

UFO

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UFO Sightings Continue in Gulf Breeze Area

BY DIANA K. HANSEN

A Gulf Breeze woman and her young daughter were left very frightened by an experience they had with a UFO last Sunday morning.

"Ann" (she has requested that we not use her real name) was awakened at about 2:45 by a "thumping sound." She got out of bed to take a look around the house. After checking the other rooms and looking in the back yard, she did not find anything. As she was re-entering her bedroom she noticed a bright glow coming through her bedroom window.

At about that time, Ann's daughter woke up and came into her room. She had been awakened by the commotion and was coming to find out what was going on. They looked out the window and were shocked to see a UFO hovering beside their house at about the same level as the street light.

According to Ann, the "saucer-shaped" craft emitted an orange blinking light and made a sound similar to a loud heartbeat. The craft appeared to be round and moving in a circular motion. (Although Ann heard the thumping sound during the entire ordeal, her daughter heard no sound.)

The two were extremely frightened and did not know what to do. Ann said she felt as though the ship

was watching her. She thought about calling the police, but felt they could not really be of any help. She and her daughter layed down on the bed and waited in fear. They listened for about an hour as the craft continued to hover outside, until finally the UFO moved off into the distance and disappeared.

"My daughter was scared to death...I felt total fear and panic," Ann said of her close encounter. "Before this happened, I didn't believe...period. I had refused to read your (Sentinel) articles." She says this experience has definitely changed her opinion.

Tiger Point resident, Margaret Cunningham, was on her way home from a meeting last Monday when she saw what she believes was a UFO. "I was driving down Hillside Drive when I noticed something hovering over the golf course," Margaret told the Sentinel. "It had very bright white lights at either end and pulsating red lights coming from what looked like portholes."

Margaret had binoculars in her car and immediately grabbed them to take a closer look. It was dark—approximately 8:45 p.m. She was unable to see the shape of the object but guessed that it was about the size of a helicopter. She heard no sound coming from the craft.

"I watched it for about 5 or 6 minutes as it hovered in one place. Then it slowly moved below the trees and out of my sight," said Margaret.

A previous UFO witness and her husband and child reported a second sighting on March 31. At about 8:45 p.m. the family noticed a large craft hovering in the sky above their Villa Venyce home.

They described the craft as being elongated and having no sound. And although it was dark outside, they were able to see the craft "plain as anything."

There was a white light beside the craft that seemed to be either a small plane or a small ship. The light on the smaller craft went out for a few minutes, then reappeared later in the same spot.

The UFO moved in a "gliding motion" in a northeasterly direction until it disappeared from sight. The witnesses felt it probably passed over Whisper Bay.

A prominent Gulf Breeze citizen reported a sighting he witnessed back on March 3. He and his wife were on College Parkway in Polynesian Isles. They both noticed two oblong-shaped crafts with very bright lights hovering over Whisper Bay. After a few minutes the UFO's moved out over the bay and disappeared.

EVENING JOURNAL, Lincoln, NE - June 27, 1988

Budd Hopkins speaks to packed house

UFologist says children being abducted by aliens

By Catharine Huddle

Journal Writer

Being abducted by visitors from other worlds is bad enough for adults, but experts say there is evidence of a growing number of cases involving children.

Artist and UFO abduction investigator Budd Hopkins told a packed house at Sunday's session of the Mutual UFO Network symposium that this does not necessarily mean more children are being abducted today. Instead, he said, it might mean that adults are finally listening to them and taking them seriously, just as society at large seems to be taking more seriously the whole subject of investigating unidentified flying objects and the presence on Earth of beings from other worlds.

"What I'm saying is we are not laughingstocks," said Hopkins, who said he has been well received by most of the many talk-show hosts and journalists who have interviewed him. "We all remember the days when it was impossible to discuss this. We are chipping away."

Monster in bedroom

He told this story as an example of the many he has heard during his work with people who believe they were abducted for examination by the occupants of UFOs:

A New Haven, Conn., woman's 2-year-old daughter kept complaining of a monster in her bedroom. As most parents would, the woman told her daughter she was dreaming and tried to dismiss the subject, even though it was clear her daughter was terrified. One day, however, as her child ran toward her, the mother saw a small figure with large black eyes right behind the girl, almost, she said, as if it were merging with her daughter. The woman screamed and the figure disintegrated.

The mother believed that now she herself might be going crazy. Later, however, the child complained that the "monster" had burned her arm and hurt her finger. On Hopkins' advice, the mother examined the girl and found a wound on her arm and a mark on her finger.

"Perhaps it's been going on a long time and has been dismissed because we figure kids are just dreaming," Hopkins said.

To believe oneself crazy rather than acknowledge the existence of otherworldly visitors is common, Hopkins said. Many times, people who have been tormented by phobias and fears for years find things clicking into place when hypnosis or some other event reveals memory of an abduction. Hopkins calls this the skeleton-key effect.

Vice versa

"Although psychological theories cannot explain abduction experiences, abduction experiences can often explain certain psychological disorders," Hopkins said.

Being abducted is a terrifying experience, and people who have been taken do not want it to happen again, he said, challenging a New Age notion that the visitors are benevolent spiritual guides for earthlings. Hopkins suggested instead that the visitors, consistently described as cold and emotionless, may be here to learn humanity.

"They seem to be fascinated by the range of human emotions as an antidote to their advanced technology. So it seems almost like we're their spirit guides as opposed to the other way around," Hopkins said. "It seems they need us in some pathetic way. For all the power they have, they are the ones who are powerless."

'UFO' & 'Manhunt' On LBS Itinerary

Hollywood — LBS Communications will distribute two live event specials as a package for the fourth quarter — "UFO Cover-Up? ... Live" and "Manhunt ... Live" on Oct. 14 and Dec. 7, respectively — both with a free call-in element to spur viewer interaction.

The previously confirmed UFO spec will generate from D.C. and focus on the government's role in obscuring UFO information. Michael Seligman will serve as exec producer.

Viewers can call to register their views as to whether UFOs exist and if there should be government hearings for fuller disclosure on the subject. As for the live element, LBS Entertainment prexy Paul Siegel

said witnesses may be hypnotized and asked to recall what they had seen.

"Manhunt" will present information and seek viewer help in tracking down an unidentified killer believed to have slain nearly 100 women. LBS will offer a major reward and leave 800 numbers operational for several days following the show, which will have the cooperation of various law enforcement groups.

Spec is being produced in association with New Screen Concepts, with Charles Bangert and Louis Gorfain exec producers and Beth Broday and Grant Fredericks producers.

Psychologist recalls space ride

Professor claims aliens use TV ads

By ROBERT DAVIS

The Coloradan

People who want to meet aliens from outer space must make personal sacrifices, a UFO advocate who claims to have been taken space riding as a child said Saturday.

Leo Sprinkle, a psychologist and University of Wyoming professor, told more than 500 people at Colorado State University that to be accepted and visited by aliens, humans must be willing to go through training.

"You must ask yourself what you are willing to give in exchange for (the visit)," he said. "If you say you want a shirt, that's fine. If you wave a \$20 bill in front of a store-owner who has shirts, you are more likely to get one."

The training may come in many forms, Sprinkle said. Daily business, like conversations and beer commercials, may carry hidden extraterrestrial

messages.

"You may be told to go to a spot where a UFO is going to land at 4 p.m.," he said after his keynote lecture on the last day of the International Conference on Paranormal Research at CSU. "Then when nothing comes, that may be training in taking abuse, like after you tell people of your real encounters."

Sprinkle said he remained a "scoffer" for about seven years after his first adult encounter with a flying saucer in Boulder.

"I think it was a saucer, it could have been balloon-shaped," he said. But when he and his wife saw another flying object near the Flatirons years later, he knew UFOs were real.

He and his wife were driving back to their Boulder home from Denver in 1956 when they saw a light drifting and bobbing in the sky near Boulder.

"We saw what looked like an evening star," he said. "But then it drifted below the level of the Flatirons and I knew it was no star."

Despite the fact that people all around the light were honking horns and yell-

ing, he never heard anything more about it.

Years later he underwent hypnosis and learned he had taken a ride on a spacecraft as a boy.

While growing up in Rocky Ford, about 40 miles east of Pueblo, Sprinkle said he was taken for a ride in space.

The tall alien in a space suit put his arm around Sprinkle as they rode watching the stars and told him to, "learn to write."

"Maybe it's a fantasy, maybe it's a daydream, but whatever it is it's affected my life to the point that I'm on a mission," he said.

Part of that mission is to help others make the most of their UFO encounters. He tries to help people deal with their experiences in a way that they will get something out of it.

"If you are ready to stop that kind of suffering and have some other kind of suffering then I suggest you come out of the closet and tell people about your experiences," he said. "Not everyone, because you will be ridiculed, but some people."

He said too many people are hung up on having "technical facts" that prove UFOs exist.

"Those in power, older men, white, in suits and ties most of them, they are afraid of the thought that UFOs exist here," he said. "So they tell the public UFOs do not exist and the public buys it."

"Once somebody of authority tells us it's OK, we go right back to sleep."

But the government knows they exist and has taken measures to fight the spacecraft, he said.

America's "Star Wars" defense system is not intended to blast Soviet missiles out of the sky, Sprinkle said. The laser defense system is meant to be used against enemy spacecraft.

"Star Wars" is defense against outer space," he said.

The government is wasting money on finding ways to fight aliens when it could be finding ways to learn about other life forms in the universe.

"They want to build their own flying saucers so they can rule all of space," he said.

UFO Sightings Continue in Gulf Breeze

BY ALLISON BROWN

A Testimony from a local Mother & her 12 year old daughter

March 21 about 3 p.m. traveling across the Bay Bridge from Pensacola:

I always scan the skies, day or night, when I'm in or near Gulf Breeze. That day I and my 12-year-old daughter saw an object hovering to the right of the water tower, but before the Point of Gulf Breeze. It just stayed there and the atmosphere around it wavered, but I couldn't figure out why.

From the time we spotted it until almost the end of the bridge (into Gulf Breeze) we could see it. We were excited because it might be the UFO.

We were not scared because it was daytime and the UFO was far away. From what I could figure, it was over the sound before Pensacola Beach—because it was seen right above the line of trees of Gulf Breeze, but it didn't seem close or clear enough to be over Gulf Breeze.

But I don't think it was over Pensacola Beach or the Gulf, because the horizon would have hidden it from where we were on the bridge. I thought it might be one of those big helicopters from the naval base, except that it hovered in one place the whole time.

The object seemed big and oblong and dark. We looked at people in other cars and it seemed no one else noticed the UFO.

I regret I didn't have a camera, especially since it was daylight, and I wish I could have driven to check it out.

Sighting from two local G.B. females between the ages of 20 - 23

March 30 at 10:30 p.m. turning onto Fairpoint from Hwy. 98:

A friend and I were returning home after spending the afternoon driving around "looking for the UFO" we had read so much about in the *Sentinel*. We had given up our search after only seeing "odd, moving lights over the sound." We had to see some type of shape—like in the pictures, before we really believed. Well, the object we saw was not like the *Sentinel* pictures, but it did spark our curiosity.

While turning onto Fairpoint, we saw a bright light coming from behind the Exxon building. As we looked over, a large, almost diamond shaped object raised up and rolled over, then headed over the Big B building until it was out of sight.

The object was outlined with small white "light bulbs" and had red lights on its tail. My friend had her window down and we didn't hear any sound.

We talked for a while on what we had seen. A low plane? Maybe—but? We decided to see if anyone reported a similar object before we told our story.

On April 7 about 9 p.m., driving east on Hwy. 98, I saw the object again. I had just driven past the *Sentinel* when I saw the object moving toward Gulf Breeze downtown over the trees on the left side of the road. The object had the same shape, no sound, and an almost clear bottom that I could almost look into. For a moment I almost stopped the car, but being in the left lane and surrounded by traffic, I didn't.

Grandma & Amy tell their story

Thursday, April 7, about 8:30 on Hwy. 98 by Western Sizzlin:

Grandma and Amy had been watching an object which had "real bright lights and looked like a car with four big spotlights on it."

"When you look up into a light fixture," said Amy. "That's what I saw."

Amy, who saw the object the longest, described it as "an airplane with a big circle in the middle with blue lights shooting out and lights attached."

The object flew over the car by Western Sizzlin, and farther down the road the two saw a second object.

"The small one went down behind the trees and came up again," said Grandma. "I was confused that an airplane could fly that low with such bright lights."

The objects were traveling "up and down and sideways," said Amy, as she moved her arms. As they drove farther down the highway, an airplane flew over Whisper Bay.

"I could tell the difference," said Grandma. "I heard the noise."

A local Gulf Breeze Mother & son see object on highway 98

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. on Hwy. 98 and then at 8 p.m. in Bayside.

"My son and I saw two great big headlights, side by side in the sky," said a local viewer. She stopped the car completely; the object moved "really fast, then stopped, then moved really fast again, then stopped."

"Then, an airplane flew by and it lowered itself behind the trees and we never saw it again," said the mother. "Even when it moved, though, it made no noise."

Male viewer sight objec over water

Thursday, April 7 over the sound: "I saw mostly swirling red lights; I couldn't tell what shape it was," said the Gulf Breeze viewer.

The object was seen 400-600 feet away from the back of the sighter's home, and about 100 feet over the water.

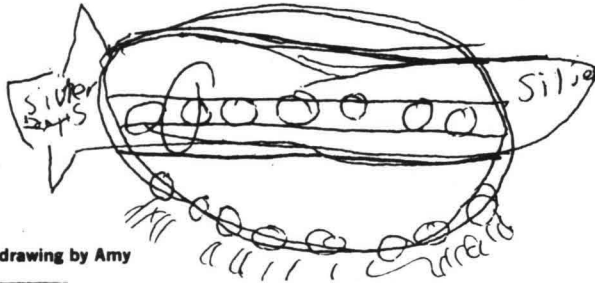
"It just came right down the sound real fast," said the witness, "but it didn't make any noise."

Soundside male views object while driving home

On Thursday, April 7, about 10 p.m., I was driving home toward the Bay Bridge when I saw an object that looked almost like an airplane moving slowly toward Pensacola about 100 feet above the bridge.

It had three lights in a row—two dimmer lights on the outside and one bright light in the middle, and one dimmer light below it. I rolled down my window to see if it was a plane or something and I heard no noise. I watched the object move toward Cervantes Street and disappear.

