the study of these balls, which are linked by popular legend with spirits and ghosts.

According to Otsuki, approximately one case of ball lightning appears in the Japanese archipelago every 10 days, but most are unobserved. One out of 40 Japanese will witness a fire ball during his or her lifetime, he says, and a small percentage of them will be killed by explosion or electric shock.

Typically, the balls of fire, which appear in several colors and shapes, range from a few centimeters in diameter to the size of a basketball. In the West they have been associated with thunderstorms, thus the name ball lightning, but they are also seen during clear weather.

Explanations of the phenomenon proffered by some of the 30 scientists, including researchers from prominent governmental and university laboratories, as well as entrepreneurs and inventors, included a theory based on a hypothetical fourth spatial dimension, and a hitherto unknown form of stable plasma, or ionized gas.

Several of the inventors unveiled plans for experiments to recreate fusion, which they believe occurs in ball lightning, for use as a possible future source of commercial energy.

The plasma explanation seemed to gain the most currency among the scientists, some of whom had been pondering the esoteric topic for two or more decades — often in semi-secrecy.

Indeed, one reason scientists have not made a more concerted effort to crack the riddle is because they fear being ridiculed, says conference organizer Ohtsuki.

"For almost all people involved in this field, this is side work," said Ohtsuki, who as leader of a recently established ball lightning information center plans to spearhead a nationwide campaign in pursuit of pictures of the elusive phenomenon.

"I wanted to research this when I was younger, but if I had, I wouldn't have received my

Ph.D because people would've said I was crazy," said Ohtsuki.

Ohtsuki says he hopes 100,000 volunteers will turn cameras and videos on nature during a one-week period in late July in order to capture more examples to add to the estimated 6,000 cases reported worldwide.

Now a well known physicist and editor of "Parity," a monthly magazine affiliated with the U.S. periodical "Physics Today," the 52-year-old Ohtsuki says he has reached the "best age" to start research because 10 years from now people will label him an old fuddy-duddy. Ohtsuki's fascination with ball lightning date backs over four decades when, at age 10, he personally witnessed one of the glowing balls.

Adds 37-year-old Egely, "We are really facing a new phenomenon, like radioactivity was late last century."

"We shall step into something new, unprecedented and fantastic." (Kyodo)

MAIL ON SUNDAY, London, England - June 12, 1988 CR: T. Good

## SCIENTISTS BAFFLED BY TIBET FIND

# Row rumbles on over new Yeti evidence

THE great Yeti argument rages on!

Doubters include bookies William Hill who have refused to pay out on 66-1 bets that the legendary snowman of the Himalayas exists.

And the Natural History Museum last week described evidence brought back by mountaineer Chris Bonington from Tibet as 'insufficient'.

They said the most important specimens, the carcasses of two skinned and filleted wild mountain sheep, had probably been killed by a snow leopard.

But that ruling has caused strong controversy among zoologists.

The world's leading authority on the snow leopard said he had

By IAIN WALKER  
who was on the Yeti hunt

never known its prey killed in such an unusual way.

Dr Rodney Jackson, of the Californian Institute of Environmental Science, who spent two years in the Himalayas photographing and tracking the rare animal, said: 'What bothers me most is the fact the Bonington expedition found two dead sheep.

### Curious

'The snow leopard is a solitary hunter which attacks one prey at a time, and I don't believe it could be the animal responsible for these curious killings.'

Dr Iain Bishop, head of zoology at the Natural History Museum, also said he was unable to explain the other

incidents reported by the Bonington team.

These included two ski-poles mysteriously vanishing from a remote base camp at 19,000 feet.

The evidence was discovered in the Upper Menlung Valley in Tibet close to the spot where, in 1951, British mountaineers Eric Shipton and Michael Ward found and photographed giant 'Yeti' footprints on a glacier.

Chris Bonington said: 'I am absolutely convinced the Yeti exists. There is far too much solid evidence which the Natural History Museum cannot scientifically explain.'

Reinhold Messner, the Italian mountaineer, is now in Central Tibet on a one-man expedition to find the Yeti.