After making several stops, I headed home about 11 p.m. on Soundside Drive. About a mile down the road I saw two cars parked. I looked over to the right and above the trees I saw one bright light moving real slow. I watched the light move toward Gulf Breeze, then drove off, thinking about what I had seen.



drawing by Amy

'They're here!' Ex-computer man front for Pleiadians

By STEVE COOPER
Gannett News Service

During the next two to three years, the question will finally be settled. Doubt will be removed. Skeptics will be silenced.

"We're about to discover we are not alone in the universe. We're all going to have to shift gears. Lay down our fears and anxieties and grow up. They're here," says Randolph Winters of Los Angeles.

"They" are UFO people called Pleiadians (pronounced plee-ah-dians) from the planet Pleiades, whose substantial earthly following is similar to the popularity Martians once enjoyed. Winters is a former computer programmer who traded in a steady job to work as something of a front man for the Pleiadians the past year.

Of course, there could be complications. What if Monks from Mars decides to make himself known before the Pleiadians? Or Soltec from Centurus wants to be first? Or suppose the mysterious "Greys," who have a secret agreement with the military, make their move?

An ever-growing, ever-bizarre list of alien contacts reflects a changing UFO subculture. You need a scorecard to keep the players straight these days.

Twenty years ago the UFO movement was dominated by debates about hardware — was that thing shaped like a celestial cigar or anti-gravity DeSoto hubcaps? Now the movement is being taken over by people selling a New Age philosophy rooted in age-old ideas, like reincarnation, soul travel and meditation.

The messages of these outer space entities are the driving force behind the thriving movement. To believers, the question is no longer: Is there higher intelligence out there? But: What do they say to us?

The answer is stirring excitement and promoting the sales of books, magazines, convention tickets and videos.

But not everyone in the movement is pleased about the direction it is flying.

"All these stories about abduc-

tees and the whole religion side to it — we're getting away from the real work of investigating the UFO phenomenon. All these people offer are unsubstantiated stories. Fairy tales. It's becoming cultish," says Sherman Larsen of Glenview, Ill., who helped establish a national UFO investigation team in 1956.

And, of course, there are critics outside the movement who weren't too keen on flying saucers even before they zoomed into the New Age.

"If I can convince you — against all scientific evidence to the contrary — to believe extraterrestrials have been visiting the planet for the past 40 years, how difficult is it going to be to get you to believe in Atlantis or channeling or past lives or any other nonsense?" asks Philip Klass, a senior editor at Aviation Week and Space Technology.

Still, despite buckets of cold water thrown from the scientific establishment, people remain hot for the scoop about UFOs, contactees and other unproven phenomenon. It took two volumes and 1,300 pages for the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois to compile a complete bibliography of reports and books written on UFOs since 1947.

Are legions of UFO believers really suckers for myth merchants? Winters doesn't think so.

"What it really says is that people know something is going on. They can feel it. They don't care what officials in Washington or what some group of scientists say. They aren't so naive anymore to take these statements at face value," Winters says.

So the claims mount and continue to find disciples. One person's fact is another person's foolishness.

Winters has hitched his star to the validity of a series of Pleiadian contacts claimed by a Swiss villager named Eduard "Billy" Meier.

"I am convinced these are the most important contacts we have ever had. If we get in line with what the Pleiadians are trying to teach us, we'll change the course of history on this planet," he says.

The teachings are found in 1,800 pages of "contact notes" gathered during 130 face-to-face meetings between the entities and Meier at his farm.

The writings touch on every topic under the sun. Meier writes about Pleiadian lifestyle, space travel, a chronology of Earth history going back 22 million years, how the universe operates and the Pleiadian concept of God. He even offers their tips on meditation.

Meier was chosen by the Pleiadians when he was a boy and was educated by them, Winters says. Their interest in this planet is more than casual.

"We are relatives. They were one of the groups of people from deep in space that actually seeded our planet. About one-third of people on Earth are a part of that Pleiadian gene pool," Winters says.

UFOs dazzle 4th in Franklin Twp.

By Jill A. Elish
Record-Courier staff writer

While many spent July 4th with their heads tilted up toward the sky oohing and ahing, some Franklin Township folks were doing the same — except that they don't think that what they saw were fireworks.

The holiday weekend was capped after a few unidentified flying objects flew over the Merrill Road area of Franklin Township, according to Patty Darkow of 1944 Merrill Road.

Darkow said she was in the house cleaning up after a family picnic at about 9:30 p.m. Monday when her husband called her out into the yard. Together with about 20 other family members and neighbors who were also summoned to the yard, the Darkows spotted about 13 objects in the sky.

"It was just a big glow — a big light," said Darkow describing

the spectacle in the sky. "They traveled two at a time and then a little bit later there were two more and then a little later there were two more. There may have been about 13."

The flying objects appeared to do more than just fly around. "They seemed like they were dropping something from them," she said. "You'd just see

a big streak coming from them."

Darkow's husband told her that it looked like the items were being ejected from the UFOs south of the township, probably over the Mogadore area. Mogadore police have not received any calls about possible sightings.

Darkow wouldn't hazard a guess as to what the flying ob-

jects were, saying only that she was sure they weren't airplanes or fireworks and that the objects made no noise.

Although photographs were taken of the flying objects, Darkow doesn't have much hope of ever identifying them. The pictures will probably show little more than a bright spot against a black sky, she said.

Weather balloons are often thought to be the culprit in UFO sightings, however, the nearest stations that release weather balloons are in Dayton and Pittsburgh, according to the Akron-Canton Weather Service.

The sighting doesn't seem to be a fluke, as a neighbor also said she sighted a flying object on Sunday night. And you can bet the Merrill Road folks will be out again tonight — heads tilted toward the sky.

RECORD-COURIER, Ravenna-Kent, OH

July 5, 1988 CR: J. Barbour

Author questions Air Force's public stand on UFOs

By Billy Cox
FLORIDA TODAY

Nineteen years after the Air Force concluded its official investigation of UFOs by shutting down Project Blue Book, the debate over the military's avowed disinterest in the phenomenon swirls on. In the most recent criticism, a British researcher takes aim at a document involving Indian Harbour Beach resident William Coleman.

Project Blue Book, which investigated thousands of UFO reports from 1952-1969, stated that the phenomenon — whatever it was — did not threaten national security and therefore deserved no further study.

But in the recently published "Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Coverup" (Morrow, \$19.95), author Timothy Good suggests otherwise. Good's case centers largely on documentation acquired through the Freedom of Information Act.

Among the circumstantial evidence is a 1969 memo from a USAF brigadier general stating "reports of unidentified flying objects which could affect the national security" were never intended to be a part of the Blue Book study.

He also quotes an Air Force Manual excerpt supposedly disclosed in 1962 by one-time Blue Book officer Coleman, regarding the release of articles for public consumption:

"When the manuscript concerns military subjects it will be submitted to the Office of Information, which will review it for accuracy, propriety, and conformance with policy, security, and for the deletion of classified matter. The policy applies to active duty personnel, retired personnel, civilian employees, and members of civilian components.

"By this order, the Secretary of Air Force Office of Information must delete all evidence of UFO reality and intelligent

control, which would, of course, contradict the Air Force stand that UFOs do not exist. The same rule applies to A.F. press releases and UFO information given to Congress and the public."

Coleman says he hasn't read Good's book and would have to review the whole context of the Air Force Manual before addressing its authenticity. But he says the wording in the excerpt's second paragraph sounds suspect, adding, "If I'd known this was in the manual, I would've jerked it out immediately."

"You can't prove a negative hypothesis," Coleman says. "You can't prove something doesn't exist."

"As far as withholding certain information, that's true of everything in the Air Force, which is a military aristocracy, not a democracy. A person isn't afforded the same privileges as he would be in civilian life. The last thing you want to do is share new data with an adversary. Maybe some

of the reports concerned our own stuff, and you don't talk about your own stuff if it's classified, anyway."

Coleman says his first-hand, fighter-plane scramble after a UFO convinced him the phenomenon was real.

"A lot of people called me a debunker, but my sole role was getting to the truth. The whole point of our mission was to try to prove what people saw. That's exactly what we did," Coleman says.

"Of the 12,891 sightings recorded in Blue Book, we identified all but 700-something, and of those, only 130 were considered worrisome — and by that, I mean they had high-strangeness, high-credibility factors. Those were the ones that made us nervous.

"But we never denied the possibility that we were dealing with extraterrestrial aircraft powered by extraterrestrial intelligence. Again, you cannot disprove a negative."

PROSPECTOR, Del Norte, CO - June 23, 1988

Sighting reaffirms belief

Saucer shape still vivid

By Jeff DeWolf

Apropos

By Jeff DeWolf

"May I have your attention please. The Union will close in 15 minutes at 11 p.m. Thank you."

Little did I know when I gathered up my books at the Bowling Green State University Student Union following that recorded announcement 21 years ago that I'd remember the three-quarter-mile walk back to my dorm for the rest of my life.

That walk was strange from the start. Just after I stepped outside on that frigid January night, I looked up and saw how clear and crisp the stars were shining. With that, a strange feeling swept over me; it was almost a premonition that before I got back to the dorm, I'd see something up there.

So on I walked, looking up in the sky every few feet. I didn't know what I'd see, but as long as I didn't stumble over something, I figured what the heck.

When I got to the library, about halfway across campus, I looked up and there it was: about 60 degrees above the horizon, a grayish-round object about the size of the full moon was heading south. As it passed above the direction I was walking, it immediately turned edgewise and moved directly away from my line of sight, vanishing into the darkness.

I continued my walk back, thinking it somewhat strange, but maybe it was really a bird and my mind was

playing tricks on me. I vaguely remember making casual mention of it to my roommate.

But then, about 10 minutes later, the guy in the next room ran up the stairs as if he'd seen a ghost. As it turned out, he had seen five grayish objects about the size of the full moon flying in a V-shaped formation from south to north, making a humming sound.

With that, I told everyone my story, but still, I felt someone had overheard me talking to my roommate, and decided to pull my leg. So the next afternoon, I came upon my next-door neighbor in front of the Union, and said, "Hey Tom, this guy was looking for you. He had a small body and a big head with two antenna sticking out the top."

I figured he'd laugh it off. Instead, he just gave me a dirty look, and walked away.

So, with that, I figured Tom wasn't kidding, and that both of us had really seen Unidentified Flying Objects. And to this day, it is an experience I cannot explain.

Do "flying saucers" really exist?

Personally, I hope there is some form of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe, primarily because it would reaffirm my belief in God.

Among the untold stars and planets in the cosmos, if earth was the

only planet containing intelligent beings, then to me, the human race would be just one big cosmic fluke, and that maybe there really is no God. Instead, in just this one tiny corner of the universe, exactly the right proportion of atoms and molecules got together to form the forerunners of the human race. Mankind would be alone in the firmament, just a victim of circumstance.

But if there is intelligent life elsewhere, it would mean to me that human beings are something special, and that maybe they indeed were all created by God in his own image, on our planet as well as others.

If my life had just gone a little bit differently, I'd be an astronomer in some observatory right now, perhaps having the very job of looking for life on other worlds. As things turned out, though, I'm doing this. Nonetheless, I still enjoy going out on a clear summer night with my binoculars, and sweeping the star fields of the Milky Way between Cygnus and Sagittarius.

And maybe, just maybe, on one of those warm, crisp summer nights, I may see another one of those dark gray objects about the size of the full moon, and my belief that there is indeed a Master Creator of the Universe will become even stronger.

JOURNAL-STAR, Lincoln, NE - June 26, 1988

Survey sought to project public reaction to UFOs

By Margaret Reist

"The U.S. government revealed today that it has been communicating for decades with beings from other worlds."

Ray Boeche, state director of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, presented this scenario to 475 psychologists and psychiatrists in a survey to determine what they thought public reactions might be if such an announcement were made.

Boeche is chairman of the 1988 MUFON International UFO Symposium, which began Friday and concludes today at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets.

Eighteen percent of the psychologists and psychiatrists responded, and on the basis of their answers, Boeche concluded that the public's sense of ethnocentrism would increase, entities would not be given godlike status, financial chaos would result because of culture shock, global societal anomie eventually would result and the effect on mankind ultimately would be as debilitating as that of European culture's effects on American Indian cultures.

The respondents were split just about down the middle on whether mass panic would result, he said. Personally, he said, he does not think people would panic because they have become accustomed to the idea of beings from other worlds through movies, television and other media.

On another question, a majority of the respondents said people would react with curiosity but not fear.

This was Boeche's scenario:

The U.S. government has maintained a massive cover-up since 1947, when a crashed UFO and its occupants were re-

covered. In 1949, another crashed ship was recovered, this time with survivors. Government officials were able to communicate with them and established electronic communication with other members of the race. In 1964 the aliens gave a fully operable craft to the United States, and its technology is so advanced that it still cannot be reproduced.

The scenario may play itself out if Jaime Shandera is to be believed.

Shandera is a Los Angeles television producer who with author William Moore has spent the past six years researching alleged government activities involving UFOs. He said Saturday said that when their investigation culminates within the next few months, it will prove that a top-secret government project called Operation Majestic-12 — established in 1947 to investigate UFO activity — still exists and controls all information about UFOs.

If everything goes as planned, Shandera says the information also will prove that the United States has had extensive contact with aliens and that MJ-12 operates outside the normal channels of the U.S. government.

Last year, Shandera and Moore made public information from a document they say was leaked to them in 1984. The document, a 1952 Top Secret memorandum, was intended to brief President-elect Dwight Eisenhower on the activities of MJ-12. It detailed the 1947 crash in New Mexico of a UFO, the recovery of the bodies of several aliens and the resulting cover-up.

The conference continues today from 1 to 5 p.m. with a session on abductions of humans by extraterrestrials. Cost of the session is \$10.

Farmer says UFO flew near home

Lawrence deputy hears of 'close encounter'

JOE BAXTER

State Writer

WEST POINT, Tenn. — A reported UFO sighting yesterday morning had Lawrence County investigators seeking to verify a farmer's claim of seeing a bright, globe-shaped object near TVA power lines behind his home.

Coy Luna, 59, said he was "bugging my potatoes in the garden" when his barking dog called his attention to a shiny round object "that had lit in the bottom behind the house."

"I'm not seeing or imagining things, and I haven't had a drink or nothing," said Luna, whose sobriety was confirmed by a sheriff's deputy investigator, Tim Jackson.

Luna described the object as "big enough to hold four or five people" and said "it looked kind of like one of those water tanks you see around here and was covered with something that looked like tinfoil."

"When I first saw it, it was just sitting there. It was so bright it would put your eyes out to look at it. I really don't know if it was the sun reflecting off of it or if it was some kind of lights."

He said he left his garden to take a look because his dog was "raising so much hell."

"He just took off running and barking toward it. When he got about 30 feet away, it went straight up ... and took off real fast. The dog like to went nuts and I did, too."

Despite the brightness, Luna said he could see a small door but "no kind of propeller, landing gear or nothing."

"The door was so small a person would have to bend over to go through it. It went out of here like a jet plane, but it was quiet. You could hear that it had some kind of engine, but I don't know what. It sounded kind of like a Weedeater," said Luna.

Jackson said he was unable to find any ground markings at the scene.

"I made him go over the story seven or eight times and he had the same story each time. He never varied and he wasn't — and hadn't been — drinking," he said. "I'm going to call the air traffic controller to see if TVA or anyone else has had any planes or helicopters flying around these power lines."

Luna said he wishes someone could determine what he saw.

"I'd give a good piece of money to find out what it was," he said. "I didn't call the Sheriff's Department to report it. The only reason I called was to see if anyone else had seen it too."

"I've never believed in UFOs or anything like that, but this sure scared me to death." ■

TENNESSEAN, Nashville, TN

June 7, 1988

Local MUFON chapter member knows what she has witnessed

By MAUREEN BASHAW
News-Press Staff Writer

Shirley Fox believes in close encounters with unidentified space ships. So do the handful of other members of the local chapter of the International Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

They have photographs galore of their sightings.

"Oh, they exist," says Fox of Fort Myers, a field investigator for the network.

But Fox doesn't know where they come from. "Until one lands we're all guessing," she says. "It gets frustrating. We know the government knows." She says she has seen reports of UFO activity in FBI and CIA documents.

Fox first saw a UFO in the early 1950s near an Air Force base close to her home in Concord, Mass. It was early evening when Fox walked outside and saw a neighbor staring skywards.

"She called out to me, said there was something strange in the sky," When Fox looked up, she saw some hazy green lights circling.

A few months later, she was sitting on her back terrace about twilight time when she saw another UFO. "It was like an orange football surrounded by little white lights," she said.

She reported her sightings and became involved with the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Washington, D.C. For 10 years Fox worked with the national organization as an investigator before moving to Florida and getting involved here.

"More people are daring to report sightings now that research has proven UFOs exist."

However, many times the things people think are UFOs, are stars or airplanes. "Jupiter and Venus are often mistaken for UFOs," Fox adds.

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

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

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

If UFOs are in fact real, and there seems to be an abundance of evidence signifying this, and they are intelligently controlled as seems to be the case, then who are the occupants and what do they look like? How would we expect them to interact with us? Are they friendly or hostile? Will they try to take over our planet? Can we get along with them? These are questions we all have asked ourselves many times. Strange as this may seem, there are over a hundred thousand documented cases on record from which we may draw some conclusions.

In the early days of modern UFO history, the 1950s and 60s, those observers who were close enough to the phenomena being observed and lucky enough to experience some kind of direct contact with the occupants of the unique craft, reported that they looked very human, just like us, except that they generally had long hair, fair skin, and were often dressed in a peculiar one-piece body suit. They almost always communicated with the witness in his own language either by phonetically articulating the words or by some kind of mental telepathy. All cases of reported direct contact were of course ridiculed at the time, and the few cases that did come forward had been carefully screened by convention alone to eliminate all but the most plausible of contacts, and then with beings like us. Since this was before we Earthlings had

ever put anything into orbit in the space around our planet, and could not conceive of anybody coming here from another star system, because this would take lifetimes for the travelers, most observers concluded that the visitors had to be coming from within our solar system and more likely from our neighboring planets.

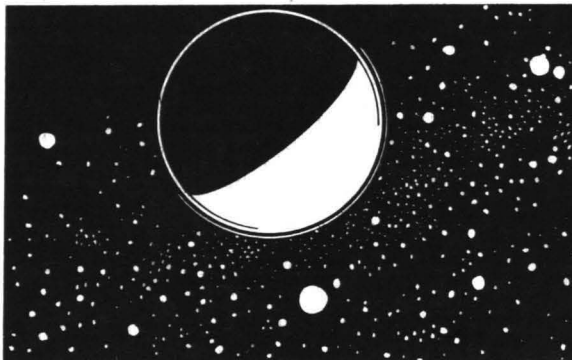
Then there was a transition in the 1960s and 70s to include some rare and very unusual creature types not articulating words and often not communicating in any way with the witnesses. There was great variety of physical form and behavior in this type of ET creature reported. They ranged from small hairy pudding bags, as in a case in Venezuela, to large scaly monsters as in a case in Phoenix, Arizona. There were also human-like entities still being reported, but the emphasis had shifted to the rare creature type. Attention seemed to be more focused on the bizarre.

That was followed by another switch in the 1970s and 80s to more frequent reports of a diminutive humanoid type from 3.5 to 4.5 feet tall, with a large head, large dark eyes, small mouth, no ears, and a pasty-white to grayish-white, grayish-blue or grayish-tan skin. These little beings had no visible hair on their heads, eyebrows or skin and had no eyelashes. They had long arms and long slender fingers, shorter legs and small stumpy feet. Many of these little humanoids were observed to be safely breathing our atmosphere, whereas some of the stranger forms were not. Attention was not

focused on the humanoid type, almost to the exclusion of the others.

The fact of the matter is that there had been no great shift in

we would more likely find that the spread in varieties of extraterrestrials making these contacts had really changed very little, and that the contacts



the nature of the extraterrestrial contacts, but only in the nature of the reporting. It was now more fashionable to report the humanoid contacts forward, because now the human-like entities were out of favor. If we were to be able to receive all the contact reports from all over the world, unfiltered by convention,

had been going on for a very long time before the beginning of our modern reporting period.

In UFO '79, a national UFO conference in San Diego late in 1979, Walt Andrus, the leader of MUFON (Mutual UFO Net-

work) delivered a presentation on UFO occupants, and in that discussion he pointed out that of all the UFO contact cases reported to MUFON up to that time, approximately one-third were of the extraterrestrial beings described as very human, just like us. Another one-third were of the smaller humanoid type of hairless creature with the grayish skin. And the last third was a catch-all category including all the others. About this same spread in alien contact entities was also discovered by Arthur Bray in Canada and by Jun-Ichi Yaoi in Japan, among others.

Thus the occupants of the UFOs seem to come from a great many places in space having considerable variety in habitat and environment, and they are mostly human-like or humanoid, at least the ones visiting this planet, but they also include a wide range of other exotic types of intelligent space-travelling creatures.

They seem to be studying our planet, its environment, and all the life forms in evolution here, incidentally including us humans. They have been observed collecting specimens and data. They seem to be neither very friendly or hostile but mostly interested observers. If they wanted to take over our planet it does not seem likely that they would wait for us to build our arsenal of thousands of atomic weapons before deciding to do so, and it appears quite likely that they could have taken over our planet almost any time they wanted. Thus, we are probably in no more danger there now than we were many years ago.

And since they apparently do not want our planet, but they are very interested in studying it, it follows that we can get along very well with them if we choose to do so. Why don't we look at the positive benefits of a workable relationship with our visitors from space instead of denying their existence and frightening our people with false information. Surely there is a better way.

UFO contact cases involving all three classes of these alien extraterrestrial types were featured in a 416 page hardcover book, *UFO Abduction at Mirasol*, published by UFO Photo Archives. A few copies are still available from Christine Cox, P.O. Box 1053, Florence, AZ 85232 for \$19.95 plus \$1.25 for postage and handling.

UFO Update

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL
June 16, 1988 CR: R. Reid

On Thursday, May 5, a second time sighter and her mother saw a white vessel with no wings, no tail, no smoke, no sound, and no light as they crossed the Bob Sikes Bridge about 6 p.m. Viewer stated it was flat like an airplane, sans wings or tail, with a top that may have been "bumpy."

As they crossed the bridge, they watched for several minutes as it flew slowly toward the East and hovered, then continued in a straight line.

The sighter stated that when they paid the toll at the foot of the bridge, the vessel—instead of turning simply reversed and flew straight back toward them, then back toward the East. It then took off fast and disappeared within seconds.

UFO sightings in Panhandle debated

GULF BREEZE — (AP) — Some experts and local officials contend photographs of purported UFOs taken in this Pensacola suburb are an obvious hoax while others say they may be the real thing.

But no one so far has come up with any proof of what the bright saucer-shaped objects are.

The purported unidentified flying objects were photographed by a businessman in this Florida Panhandle city who has been identified only as "Jim" because he fears his reputation would be ruined if neighbors found out who he was.

"Jim" told the Pensacola News Journal for an article published Saturday that he has photographed the objects 33 times since last November. Many of the photos have been published in the weekly Gulf Breeze Sentinel.

Dozens of other Gulf Breeze residents also have claimed to see strange flying objects in the sky over this town on a peninsula that juts into Pensacola Bay, including City Councilwoman Brenda Pollock.

But Mayor Ed Gray III is among the many who flatly say the UFOs are a hoax.

There also has been no word of UFOs from the military, which operates hundreds of aircraft within a 40 mile radius of Gulf Breeze out of the Pensacola Naval Air Station, Whiting Field Naval Air Station, Eglin Air Force Base and the Air Force's Hurlburt Field, and off the Pensacola-based air-

No one so far has come up with any proof of what the bright saucer-shaped objects are.

craft carrier USS Lexington.

The Mutual UFO Network is investigating but has made no pronouncement yet.

It is either the best case the organization has worked on or the best-orchestrated hoax, said Walter Andrus, international director of MUFON.

Others who hold themselves out as UFO experts disagree.

"I'm absolutely convinced the photos are phony," said Willy Smith, co-founder of UNICAT, an international UFO information-gathering organization.

Smith said he can see a support under the UFO on one of the photos. Difference in size and spacing on the craft's windows lead to the suspicion it is a model and that the windows were painted on.

"Jim" told the News Journal that the support is an emulsion streak on the photo.

The photos probably are a hoax, concluded Robert Boyd an investigator in Mobile, Ala., for CUFOs, the Center for UFO Studies. In an April CUFOs bulletin the group questioned imperfections in the photos, including waviness that

suggests they were taken near or reflected off water.

Philip Klass, found of CSIOF, the Committee on the Study and Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, and one of the nation's chief UFO debunkers, says he wouldn't even waste time investigating the Gulf Breeze sightings.

"I only investigate those that might be genuinely impressive to the public," Klass said from his Washington home.

But Bruce Maccabee, a Navy physicist in Washington, says "there's a good chance it's the real thing."

Maccabee said he has written a 60-page report on the Gulf Breeze incidents and will present it to a UFO symposium next month in Lincoln, Neb. Until then, he said, he plans to keep its contents a secret.

In addition to the photos and sightings of flying objects, "Jim" claims he saw one of the things deposit five aliens on a road and that he was startled by an alien face peering into a window of his home.

He also told the News Journal that the aliens have communicated to him, sometimes in Spanish, and

that their craft shot down a blue beam that immobilized him and lifted him off the ground.

Those claims have been taken seriously by Budd Hopkins, author of "Intruders," a best-selling book about people who say they were temporarily abducted by aliens.

After meeting with Hopkins, "Jim" too says he may have been abducted. He said he stopped his car one night when he saw a bright light coming toward it. The light filled his car but the next thing he can remember is five or six hours later when morning traffic was going by, "Jim" said.

He told the newspaper that he had just passed off that incident and two similar instances as time missing from his life until Hopkins came to talk to him.

"So far, I haven't seen a single solitary flaw in his story or the case, except that it is very bizarre," Hopkins said.

"Jim" said he took a polygraph test that shows he is telling the truth and he wants to undergo hypnosis to try to remember what happened during the instances of missing time.

Hopkins said he was impressed that "Jim" turned down a six-figure offer from a book publisher to write about his experiences.

"I am convinced that a hoaxer, who is ultimately going to be exposed, would never in a thousand years have turned down that book contract," he said. "He would have taken the money and run."

Sisters scan skies, seek UFO proof

By PAUL DELLINGER
SOUTHWEST BUREAU

WYTHEVILLE — In the past six months, Wytheville has become a mecca for UFO pilgrimages.

"I came all the way from Virginia Beach," said Starla Jones, who packed her videotape recorder and made two trips to Wytheville in search of unidentified flying objects. "I wanted to see for myself. Seeing is believing."

Starla Jones has been accompanied on both trips by her sister-in-law, Kim Jones, from the Goodview area near Roanoke, who also is equipped to videotape any passing UFOs. She took two days off from operating Kim's Unisex Beauty Salon for their most recent visit in April.

"She runs a full-time business," Starla Jones said. "I've got a 10-month-old son and I don't have time for a hobby. But this is more than a hobby."

So far, with several nights of UFO-hunting in Wythe County behind them,

they have not caught anything on tape that they are ready to declare as a UFO. They did record one bright light that appeared and disappeared through some clouds, but have decided that it was probably Venus, which currently dominates the evening sky.

But the two are not shy about aiming their video recorders at others who have seen what they describe as UFOs.

When they attended the first meeting of the Southwest Virginia UFO Group here April 28, "everybody thought that we were news people," Starla Jones said. One woman they tried to interview waved them away, saying, "No comment, no comment!"

"We really get some funny reactions," she said. "We could write a book with all of the information and the interviews that we've got."

They have found Wythe County residents who have seen UFOs to be calm and rational, not the type of people to see flying saucers behind every cloud. As to what these people have seen, guesses have

ranged from silenced military helicopters and the secret Stealth bomber — which the Air Force says has not yet flown — to spacecraft.

At their own homes, Kim and Starla Jones said, the reactions they get from their families and friends often come down to a single question: "You all don't really believe in that stuff, do you?"

But those same friends and family members are always eager to find out what they might have seen and who they interviewed when they return from a UFO trip to Wytheville. Kim Jones said her father has had second thoughts since one of his employees saw something over Virginia 24 east of Roanoke that did not seem to be an airplane.

Her boyfriend, who made fun of her UFO interests, also spotted something he could not explain. "He says there's something to it now," she said.