He claims to have stumbled across the creature on a trip to Nepal last year.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - July 13, 1988

RICHARD C. HOAGLAND

Guest columnist

## Let's look closer at planet's 'face'

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Humanity has always wondered if it is alone in the universe. Now, as the USSR launches its most ambitious unmanned mission to the planet Mars, we may be on the eve of finding out.

After half a decade of quiet deliberations, The Mars Project — composed of multidisciplinary scientists representing a broad swath of scientific thinking — announced last week our initial findings: Some striking, enigmatic objects photographed in 1976 by NASA's unmanned Viking may represent the long-abandoned ruins of an ancient technical society, arrayed across the planet. Because the next NASA craft capable of providing answers to this question is not returning to Mars for five years, we have turned to our Soviet colleagues for a possible earlier answer via their current "Phobos" mission to the Martian moons.

Our tentative conclusions have been arrived at only after five years of applying a variety of state-of-the-art analytical techniques, ranging from systems analysis of the inexplicable geometric pattern of the "artifacts" to intensive computer-image enhancements of the objects themselves — including 3-D digital reconstructions and "fractal" pattern analysis of the most controversial object, a mile-long, 1,500-foot high humanoid "face."

The probability that there are actually intelligently designed artifacts lying on the planet Mars is small — but is not zero! The Soviet Union, via its current Phobos mission, is in a unique position to turn this small probability into a stunning confirmation.

The implications of Soviet verification of intelligently designed artifacts on a neighboring world, ranging from near-

Richard C. Hoagland is founder of The Mars Project and author of The Monuments of Mars.

term geopolitical considerations to technological and scientific fallout from examining firsthand possible extraterrestrial structures on another world, only serves to underscore a dismal fact: the present disarray of U.S. space activity and plans.

The USA, out of sheer prudence, must be a player in the game. Ideally, in keeping with the grand vision which took us to the moon, we should take an immediate leadership position in verifying our own data. Or, at least cooperate in some immediate and meaningful way with others attempting to verify the Viking photographs. Given the possible consequences of not acting, how is it "scientific" not to look?

COURIER, Ravenna, OH - May 22, 1988  
CR: M. Francis/W. Thompson

## Biggest Bigfoot hunt ends up a bigger bust

United Press International

McARTHUR, Ohio — Searchers convinced that a hairy, apelike animal variously known as Big Foot, Yeti or Sasquatch has been hiding out in the hills of Vinton County have failed to locate the creature.

There have been hundreds of reported sightings of Big Foot in Ohio, including several near the town of McArthur in Vinton County.

Encouraged by these accounts, a hunt described as the largest, best-organized Big Foot search ever undertaken in Ohio was launched this week. But after several days in Vinton County's woods, searchers had found no sign of the elusive

creature, not even a foot print.

"I walked these woods all night and I've got nothing to show for it," said Bob Gardiner of Burnside, Ky., who put together this year's hunt and participated in a 1980 search in Vinton County after numerous reported Big Foot sightings.

"There was a time in the middle of the night when we heard something in the underbrush not far from camp. But we're pretty sure it was a deer," Gardiner said.

The search drew people from Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan, who began converging on the village of McArthur on Thursday.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS TOWN CRIER, Manila, AR - May 24, 1988

## "There Is Definitely Something Out There"

By Russell Henry

Joe Cagle of Leachville knew that the creature he saw on the night of Thursday, May 5, was not just a cow that had gotten loose. "It was about 9:30-10:00 p.m., and I was driving down Highway 226 near the 63 Bypass outside of Jonesboro when I saw a creature about seven feet tall, weighing probably 300 pounds and having thick fur."

"The creature was running down the roadside ditch, and then it came out of the ditch and ran upright across the highway and disappeared into a patch of woods on the other side," Cagle explained.

"It took only three strides to cross the highway!" Mr. Cagle also stated, "I don't believe it was a bear or a human because bears usually run on all fours, and this creature ran upright with its knees slightly bent, unlike humans."

"The whole thing has been blown out of proportion," Cagle stated. "I have never believed in anything such as a Bigfoot; however, I saw something that night that I have never seen before."

In spite of this remark, the interview was concluded by Cagle saying, "There is definitely something out there."