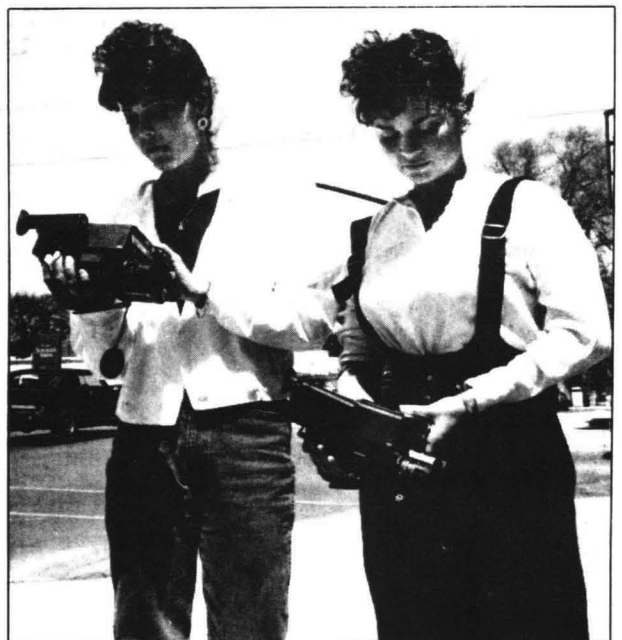
Since last October, UFOs have been reported in Smyth, Washington, Bland, Grayson and Carroll counties, as well as Wythe. Why is Wytheville attracting all

the UFO followers?

An obvious reason is that Wytheville, located near the junction of Interstates 81 and 77, is an easy place to reach. Another reason is Danny Gordon, news director at a Wytheville radio station, who reported the first stories of UFO sightings last year.

Gordon has been thrust into the informal role of UFO ambassador to Wytheville's visitors, whether they are reporters like him or UFO buffs who have come to see whatever they can see. He has become so associated with the UFO story that many people telephone him about sightings, sometimes from across the country, more quickly than they would notify authorities.

The local chamber of commerce refers to Gordon callers who ask about coming to look for UFOs. A group from Maryland recently made the trek, and Kim and Starla Jones visited Wytheville after hearing news reports.



PAUL DELLINGER

Kim Jones (left) and her sister, Starla, have made trek to Wythe County with videotape recorders at the ready

Prof urges scientists to check on UFOs

OSU News Service

A large number of UFO sightings are "crying out" for more serious study by both the science community and an impartial news media, a researcher believes.

The increasing volume of UFO "encounters" and the apparent validity of at least some of them deserve far more attention than they are getting, the scientist said Monday at an annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pacific Division.

According to James Deardorff, a professor emeritus of atmospheric sciences at Oregon State University, the evidence of an extraterrestrial presence on Earth is "getting much stronger, and the reports show no signs of diminishing."

But the traditional scientific disciplines and the reputable news media both refuse to examine the evidence on its merits, he said, because of fear of ridicule.

"This is either a grandiose, master hoax, on a worldwide basis," Deardorff said, "or this is the real thing."

On a global scale, there are an average of about 5,000 UFO sightings and other types of encounters each year "that don't have any obvious natural explanation," Deardorff said.

Since 1975, large amounts of photographic evidence have been accumulating, and theories have been developed about why aliens would choose to make their presence known only to a select few people, in a discreet fashion, he said. But prevailing social and scientific attitudes create an atmosphere in which "no type or amount of evidence is considered relevant."

"If this was anything less bizarre, the response would be quite different, and scientists would look more readily at the weight of the evidence," Deardorff said. "But since the presence of aliens is difficult to understand and threatening to many belief systems, scientists just focus on the frauds or shaky reports and ignore the more persuasive ones."

This is particularly true even in organizations "that supposedly investigate" UFO phenomena, Deardorff said, such as the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

"That group has exposed some true frauds, and in that sense they perform a useful public service," Deardorff said. "But in the investigation of extraterrestrial possibilities, I think they are heavily biased and their methods are unscientific. They emphasize any data that questions the existence of UFOs and discard any data that supports their existence."

The national news media and wire services also refuse to investigate most UFO sightings for fear of ridicule and other reasons similar to those of the science community, Deardorff said. Most reports never get past the local news outlets, he said.

Motels, restaurants and other area businesses are the beneficiaries. Gov. Gerald Baliles got it exactly right last year when, after being presented with a UFO T-shirt by a local entrepreneur during a visit to Wytheville, he joked about tourism benefits from flying saucers.

Last month's UFO meeting at the Wythe County Public Library is the third gathering of its kind Gordon has organized. While earlier meetings drew mostly local residents wanting to discuss what they had seen, this one attracted visitors from as far away as Charlottesville and West Virginia.

Isabel Gordon of Princeton, W.Va., a retired non-sectarian minister and no relation to Danny Gordon, told the standing-room-only crowd of about 60 that a UFO that appeared over the Princeton Holiday Inn in 1978 contacted her telepathically to assure her it meant no harm. She said she has had a number of UFO encounters since that time.

"We sent something to the moon. How could we be so stupid as not to believe they could come here?" Gordon asked. "Keep an open mind, listen and look to the heavens."

David Bodner of Elkhorn, W.Va., distributed forms to specify times, places, weather conditions and other data when a sighting occurs. The point is to lend more credibility to sightings.

"Our job is to turn a UFO into an IFO [identified flying object]," said Bodner, who is affiliated with the Mutual UFO Network, which tries to coordinate information about sightings.

"If you don't get the correct information, if you don't get the right information, then everything from

that point on is going to be lost," Bodner said.

Starla and Kim Jones both find the telepathy account a bit farther out than they are ready to go. "We're not going to let our imaginations run away with us," Starla said. But they have no trouble believing that a lot of people here have seen something real in the skies.

Some of the UFO buffs, such as Isabel Gordon or author Alice Moeller of Stuart, who spoke on UFO abductions at a March 12 gathering here, have a spiritual feel in the

way they talk about the phenomena. The UFOs become more an article of faith than something to be researched or pursued.

"To me, it's just seeing it. That would be worth it all to me," Kim said. "And getting it on tape — I think it would be neat."

But Starla said taping a UFO is not their goal.

"It would be enough just to see it," she said. "I think probably, for the rest of my life, I'll be searching the sky."

UFO sightings disappear from Gulf Breeze skies

By Michael Burke
News Journal

The lack of rain in May coincided with a drought in reports about UFOs seen over Gulf Breeze.

"Things have really dropped off," said Charles Flannigan of Pensacola, who has investigated reports of flying objects for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

A Gulf Breeze resident who has produced photographs of what appeared to be strange spacecraft hovering over the city has not reported any sightings since May 1, Flannigan said. On that date, the resident, who wishes to be identified only as Jim, obtained a photo of two objects in the sky, Flannigan said.

Walter Andrus, director of

MUFON, a private UFO investigative group, said that since May 1, reports from Gulf Breeze have "slowed up immensely."

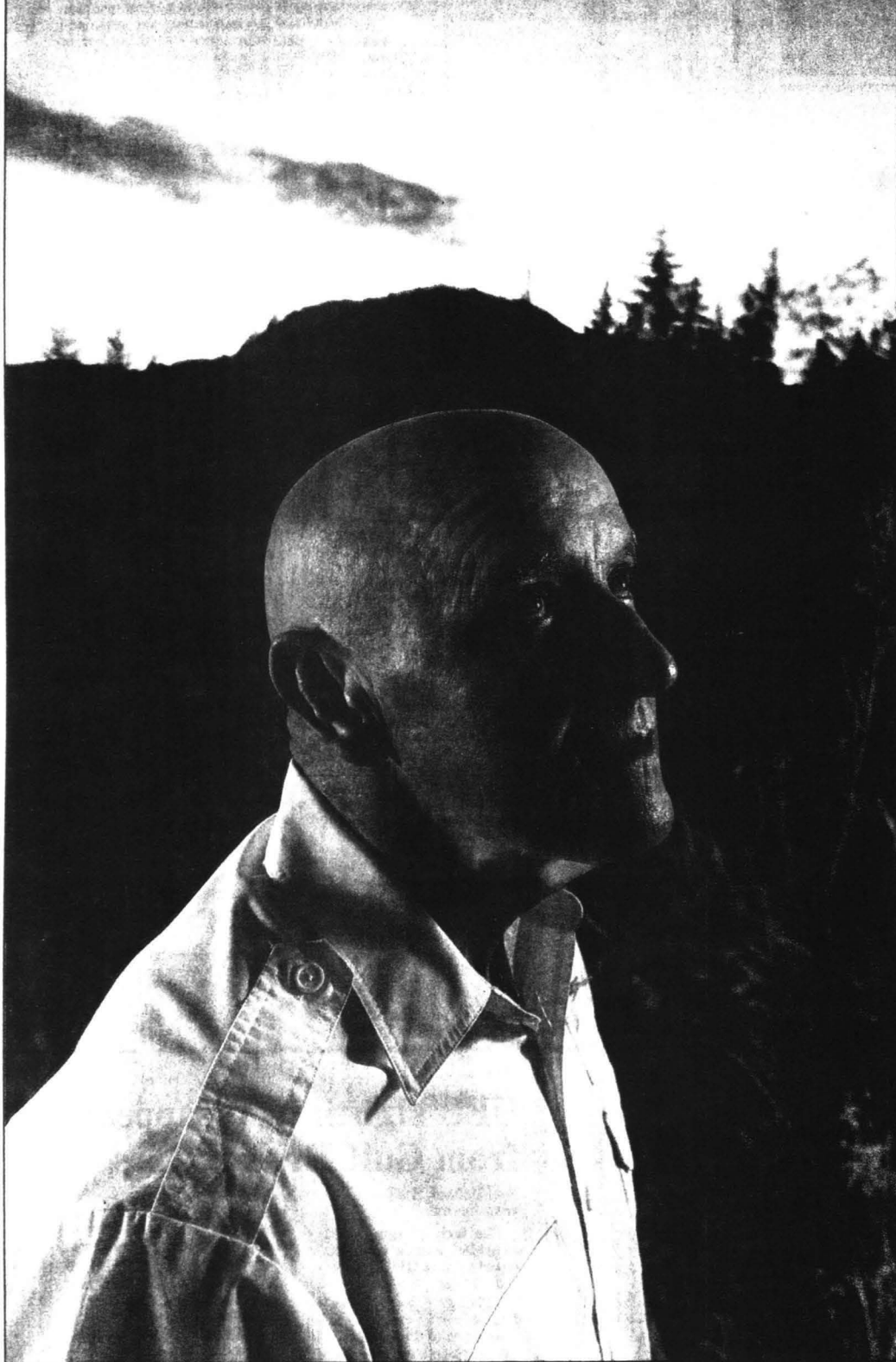
Andrus, speaking from his home in Seguin, Texas, said the sightings of UFOs over Gulf Breeze represent "the best case we've ever had."

MUFON has said that since the first Gulf Breeze photographs were taken in November 1987, the group gathered reports on 68 sightings in the Gulf Breeze area.

MUFON officials will hold their annual symposium June 24-26 in Lincoln, Neb. Dr. Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist from Washington, D.C., will then release a report concerning his analysis of Jim's photographs.

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL - June 11, 1988

UFO ENCOUNTERS



While George Dorsey and family watched, the saucer-shaped thing came from behind Spencer Butte, hovered, then took off

by BOB KEEFER

photos by GEORGE MILLENER
THE REGISTER-GUARD

A surprising number of people
say they've seen UFOs and aliens

SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, when she was a student in graduate school, M. was abducted by space aliens. They were short, silent creatures with large gray eyes and skin that felt like vinyl upholstery.

M. is explaining this to me on a crisp summer afternoon at her fashionable Portland townhouse, where she has agreed, with great reluctance, to talk about an experience she finds as incomprehensible as if her car had vanished in front of her eyes one sunny afternoon.

After talking for more than two hours, she stops suddenly and looks directly at me. "What do you think?" she says, almost pleading. "Do you believe any of this?"

M. is one of dozens of people I have talked to in the past month about their encounters with extraterrestrial beings, flying saucers, psychic inhabitants of other dimensions or simply mysterious lights in the sky.

They have included loggers, scientists, homemakers, students and white-collar executives. Some claim to understand what has happened to them. Most don't. Many are embarrassed to talk about a subject that has brought scorn on many of them and snickers from even my own colleagues here at the newspaper.

They called and wrote in response to a short story The Register-Guard published on June 12, inviting the public to share accounts of first-hand encounters with unidentified flying objects and extraterrestrial creatures.

"Have you seen a UFO?" it began. "Have you ever had any contact with occupants of a UFO?"

George Dorsey says he has.

The 67-year-old retired letter carrier was sitting with his wife and grandchildren outside his rural home just south of Eugene one evening in July 1986 when they all saw something unusual hovering over Spencer Butte, a mile or so away.

"The sun had just set," says Dorsey, who worked as a Navy combat aircraft spotter during World War II and seems invulnerable to flights of fancy. "My wife saw it first. 'What's that coming over the butte?' It came very slowly into our view. Your mind starts clicking. Wings? Shape? Altitude? Speed?"

"It was pinkish orange. Round. Quiet. It was probably traveling under 100 knots. Maybe 60, 80 feet in diameter. And saucer-shaped."

The saucer sat there a moment, Dorsey says, "undulating" with what seemed to be a pulsating ring of lights on its perimeter, perhaps 2,000 feet above the top of the butte.

And then, with everyone watching closely, it did the impossible.

"It took off," he says. "It shot. It didn't take any longer than a second to go from the butte in front of us over the forest behind us. Just like you take a flashlight in a dark room and turn your wrist. That's how quickly it moved. It had to be going at least 35,000 miles per hour. Earth speed."

When I began work on this story, I didn't expect to end up believing in flying saucers. I don't quite know what I expected. I have never seen a UFO myself and still don't expect I ever will. I thought I would get a lot of calls and letters from cranks and publicity seekers selling blurry pictures of Frisbees wrapped in tin foil.

To my surprise, I found this instead: a series of calm, matter-of-fact accounts from people as diverse as can be found in a place like Oregon. Taken together, their stories have as much of the texture of truth as if I had asked people to tell me about their high school graduations or disciplining their children.

The stories go something like this: You're outside at night, sometimes alone and sometimes not, and chance to look up in the sky. Maybe you're driving in the car. You see something you've never seen before, surprisingly large, high or fast, doing things that don't seem possible.

And even though that may be all you see — even though whatever it is you are watching may disappear seconds later — the experience stays with you all your life.

(continued on page 7)



Helen Mann holds photos of one of the many UFOs she's seen

"I saw something that had to have been a UFO 20 years ago out in the middle of South America," recalls Eugene native Jean Gonzalez, who was living with her husband on a remote Colombian coffee ranch, miles from the nearest town, when she chanced to see an odd light in the night sky.

"At first I thought it was a falling star. Then it stopped, stayed stationary. It hovered over the trees on the horizon, which was 2 to 3 miles from me. Then it moved up, upward diagonally, and then dropped vertically and hovered again and disappeared."

Like Dorsey, Gonzalez declines to speculate too deeply about what she saw that night. "I have often thought about it and wondered," she says. "But I don't know what it was."

Sometimes the visitors stay around for more than a few seconds, leaving little doubt in people's minds about what is going on.

Helen Mann, a Myrtle Creek woman in her 60s, says she was frequently chased and harassed by UFOs as she drove the back roads of Douglas County late at night while working as a newspaper carrier between 1965 and 1971. On one occasion, a "dirigible-type thing" that hovered nearby took control of her car. "My lights went out. The engine. Everything. The hair on my arms felt like static electricity. Then the radio came on. And the lights. And we were moving again. I don't care whether you believe me or not. This is the truth."

Ethel Nafus, who lives in Eugene, says she was turned back twice on a lonely road in North Dakota by a large, round, glowing ship that hovered over the highway on Thanksgiving night, 1968. "It was 50 feet across," she says. "Like a bowl. Round on the bottom. Bigger than a house. Glowed a beautiful orange, like hot metal. It didn't have legs or windows. It parked about 30 feet above the highway. I wasn't that scared. I was more mad. I knew it was playing with me."

Some people know all too clearly what took place.

STAN JOHNSON TALKS about visiting the fifth dimension as though it were a trip to the corner store. "I was there on Wednesday," he says, and means it.

Johnson, a 72-year-old former logger, lives outside Sutherlin, just across Highway 138 from the circles burned into the grass of a meadow by what he says were the landings of a disabled flying saucer and two smaller repair ships sent to its assistance.

An affable, mustachioed man who has been in some demand as a radio talk-show guest, Johnson says he had his first encounter with a space alien while deer hunting in 1983, in the form of Sasquatch, who was peering at him over a stump.

"I stopped five yards from him," Johnson says. "I couldn't get him to talk to me. So I talked to him. Asked him who he was. He was just standing there with a grin on his face."

Johnson ultimately became friends with Sasquatch and a host of other inhabitants of this and other dimensions. His spirit guide is named Danielle. She paid a visit to Johnson's living room one afternoon as he was describing his recent trip to the fifth dimension, bringing a look of slight annoyance to his face.

"They bug me like that," he says. "Every time anybody's here, they come around to check up on me."

While his stories are outlandish, Johnson's overall analysis is pretty mainstream by UFO standards.

WE ARE PART of a federation of other planets, he says, who depend on us for survival as we do on them. The people who live on these planets are trying to contact us, to warn us not to destroy ourselves and them, too. They are our friends, protectors — some might say gods.

If this all sounds like Star Trek to you, it's actually not far removed from a theory that tries to explain why anyone from the billions of galaxies out there would take an interest in the planet Earth.

UFOs, which may have visited the Earth regularly through history, have shown up here with increasing frequency in the past 40 years or so — since the development of nuclear weapons — says one of the rare scientists who takes UFO reports seriously. It may be because they have a message to bring us, he says.

"It is obvious things got going pretty fast about 1947 — and have been continuing at a rapid rate since then," says James Deardorff, a retired professor of atmospheric science at Oregon State University.

Sensitive, like all scientists, to professional ridicule and the harm it can do a career, he kept his interest in UFOs largely to himself until his retirement a few years ago.

Last month, he lectured at a meeting of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science on the evidence for extraterrestrial beings, telling former colleagues it makes no sense to ignore some 5,000 UFO sightings a year around the world.

"UFOs are rather like meteorites were back in the 1800s," Deardorff says. "They weren't believed in by scientists for a good hundred years."

Mainstream science basically has ducked the issue, Deardorff charges, along with the mainstream news media.

"If this was anything less bizarre, the response would be quite different, and scientists would look more readily at the weight of the evidence," he says. "But since the presence of aliens is difficult to understand and threatening to many belief systems, scientists just focus on the frauds or shaky reports and ignore the more persuasive ones."

ANOTHER OREGON scientist who keeps an open mind about UFOs is Steve Seifried, a graduate student in chemistry at the University of Oregon. Seifried grew up in the shadow of Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, the supposed storehouse for alien spaceship wreckage collected by the government, and has always been fascinated by tales and possibilities of visitors from afar.

In his spare time, Seifried is a field investigator for MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, an international UFO reporting agency. Over the years, he has met a lot of people who saw strange lights in the sky — and a handful of people who believe they have been abducted by aliens.

It is these cases — sometimes referred to as cases of "high strangeness" by UFO investigators — that fascinate Seifried.

"I don't want to debate whether they're real or not," he says. "But people who are abducted — whether they were actually abducted or whether this is some psychic or psychological phenomenon — it really affects their lives. They become almost obsessed."

And that perfectly describes M., to whose story we now return.

M. is a woman in her 40s, married, with children. She is well educated, articulate and works professionally. She didn't seek me out, and, in fact, resisted being interviewed at first. To tell more than that about her would violate a promise I made to keep her identity a secret.

For M. is very frightened.

"It is so hard for me to comprehend this," she begins. "You're going to think all kinds of things. I would never have believed this, even about a friend. And you don't know me at all."

It happened in 1971, when M. was a student at a Midwestern university. She and a friend, J. — just a male friend, she is careful to point out, not a boyfriend — went out one evening to talk. They sat in his parked car on a bluff overlooking the university. "We weren't taking drugs," she says. "And we weren't making out."

A bright dot moved across the sky — a satellite, they thought at first. Then it stopped moving. Then, as they watched, more curious now, it grew brighter. "It came directly at us," she says. "You couldn't see a shape. Then it hovered right in front of us. It was very large. Maybe four cars long. We became hysterical. J. started screaming and yelling for me to lock the door."

The next thing M. remembers is peeking out the window of the car and watching the thing fly away. Her friend drove her home. She was getting undressed for bed when she looked at the time, expecting it to be around midnight.

The clock said 3 a.m.

IN THE COMING months, M. had what she thought was a nervous breakdown. Previously a good student, she stopped going to classes. She avoided seeing her friends. And she never saw J., who refused to talk with her the one time she went to visit him.



Stan Johnson stands by a circle burned into grass, a UFO landing site outside Sutherlin

She had a recurring dream, in which a black panther with huge eyes stalked her incessantly. "I got to the point I would try not to sleep at night," she says. "I would just try to keep myself up."

With time, M.'s life came back into focus. She moved from the Midwest, married, got jobs. She hadn't thought of the night on the bluff for years when, in 1980, she was hypnotized for a problem with stage fright.

About two weeks later, she began to remember. "In the middle of the day, it would come to me," she says. "Horrid flashbacks. I remembered there was a shape to this light. Footsteps. The crushing of grass. There was something there."

M.'s voice is tight now, near tears. "Last summer I started, it started, getting more intense. I remembered: There were faces in the car window. Faces. I saw this face. I kept seeing this face. I was just scared to death."

Last December, M. went to another hypnotist and asked to regress to that evening in 1971. She wanted to remember what she had seen, what happened to her, what it was that frightened her so. "This is part of my life," she says. "I want to remember it."

In a four-hour session, the memories came back, a piece at a time. Unable, M. thinks, to comprehend the entire experience, she has put it back together in sections. A face with large gray eyes, the color of hematite. A hand that beckoned to her to open the car door. The reflection off the bumper of J.'s car, seen from above as she and J. were taken into an alien ship in a bright beam of light.

"This actually did happen," she says firmly, as though to herself now. "Two people came to my door. They took my friend. They took me. They took us inside the UFO."

The air inside the space ship was colored lavender, M. says. The room they were in was circular and open, with a ledge around the outside. The surfaces were burnished metal. She and J. stood facing each other, two aliens flanking each of them. The creatures were short, no more than shoulder height. "They never talked to me through their mouths," she says. "They talked to me by mind. There were no words. They were very kind to me. They weren't rough. They were nice."

"At one point, the one on my right said, 'It's time we moved into this area.'"

Try as she will, M. cannot remember what "this area" was or what happened when she and her friend were taken there. All she sees, when she looks there, is blackness. "There's this moment in time you can't account for," she says. "And you find someone else took that moment. It's scary. I don't know what might be behind that black place. It could be horrid — and it could be lovely."

ABDUCTEES, SEIFRIED says, sometimes have distinctive scars, as though they had been the subjects of some laboratory test. A small scraping of skin from the shin, for example, or a mark that looks like a spider bite on the lower abdomen, near the navel. "A lot of the abductions seem to involve some kind of examination or sample taking," he says.

M. cannot recall any of these.

She telephoned J. in January for the first time in many years. After some polite conversation, she told him what she had learned about that night in his car. J. listened carefully, she

says, and asked questions. But he remembered none of it. She asked if he would find a hypnotist and regress to that day in 1971. He said he would think about it.

"I've never heard back from him," she says. "And I don't expect to."

Seifried says M.'s reaction to her apparent abduction, even 17 years after the fact, is typical. "People feel they've been violated," he says. "And partly, they're fascinated. What is it that did this to me?"

IN PORTLAND, a small group of "contactees" has met regularly during the past year, wrestling with the problems faced by people who have an overpowering experience they don't understand, and who quickly learn they can't talk about with most other people, Deardorff says. "Some people have been committed to insane asylums," he says. "That's a difficult burden to face."

M.'s story is similar to one Seifried tells about a man he interviewed, who was hiking in Idaho and woke up, having apparently taken a nap, on the wrong trail.

"All he remembered was being in the wrong place," Seifried says. "But later on, whenever he would see anything about UFOs on TV or anywhere, he would grow very anxious. So he contacted MUFON and agreed to be hypnotized. It turned out he saw the entities, was picked up and put on the examination table."

Nevertheless, Seifried is not a true believer — at least, not yet.

"The reason hard science hasn't gone after this is, there's so darned little to measure," he says.

But he remains fascinated by what he sees as unaccountable parallels. The ships that are described in the same terms, the aliens with the same big eyes, even the sequence of events that occur in alien abductions. "That's what has kept me in it," he says. "People describe the same kinds of craft. The same events. In North America. In South America. Africa. Malaysia. In cultures and among people that have no interaction at all. There has to be something common here."

There is one more curious thing about UFOs, perhaps one more dangling common thread for investigators to follow: the sense of longing. Practically everybody who has ever seen a UFO wants to see it again.

Even M.

"I would hope to put my fears behind me enough that I could speak to them," she says. "I would hope I would be unafraid to speak to them face to face."

Find out who's out there on UFO hotline

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL
June 23, 1988

UFOlogist: Gulf Breeze sightings may not be fake

By Dave Richardson
News Journal

A physicist who has studied UFO photos and sightings in Gulf Breeze concludes there is no proof that the sightings are a hoax.

Bruce Maccabee, a research physicist who works at a Navy laboratory near Washington and teaches at The American University, is scheduled to present his 83-page paper on the Gulf Breeze sightings this week at a UFO symposium in Lincoln, Neb.

Maccabee has investigated more than three dozen photos taken by a Gulf Breeze businessman known as "Jim," which is not his real name. His report also mentions 52 reported sightings by more than 100 others in the Gulf Breeze area.

Jim first saw and photographed an object in the evening sky Nov. 11. The photos were published in the Gulf Breeze Sentinel. Numerous other sightings have

been reported since then, and the "Gulf Breeze Case" has gained nationwide attention, especially among persons who study UFOs.

Walter Andrus, Jr., international director of the Mutual UFO Network Inc., characterized the Gulf Breeze sighting as possibly "one of the most important UFO cases in the past 40 years."

Maccabee, who has studied UFOs for more than 20 years, said the Gulf Breeze sightings are unlike others in many ways: Jim has not sought publicity or money, he has cooperated fully, and even passed a lie detector test. Because of his standing in the community and reputation, he is the antithesis of what UFOlogists expect of someone who sees an unidentified object, or of a hoaxter.

Maccabee states: "Also, unlike other contactee and hoax cases, numerous other witnesses unknown to Jim have independently stepped forward and described their

own sighting in the same area and even on some of the same days as some of Jim's sighting. There are even other photographers involved (at least four as of this date)."

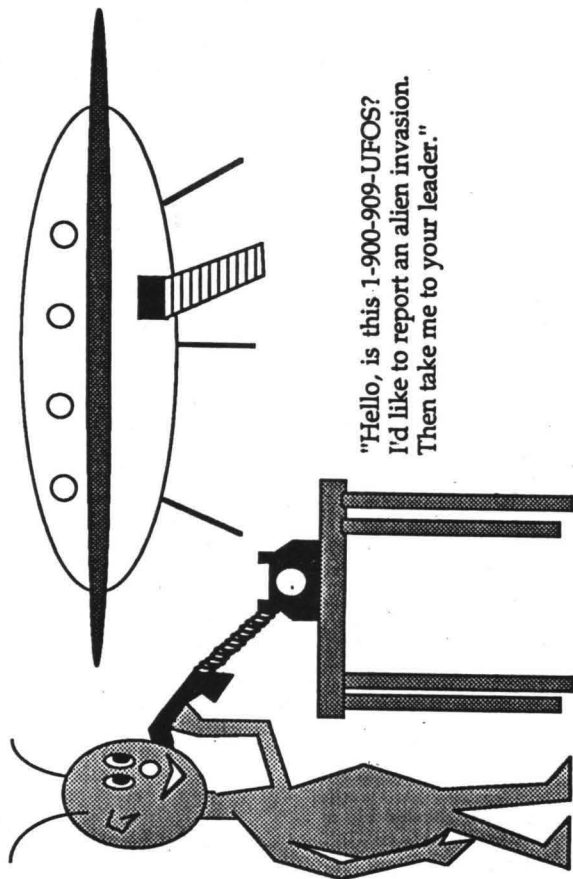
"... One must consider at least the possibility that UFOs really were flying around Gulf Breeze and Jim happened to get pictures of them."

In his report, Maccabee examines claims that the sightings and photos are hoaxes. He concludes the objections are unfounded, or shows how they might be explained. In his introduction, Maccabee states that he does not yet have a final opinion.

Jim, the UFO photographer, said he got a copy of Maccabee's report late Monday, and "I feel very satisfied and exonerated."

He also said he appreciated the "open mindedness" of his neighbors and fellow residents of Gulf Breeze. "Without that, these last six months would have been unbearable." His last sighting was in early May.

FREE PRESS, Mankato, MN - June 20, 1988



The tape would have you think otherwise: it ends with the words: "And that's just another night in Nebraska."

By the sounds of this, Nebraska is the epicenter of the universe for sightings of unidentified flying objects. In any case, I don't think Nebraska residents who don't believe should feel flattered.

The next sighting reported was from March 10, 1988, and took place in Wales. A young man out for a run along a river reported a multi-colored flying saucer with colored lights along the edge. Traveling about between 50 and 60 mph, the object was said to make a whooshing sound.

Listening for a few minutes yielded more than just the UFO reports, however. Just finishing when the call was connected was an explanation of the UFO Hotline, how you can make the reports, and the like. While the tape says the reports are recorded in your own voice, the call gets you one guy reading all the reports. And for effect, there's eerie music playing in the background.

Also between reports was a survey, giving you the opportunity to vote on whether you believe in UFOs or not. You are warned that each call will cost you \$1.

Now I have no problem with people who believe in UFOs. I suppose part of me does think

question of whether UFOs exist is 1-900-400-6181, and to vote no is 1-900-400-6182.

Even if you don't believe in UFOs and call these numbers only for the fun of it, remember one thing: phone bills do exist, and they come around once a month.

clude only a plug for itself — it could get to be a fairly sizeable bill.

But, for those of you who want to know, the number for the UFO Hotline is 1-900-909-UFOs, the number to call to record your sighting is (215) 471-6414 (they didn't say anything about cost), and the number to vote yes to the

there has to be other intelligent life in the universe and that maybe, just maybe, they're trying to get in touch with us. I just feel a little squeamish about people making a buck off other people's quirky beliefs.

And at \$2 for the first minute — a minute that, depending on the cycle of the tape, could in-

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - May 5, 1988 CR: R. Reid

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Our most recent broadcasts on Channel 3 News regarding the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings, the comments of Mayor Ed Gray III and the "hoax" conclusions of others have generated a wide range of response. As a reporter who has spent hundreds of hours covering the story, I feel compelled to respond to some of the comments directed at me and others. While much of the response has been critical, I respect and welcome the input from all.

This is certainly a most unique story—and much about it remains uncertain and unanswered. But one thing that can be stated with absolute certainty is that *NO ONE* has yet come forward with definitive proof that the case is real, or that it is absolutely a hoax. Because that wide range of possibility remains open, we at Channel 3 News remain committed to fairly and accurately reporting all sides of the issue. As journalists, it is our professional obligation.

Very early on in our coverage, the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) investigators stated that any major case like this one would produce all kinds of skeptics, debunkers and analysts who would try to prove it a hoax. They have arrived and more are on the way. Many people who believe in the UFO reports or who feel they've had a sighting are not going to like what these skeptics have to say. Nonetheless, these people have a point of view and, as a journalist, I have a duty to cover the potential "hoax" angle of the story and will continue to do so.

I feel much the same way about the comments from Mayor Ed Gray III. He is, after all, the political leader of Gulf Breeze. Often these politicians from President Reagan on down, express view points the public does not like or does not want to hear. But these people are our leaders and the media must afford them the opportunity to speak to the masses, regardless of whether or not we agree with the message. I respect the mayor for his honesty and candor, which is not to say I agree or disagree with his opinion.

The mayor does, however, have a legitimate concern in my estimation. This story is now receiving national and even international attention. Most recently Italian National Television (which is their equivalent of ABC), has requested our tapes for possible European broadcast use. As you are aware, some of the media attention has been negative, i.e., poking fun at Gulf Breeze and its residents. The mayor's concerns about long-term impact of such publicity are warranted, because the community is trying to put forth a positive image as a high quality place to live, work and play. Few people locally would dispute that image, but when you are talking about negative impressions being made hundreds and thousands of miles away, it is an entirely different matter. The potential impact on tourism, business and residential growth in the long haul is fair game for discussion today.

While the mayor has stated he has no further input on the matter and wishes to address more pressing needs in the community, I will certainly afford him the opportunity to speak on the issue in the future, should he feel it necessary. I would, however, like to address one aspect of the mayor's comments which I feel many people have taken out of context. At *NO TIME* did the mayor ever say or imply that those who reported UFO sightings were liars. Some people have inferred that from his comments and I feel they are "reading" too much into it. No one doubts that people are seeing what they believe to be unusual lights or objects in the sky, but many of these so-called sightings can be explained. Even the MUFON investigators have stated that in any given UFO case, as many as 95% of the sightings are not really UFO's at all. What happens, as is probably the case in Gulf Breeze, is that most people are simply paying more attention to the skies. I am as "guilty" as anyone else.

Quite honestly, all of the UFO news stories have many of us "looking up" more than we ever did before. What many of us are seeing, myself included, are commercial and private airplanes, military craft, helicopters, etc.—Objects that have always been there, but we've just been too busy doing other things to notice.

This, of course, does not explain all the sightings, especially those which apparently have been photographed. And while we are on the subject, no one has definitively proven that the existing photos are absolutely real, or are the result of some sort of photographic trick. Both possibilities remain viable, which is why we and others continue to pursue this story.

Oddly enough, one of the people who understands my position is "Ed" (or "Jim"), as we have referred to him in our reports at Channel 3), even though he has taken the brunt of the skeptics' words. As he said to me and Duane, "The truth always prevails." And journalism is, after all, a search for the truth.

I will continue to report the views of skeptics and analysts from groups like the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), Project Starlight International and other organizations which have views on the UFO matter. And in fairness, we will offer others like MUFON and Budd Hopkins the chance to respond to those remarks, as we did during our most recent reports. In fact, just such a balanced discussion prompted Ray Stanford of Project Starlight to retract some of his conclusions as erroneous, within 24 hours of our first report on the possible "hoax" aspect of the case.

As I have stated publicly and in the news media, I personally have not yet formed an opinion one way or another in this case. The possibility that this is all an elaborate hoax, or that it is one of the most significant UFO cases in history, remain the distant boundaries of this fascinating story. I will continue to report all aspects and opinions in the case fairly, objectively, and without bias, until, as "Ed" says, "the truth prevails."

Mark C. Curtis
News Reporter
WEAR-TV 3

To Elmwood, Wis., UFOs are more than phenomena

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a three-part series on UFOs and the city of Elmwood, Wis. Parts 2 and 3 will run Wednesday and Thursday.

By DAWN M. AERTS
Staff Writer

From time to time throughout the ages, people have reported seeing strange things in the sky. In 1946, a series of UFO sightings occurred in Sweden, and since 1947, reports of unidentified flying objects have become increasingly prominent in both the United States and the world.

Since 1973, UFO sightings have been regularly reported to the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) based in Evanston, Ill., which serves as a clearing-house for UFO reports and research. According to CUFOS studies, reports come from people of all ages and walks of life, including police and military personnel who have witnessed suspicious aerial phenomena themselves.

In this series of articles, the *Gazette* looks at local interest in UFO phenomena. Of particular interest is the neighboring rural town of Elmwood, Wis., where sightings began and continued through the '70s.

Over the last few months, Elmwood, population 991, has become the focal point for a proposed multi-million-dollar UFO landing strip by the UFO Site Center Corporation based in Chippewa Falls, Wis. The result for the village of Elmwood is mass-media convergence and overwhelming public interest.

Clearly, the impact of these sightings continues to be felt by Elmwood as a community which may soon join Exeter, N.H., Socorro, N.M., and Delphos, Kan., as one of several towns whose infamous claim to fame is their brush with disturbing UFO phenomena.

In this series, the *Gazette* interviews those individuals who have personal insights into local reported UFO activity: Jack Bostrack, University of Wisconsin-River Falls biology professor and consultant to the UFO Site Center Corp.; Donald R. Schmitt, co-director and investigator for the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill.; Larry Feiler, mayor of Elmwood, Wis.; and, the present and former residents of Elmwood.

For their candor and assistance, we thank them.

Jack Bostrack doesn't mind when people think of him as the professor who believes in extraterrestrials.

In fact, he takes a scientific approach to the possibility of life on other planets. In his work, he studies things like planetary formation, chemical and biological evolution, the physics of communication and man's oft-times primitive attempts at communicating with other life forms.

He figures that it's this long-time interest and belief which brought an invitation by the UFO Site Center Corporation in Chippewa Falls to be a consultant. The organization has proposed the landing strip for UFOs in neighboring Elmwood, and Bostrack will be the person to call on if and when the project becomes a reality.

Bostrack, a low-key professor who talks about extraterrestrials like they belong on a mid-term exam, says he has had an interest in UFO sightings since his career began at River Falls some 25 years ago.

In later years, Bostrack acted on his interest by serving on the editorial board for *UFO Phenomena* and as an investigator for a string of aerial phenomena organizations: Ground Saucer Watch, Phoenix, Ariz.; Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Tucson, Ariz.; Mutual UFO Network, Quincy, Ill.; and, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), based in Maryland.

It was Bostrack who headed to Elmwood in the mid-'70s to talk to Carol Forester, a local elementary school teacher who reported a sighting while en route home one night with her three children in the car. It was he who interviewed George Wheeler, a long-time UFO skeptic and Elmwood Police officer who came to witness two separate sightings.

"Personally, I've never had a sighting," says Bostrack, as he finishes up with one of several final exams in his small office situated on the fourth floor of the agricultural sciences building at the school.

"When I've investigated and interviewed someone — I did so as a skeptic," said Bostrack of the rash of UFO sightings that occurred during those years.

"But during the investigation period, I don't think I ever ran across a hoax. In fact, the sighting was very descriptive. And one thing I found particularly interesting was that those who had a close or what you'd term a 'quality' sighting always expressed the feeling that they wish they hadn't seen it. For most people, a sighting is a disturbing event."

Bostrack recalls the details relayed by the two residents with yesterday's clarity.

"In the Wheeler interview, he said the object went some distance and hovered. In fact, at first he thought it was a small aircraft in trouble, and then it appeared to be coming right at him," says Bostrack. "He said that he was forced to drive right into a ditch in order to avoid a collision."

Bostrack explains that in each of these situations, those being interviewed were both credible and thorough in detail and description.

"During the second sighting made by Wheeler, almost a year to the day, he described a saucer-shaped structure which sort of hovered near a high power line. He said that it appeared that something was hanging down from the craft," Bostrack said.

"Scientists have speculated that UFOs may have the ability to draw electrical energy from man-made facilities or equipment."

According to Bostrack, certain commonalities continue to emerge in UFO reports:

"Typically, and from as far back as documented reports go, sightings were described as being saucer-shaped... the only exception to this is that some are elongated or cigar-shaped," says Bostrack. "When these sightings occur, the series of UFO reports are called 'flaps' among researchers. In the Midwest, I've heard that a good portion of them take place in late winter and early spring."

One of the other striking similarities, notes Bostrack, is a subtle point of interest among researchers and investigators alike.

"Anyone who has a relatively close encounter is troubled by what

they've witnessed... In the case of Carol Forester, she had a good deal of problems with her three children after the incident that night. The one comment that continually emerges is that they wish they'd never seen it," he says.

He tells of another occurrence in the 1970s, when two teenagers from Plum City saw what appeared to be a UFO, and on the same night, another couple from Ellsworth reported the same event.

"It's these kinds of multiple observations that you have to consider in investigations... It's up to you to weed out the hoaxes, but from my experience, these were all reported by very credible individuals," he says.

When Bostrack goes out to investigate an incident, as he did during the flap near Elmwood in the 1970s, he says that the report entails eyewitness reports, and he tries to uncover any physical evidence in the area.

"I've taken a Geiger counter along and checked for radioactivity, but none was registered," said Bostrack. "But we look for any evidence of landing — that can mean broken trees or branches, power lines, any burned or singed areas."

Bostrack points out that if the proposed UFO landing site gains public momentum and becomes a reality, it is hoped that the facility will attract scientists and specialists from around the world who will work toward inviting extraterrestrials to land.

"One of the big goals is to initiate a line of communication," he says. "Perhaps we can do that with a visual drawing or mathematical language. But we really are at a disadvantage when it comes to life span and time accessibility from other solar systems. In some ways, we're such a short-lived species — what could they possibly get from us?"

Bostrack explains that even if the landing strip is initiated and becomes a reality, there is no guarantee that conditions will be ripe for immediate response or contact.

"We definitely have a time problem here," he admits. "How long are we going to maintain it before conditions are right for contact? The message that we're trying to get across is that if they did land, it would be acceptable and safe."

According to Bostrack, the U.S. Air Force was involved in screening and investigating UFO sightings up until 1966, when the government contracted a study called project "Blue Book" from the University of Colorado.

"The bottom line from this report was that UFOs did not originate from other civilizations — that there were explanations for all of these sightings," adds Bostrack.

"But there is evidence to suggest that there was some cover-up of UFO information. In fact, it was Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who served as consultant to the Air Force, that decided to establish and organize the continued Center for UFO Studies in Chicago."

Bostrack points out that the Air Force no longer — officially, at least — investigates sightings or encounters, but adds that the effort to uncover the total UFO story continues in large cities and small towns across the United States.

"In the case of Elmwood, Wis., there's been a concentration of sightings there for years," says Bostrack of the town, "and now they're at the forefront of the speculation."



Jack Bostrack, a biology professor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and consultant to the UFO Site Center Corporation in Chippewa Falls, believes that witnesses he has interviewed are both credible and thorough in UFO reports. (*Gazette* photo by Dawn M. Aerts.)

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - May 19, 1988

"An Open Letter to the Citizens of Gulf Breeze"

Dear Gulf Breeze Citizens:

For those who don't know me or my contributions to the investigation of UFO related activity in Gulf Breeze, I am a UFO Investigator/Reporter from the Annapolis, Maryland area. My involvement in your local sightings case has been quite extensive with well over 100 hours of research and telephone interviews with investigators, witnesses, photographers, meteorologists, pathologists, technologists and the media. I've been reporting the events on radio in Baltimore and have included "live" interviews with Ed, Duane Cook and others. I have battled the skeptics and have reported my findings to the UFO Intelligence Community. During this period of time, I have had to investigate numerous sightings of UFO activity in the Annapolis Bay Bridge area which has served to limit my otherwise total involvement in the Gulf Breeze Sightings.

Please be assured that not all "distant experts" are scientifically critical of the extraordinary events that have been occurring in your peninsula city. Before getting too far into this letter, allow me to set the record straight on one issue of significance to no one but myself. Mr. R. S. is not a resident of Annapolis, Maryland. You remember RS, the author of a report with a Strange Breeze blowing through his head whose Psychic Premonitions lead him to believe that The Sightings were all an elaborate hoax. Mr. RS resides and receives his mail in College Park, Maryland, some 35 miles from the quaint little peninsula capitol of the State of Maryland which so happens to be the city where I call home. And so now you see the reason for my interest in setting the record straight.

It should be noted that statistically speaking, there are now on record over 50 sightings of UFO activity in the Gulf Breeze area that have no connection to the noted photographer Ed. There are now on record five photographers of UFO's, only one of which has not been in direct contact with MUFON investigators. There is now reported to be a second video tape of a moving and hovering UFO; the photographer is in no way related to Ed. And, there are over 100 witnesses of sightings who have asked to file reports with some accounts involving five and six witnesses.

Remember the *Jan Tide* with the funny looking blimp of radar equipment floating about in Pensacola Bay that was supposed to leave in late January or early February? Well you may have noticed that it is still there over 90 days later. And, in case no one has noticed, there is now a similar companion vessel out there with the insignia NASA on the side. Let's also not forget about that cute little Army vehicle with the 150-foot telescoping RADAR globe that had to be moved out of Ft. Pickens due to excessive curiosity of visitors. A civilian employee of Pensacola NAS has reported that there are now 18 of those RADAR vehicles operating in the Gulf Breeze area.

What does all of this mean? We're checking the records, but it is doubtful that there has been a significant increase in drug smuggling activity in the area. Why has the Network News Media taken such a hands-off approach to reporting these events outside of the Pensacola area? Is there Government Interest in this case of UFO activity? Is the Government turning some subtle screws to clamp down on exposing what's really happening here? If so, Why? The answer may lie somewhere in the MJ-12 documents that I've enclosed with this letter. These documents have been available for over a year now, and have been widely published in their entirety in (among others) the Danville Newspapers in Pennsylvania and at least one major newsletter out of Cranston, Rhode Island. Experts who have researched these documents thoroughly say they are authentic. A memo from President Truman makes direct reference to the MJ-12 operation. There is more, much more, but this should be enough to encourage any doubters out there that UFO's are real. Their purpose is now fundamentally known. We may be powerless to stop it, although some experts feel otherwise.

A letter to the President of the United States was mailed today along with correspondence to several members of congress and the Senate. The purpose is to seek official help in matters related to the Gulf Breeze Sightings. Matters that involve the purpose behind the visitations. Help is very much needed here. Although exceptionally competent as I stated in my report to the UFO Intelligence Community on April 21, 1988, there are but less than a handful of part-time qualified investigators available in the area to handle the massive workload. Scientific monitoring and evaluation by civilian technologists is all but vacant here, except for the exhaustive efforts of Dr. Bruce Maccabee, Ph.D. The reassuring hand of Budd Hopkins has been quite welcome therapy for those in need, but it is not nearly enough.

Will help be on the way? We'll keep you posted as the gears and cogs of our bureaucracy oil up for action. The critics and skeptics will not be able to sweep this intrusion under the carpet with the guise of a hoax for long. Our prayers are with you and all whose lives have been changed forever.

Bob Oechler

UFO Investigator/Reporter

CR: R. Reid



Solar physicist David Webb, an amateur UFO investigator who spoke at the Waltham conference yesterday, says the lack of evidence for visitation by aliens is "a problem we all struggle with."

Globe staff photos/Mark Wilson

UFO meeting lands in Waltham

Skeptics, believers in close encounter with 'abductees'

By David L. Chandler
Globe Staff

WALTHAM - They are right here among us. They look just like ordinary people: young and old, fat and thin, black and white. They are undeniably real, and you may even have met one without knowing it.

These are people who say they have been abducted by aliens, taken aboard Unidentified Flying Objects, subjected to medical examinations and then returned to their ordinary lives.

About 20 of them were at a motel in Waltham this weekend, along with about 300 other people, attending a two-day conference on "The UFO Experience."

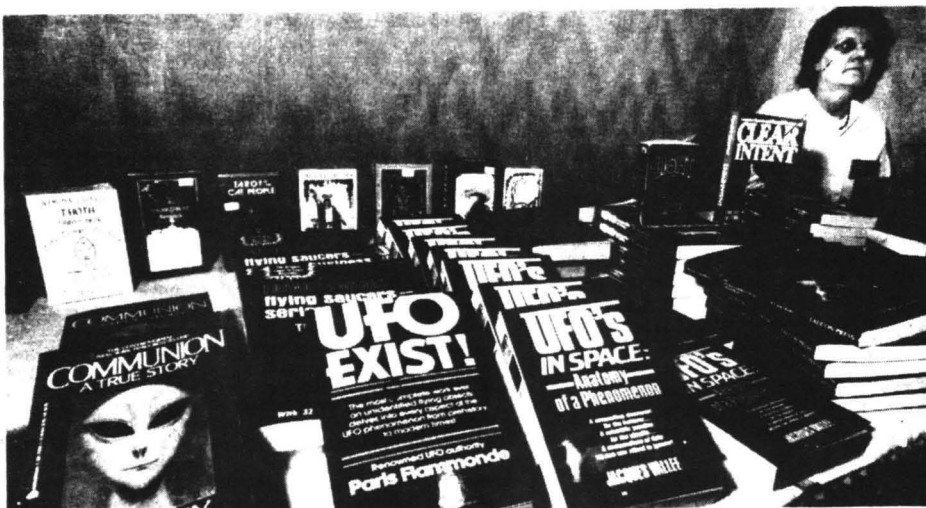
Some of those attending the conference have been written about in a spate of recent books detailing their experiences,



A sign in one participant's car points the way to the conference yesterday.

ences, while others were speaking publicly about their abduction experiences for the first time. And while they describe feelings of deep anxiety and fear,

they talk of their experiences in a remarkably casual and matter-of-fact manner.



Beverly Briggs, who runs the New Age Bookshop in Hanover, offers books for sale at the Waltham conference.

Globe staff photo/Mark Wilson

Author John W. White, who has written books about the paranormal, said that "in a time of nuclear threat, it is not surprising that people should look to the stars for salvation." But White called that "an immature reaction," saying that we should not regard extraterrestrials "as gods from outer space."

"I do believe in the UFO experience," said David F. Webb, a solar physicist working under a US Air Force contract at Hanscom Field who is an active UFO investigator in his spare time.

But Webb, who spoke at yesterday morning's session, said he would "rather not say" whether he thinks the experiences reflect real visitations by extraterrestrial beings or are simply a psychological phenomenon.

Kris and Rachel, a couple from Maine who preferred not to have their last name used, said yesterday they came to the conference out of curiosity after having read "all the books" on the subject of UFOs.

"I guess we're agnostics" as far as the reality of extraterrestrial visits is concerned, Kris said, "and nothing we've heard here so far has changed that."

Webb concedes that there is virtually no physical evidence to support claims of alien visitation. "A scientist needs to work with what he considers reliable data, and that's a problem we all struggle with."

One of the most dramatic moments for the crowd at this conference came during a talk yesterday afternoon by best-selling UFO author Budd Hopkins, who showed slides of a UFO reported last year in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

The pictures, compared with most of the dim and smudgy pictures that usually are claimed to show UFOs, were astonishingly sharp and clear, and a gasp rose from the audience as they were shown.

The pictures unquestionably show something that was made by an intelligent being. The only question is whether that being was the photographer or an extraterrestrial.

"There have been a lot of cases accumulated," said Webb, who has compiled a computerized data base containing descriptions of 2,300 abduction experiences. "The types of things seen," he said, "are very consistent, which leads me to believe that there's something to it."

But Webb acknowledges that when he is among his scientific colleagues, he is reluctant to talk about his interest in the subject.

"I tend to keep a low profile," he said. Because of a fear of scorn and ridicule from other scientists, he said, "it's hard to even learn about other people who are interested."

One scientist at the conference, who declined to give his name but described himself as a rocket propulsion engineer, said flatly, "I believe they're real - I've seen two UFOs myself."

But among the authors of UFO books, the UFO researchers and the merely curious, the stars of yesterday's meeting were clearly the "abductees." They were the ones most people came to see, hear, and size up.

Richard Stewart, an electronics technician, said that after reading all the available books on the subject, he came to the meeting "to hear what the people involved sound like, look like and act like." His conclusion by lunchtime: "They seem like perfectly normal people, like someone you'd hang around with."

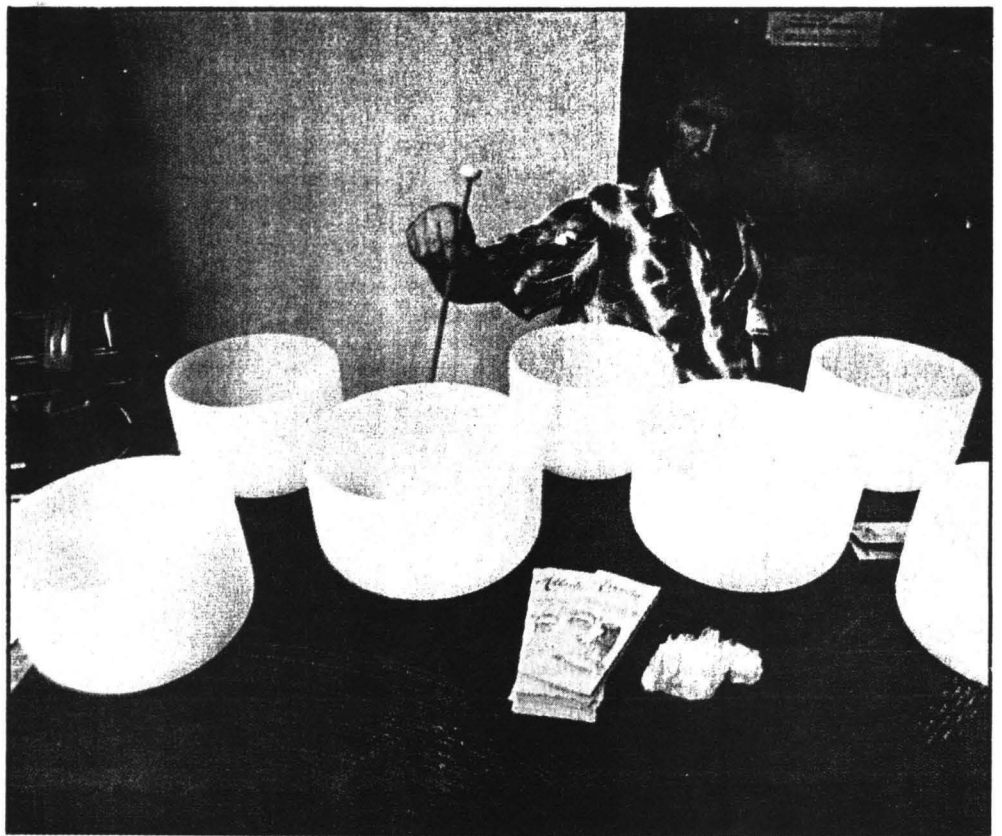
Stewart, who says he has been convinced of the reality of UFOs "since I was a kid," saw nothing to alter that conviction.

But another attendee, a man from Maine who didn't want to be identified, said his views had changed a bit during the course of the meeting: "I came in here a skeptic," he said, "but I'm leaving as a disbeliever."



RICHARD HARTOG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A man who calls himself JPL, right, makes music on quartz crystal temple bells during UFO Expo on Sunday. Above, Dana Bernardin, top, demonstrates katsugan on Julie Coryall. Katsugan is used for releasing tension and relaxing.



Close encounters take all kinds

By Laura Accinelli

STAFF WRITER

He'd seen lights zipping through the sky, but Randolph Winters had never encountered an extra terrestrial.

Four awakened him two weeks ago, he said, while he was sleeping in the home of a Scottsdale, Ariz., channeler. Conditioned by his work with Billy Meier, a Swiss farmer who claims he's been traveling for years with people from the Pleiades star system, Winters checked the clock: 3:05 a.m.

The ETs asked him, telepathically, if they could materialize, he said. "Sure, I'll turn on the light," the former West Los Angeles computer programmer thought. He moved through the room gingerly; he didn't want to step on any toes.

"No lights," they messaged. "And I thought, 'Oh yeah, you guys are the little ones with the big eyes.'"

They were probably Zeta Reticulis, Winters said, a slim people 4 feet tall with white skin, atrophied organs, four digits on hands and feet, no nose or ears, small mouths, large heads and eyes. They are friendly and don't understand earthlings very well.

"I was kind of expecting them," Winters said.

They've been busier than usual. One of the four or five alien species who abduct people, they sample human DNA, perform genetic experiments, gather information. So do the Ebans, similar to the Zetas in size and shape but more grayish in color, more selfish — and mean. Some women claim unborn children have been snatched from their wombs. Others say they carry monitoring implants in the spinal chord.

Gone are the days of isolated incidents such as the 1961 story of Barney and Betty Hill in New York, say Winters and other ufologists. In the past 10 years, more than 100,000 people say they have been taken aboard spaceships or contacted by extraterrestrials, he said.

And in the past three years alone, Meier claims he's had more than 135 contacts with the Pleiadeans, a group of super-evolved, peaceful humans from our galaxy whose forefathers are our forebears. A tall, slender people, fair-skinned and blond, they look human, except their ears are higher on the head and slope long to the jawbone. They view man as their "little brother," said Winters, 44, and want to help Planet Earth.

"Things are changing with the large influx of UFOs," Winters said. "Through the 1950s and '60s, seldom were people contacted twice. A one-time deal, maybe they saw something strange in the back yard. Now it's a recurring phenomenon. We're finding people who are telepathically in communication with UFOs." Some cope, he said; others are terrified.

The increased activity prompted Winters to organize Sunday's UFO Expo at West Los Angeles' Felicia Mahood Center.

"We're going to have to deal seriously in the next 10 years with extraterrestrial information; it's unavoidable. So we're starting to prepare people, gently awaken them to what is happening, let it seep into the public consciousness, without fear."



Swiss farmer Billy Meier claims this photo shows a UFO hovering over his van. Meier says he has had more than 135 contacts with aliens.

Photos of 'beamships'

A capacity crowd of 600 paid \$40 each to hear Winters tell Meier's story, illustrated with "beamship" photographs shot in broad daylight.

Winters now works full time to disseminate the Pleiadean word. He conducts classes on Meier's 1,800 pages of notes on every subject under the sun, or suns, many taken by a technique unknown to man called "auto-writing."

They're here, and they're willing to help: That's the Pleiadean message. Earth needs to get its act together, and everyone has the power. Hatred, war, social strife, moral decline, disregard for the environment and spiritual malaise are the big problems, as usual.

Participants listened to former military intelligence officer and CIA retiree Virgil Armstrong claim the Air Force found — and concealed from the masses — evidence of extraterrestrials at a crash site in 1948 at White Sands, N.M.

The craft, 25 feet high and 100 feet in diameter with a skin thinner than a piece of newspaper, was impervious to dismantling attempts, said Armstrong, who says he's had extensive personal contact with UFOs.

The ship was hauled intact to Ohio's Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, as were the five entities aboard, Armstrong said. They wore skin-tight space suits with no buttons and no zippers. Two had epaulets of rank. The commander was bigger than the crew. They looked like Zetas.

TRW scientist Roland Beatum of Redondo Beach discussed spaceships and his own anti-gravity design reducing the amount of energy needed to get into space. "The question is, how can we use the magnetic forces of the universe as our free-ways," he said. "If they're coming here, why shouldn't we be going there?"

Participants viewed Jet Propulsion Laboratory slides on NASA's planned space probe to the outer reaches of the solar system. Mars is particularly exciting because it will deliver the first incontrovertible proof that life exists elsewhere, ufologists think.

Sasquatches and fish-heads

As Winters explained, the Pleiadeans once colonized Mars, but they died in wars 200,000 years ago. However, ruins of ancient cities and a five-sided pyramid with a one-mile base remain, he said.

"Once we get to Mars and the cameras are on, it

will be a big help for skeptical or fearful minds. It could be the beginning of a consensus," Winters said.

The Expo also offered talks on channeling, telepathy, pyramids, Pleiadean meditation and the Hollow Earth Theory. It postulated the planet's core isn't a molten mass and is home to alien species.

In 1956, when explorer Adm. Richard Byrd went to the North Pole, UFOs downed his DC-3. He was taken to a "Frank Lloyd Wright-type building," said his nephew, Harley Byrd, a former lawyer who now runs Los Angeles' UFO Data Center.

There, a tribunal of 12 aliens, including two Sasquatches and a "Neptunian people of green, scaly skin with fish heads," said Earthlings could not join an intergalactic council until they achieved planetary peace, Harley Byrd said. Explorer Byrd informed President Eisenhower and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

On Sept. 19, 1964, Harley Byrd says, he was beamed from his car in Half Moon Bay into a spaceship manned by sheep-faced creatures from the planet Iarga.

There were no Spock ears, no capes among expo-goers, and only a few with medallions proclaiming, "We're Here." They wandered through a New Age carnival of crystals — "programmed by dolphins" — candles, psychic healers, Queen Nefertiti earrings. They ate organic food and discussed the alleged government cover-up and moon theories.

Yet, assorted notions, government complicity, debunked hoaxes and esoterica of landing tracks and radiation traces were not the focus of Sunday's event. Billed as a "contactee expo," it was a safe forum for people to share their claimed contacts with UFOs. ETs invite contactees such as Meier who remain

(continued on page 12)

conscious. They usually bring home philosophical, spiritual messages.

Omniscient thinking caps

Meier was first contacted when he was 5 years old, Winters said. It was part of a Pleiadean master plan. Forced at 7 to decide if he would accept this role in life, he wore a cap allowing him to reason at a higher plane.

Of late, his alien guide to a higher consciousness has been the widow Semjase (Sem-YA-say). Meier's wife used to be upset when her husband disappeared for days, gallivanting about the universe and through time with a beautiful blonde. But she's adjusted, he said.

Meier's many photos have yet to be debunked, and IBM scientists are baffled by metal samples reportedly from the Pleiadeans, Winters said. Meier's predictions for the West Coast by the year 2000 look bad, said Winters. But focused, positive energy can change the future, he said.

Abductees, unlike contactees, are grabbed, without permission, and examined, Winters said. They generally lose chunks of time. Traumatized, an abductee may block memory of his experience or it's blocked for him. It reveals itself over time, possibly in dreams or by hypnosis.

On Jan. 22, 1974, Jack Peterson returned from Safeway to his home in Mono County. He ate a dinner of red snapper, a baked potato and a cup of coffee. Then they came, four of them. Ridiculed by townspeople, he left his architecture firm and now practices art in Pasadena. He suffered bizarre burns. He thinks he has a crystal implanted in his spine.

He is bitter. "They did not ask my permission. That is where I draw the line." He is writing a book.

A main Expo event was a panel with an alleged abductee and Bill Hamilton, a UFO crash-retrieval investigator for Mutual UFO Network in Seguin, Texas. He also is a programmer-analyst for a bank in Lancaster.

Hamilton delivered a presentation on recent abductions and underground space ports. He saw videotapes, he says, showing an underground facility run jointly by an alien force, the Grays, and the CIA.

"The magnitude of activity recently is boggling my mind. I can't verify, I can't falsify. It's just interesting and fantastic. These are perfectly rationale, sane people who hold jobs, who didn't escape from insane asylums," Hamilton said. "In 35 years, I haven't seen anything like it. What on earth is going on?"

Yet, only a handful of expo participants openly admitted contacts with ETs. "I've had an encounter," confided an older, conservatively dressed woman. "They came into my house and looked around. But I don't want to talk about it. People think you're nuts," she said.

Indeed, Tal Bishop of Redondo Beach recently lost his job because of such talk. Bishop has had extensive contacts with ETs living inside the Earth. "Meditate in a cave if you want information fast."

Earth's innards, he said, are a refuge for many species, some indigenous to the planet. But when a crossbreed entered his home, it really rattled him.

"They were not what I expected. I never, ever expected reptoid-humanoids." Descendants of dinosaurs bred with space

creatures and humans, they are highly intelligent, Bishop said.

Bishop carries a 50,000 candle power emergency blinker used by downed pilots. Every time he's used it, he said, "flying saucers show up. They come hauling over, thinking they have a downed pilot in a dazed state."

Earthlings should be suspicious of extraterrestrials, Bishop said. "Look, they are short, gray-skinned and anemic. They've been in outer space and inside the Earth too long. They're missing valuable nutrients, so they're weak and vulnerable."

Exhibit displays presence of UFOs

By LISA GUTIERREZ
Argus Leader Staff

UFO researchers call it a close encounter of the first kind.

A Sioux Falls mother said she was driving to Newcastle, Wyo., about 16 years ago when she saw a silver and very bright object hovering above the ground near the highway.

She stopped and watched. When she brought friends back to the site, the object was gone.

"You hesitate to say these things because people don't take you too seriously," the woman told John Timmerman Thursday.

Timmerman is vice president of public relations for the Center for UFO Studies of Chicago. That's his avocation. By day, he's a marketing vice president at a savings and loan association in Lima, Ohio.

He's in Sioux Falls through Saturday with a UFO exhibit at Ted Tufty Dodge, 2317 S. Minnesota Ave.

He comes armed for questions; with books, brochures, pictures and testimonies from people worldwide who've reported UFO sightings.

People of all walks of life report UFOs, he said. The center has records on more than 100,000 sightings. There could be more. But people sometimes don't know where to report them for fear ridicule, Timmerman said. "The predisposition to disbelief is overwhelming."

It's easy enough to mistake something for a UFO. People often mistake planets — especially Venus — advertising planes with moving letters and weather balloons for UFOs, he said.

Timmerman's never seen a UFO, but became fascinated with them about 41 years ago when he read about a West Coast sighting. The Cornell University graduate and father of four believes there have been too many similar experiences reported to ignore.

"I'm convinced that something interesting is going on," he said.

His exhibit guides the uninitiated. For example, it explains that the term close encounters of the third kind existed before the movie. The term belongs to J. Allen Hynek, the founder of the center. Hynek was a technical advisor to director Steven Spielberg for the film.

Timmerman isn't here only to answer questions. He is soliciting stories like that of the young mother from people who think they may have seen a UFO. He noted that after appearing on a noonday TV show on Thursday, a cameraman told him about the time he had seen a UFO. All stories are taken confidentially.

Sioux Falls businessman Chuck Brooks, who invited Timmerman to Sioux Falls, said he saw an unidentified something hovering, pulsating and revolving above an outdoor movie theater here in 1964. The sighting piqued his



John Timmerman, of Lima, Ohio, listens Thursday to questions from people as they examine the UFO exhibit at Ted Tufty Dodge, 2317 S. Minnesota Ave. The exhibit will remain through Saturday.

interest. Today, he is the state director and a registered field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network.

"It didn't really (scare me)," Brooks said. "I was just curious."

Ted Tufty hopes the exhibit draws the curious to his showroom. It did just that on Thursday, although few wanted to share their reactions.

Timmerman is used to the hesitancy, but more accustomed to skepticism, even criticism. He recalled one show where a woman stood near the exhibit reading religious poetry out loud.

The study of UFO phenomena is not embraced warmly by the scientific community, either, Timmerman said. The U.S. government studies them secretly, he said. "Scientists look on this as an aberration of society."

Timmerman will bow to scientific rationale on one point.

"The nearest star is 4.3 light years from earth, and it's difficult to imagine a life form there would venture at the speed of light for four years to come here and hover over Mrs. Jackson's garden ... why?"



The exhibits are from the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO studies.

Keeping the UFO mystery alive

MR. Coy Luna of Lawrence County has reported seeing a strange flying object take off from a field on a farm where he lives.

Mr. Luna said that while he was working in his garden Monday, his dog began to bark on the opposite side of the house. When Mr. Luna went to investigate, he saw a bright, globe-shaped object sitting in the field near a power line. He said the object was large enough to contain four or five people, although he did not report seeing anyone. When the dog ran toward the object, it lifted off the ground and flew away, making a sound which Mr. Luna described as similar to that of a Weedeater.

This is the first reported sighting of an unidentified flying object in this area in some time. Such sightings used to be common throughout the United States, beginning at a period after World War II when public interest in space exploration began to stimulate people's imagination.

The Air Force and several private scientific organizations became interested in UFOs and began to investigate them. Many reports were found to be hoaxes or the products of over-active imaginations. Others were explained as being natural phenomena which had been viewed in a distorting way. But a few sightings, such as Mr. Luna's, remain unexplained.

Apparently the flying object reported by Mr. Luna was not seen by anyone but him and his dog. Mr. Luna says he was not imagining things and that he had not been drinking — and the Lawrence County sheriff's office confirmed that he was sober.

Thus, until it can be confirmed or confuted, it seems that Mr. Luna's "sighting" will remain in the unexplained category. That is not satisfying. But it is what keeps alive the mystery of UFOs and keeps people wondering if earth is being visited by creatures from other worlds. ■



UFO hunter!

Chris is hot on the trail of the sky's mysteries

STRANGE sightings, unexplained glowing lights, even fully-fledged flying saucers...

If you've spotted any of these mysterious phenomena in the skies above Pontefract and Castleford, then Chris Gibson would like to hear all about it.

Chris, 34, of Arncliffe Drive, Ferrybridge, is keen to set himself up as the area's first properly organised UFO investigator.

And with the help of a 24-hour UFO hotline which has been set up by enthusiasts in Batley, Chris hopes to be on the trail of unexplained happenings in the shortest possible time.

Chris, who works as a charge nurse at Pontefract General Infirmary, first became interested in the UFO phenomenon around two years ago.

"I began to write a science fiction novel and read various books as part of my research," he said.

Discovery

"I became more and more intrigued with the possibility of contacts with extra terrestrials. But as I found out more I realised there is more than one possible solution for the unexplained things people sometimes see."

Chris wrote to the authors of some of the books he had read to find out more, and discovered the existence of two bodies dedicated to UFO re-

search, the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) and the more recently formed northern-based Independent UFO Network (IUN).

First meeting

"Things really took off for me in March this year when I went to a lecture in Sheffield and met some other UFO enthusiasts. I was a little nervous at first as I wasn't sure what I was getting myself involved with," he said.

"But I was pleased to find there were people there from all walks of life, many with different ideas and views. But they discussed them in a very friendly way, there was no animosity and I got on well with them."

Last month Chris went to his first IUN meeting and decided he would like

to become an investigator.

"The important thing about the IUN is that they take an independent view, they have no firm views on what is responsible for the UFO phenomenon and take very great care in researching sightings."

Chris said the IUN grants complete anonymity to witnesses of sightings, if they wish, so they need not worry about being thought cranks.

Explanation

"The only way to investigate sightings properly is to talk to ordinary people about their experiences and then to see if there are any logical explanations for them," he said.

Calls about local sightings to the Batley hotline will be referred back to

Chris, who will try to visit the person concerned.

He will help them fill in an official sighting form, which records in great detail what exactly was seen, including location, weather conditions and exact time.

"I will then contact local airports, RAF bases and the like to see if there is an explanation. Around 90 per cent of sightings are found to have a logical answer, but it is that other ten per cent which can be crucial."

These unexplained sightings will then be sent by Chris to the IUN headquarters in Leeds and may be included in the society's magazine.

Sightings in the North are on the increase, Chris said, so he hopes for a good response from people

Report by Mike Russell

in the Five Towns area.

"My friends and workmates give me some good-natured ribbing but everyone agrees it is an interesting hobby. We aren't fanatics or cranks, just people who are keen to know the truth."

Damaging

"In some ways the image of looking for little green men in spaceships still hangs on to us and it is quite damaging."

As yet Chris himself has never seen a UFO.

"Of course I would love to see something, but I realise it is often a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I am still waiting," he said.

●The UFO hotline number is Batley 444049, a 24-hour service with answerphone in complete confidence.

Could it have been a UFO?

Mystery of noisy lights

Story: SARAH SCARBOROUGH

MYSTERIOUS objects seen over West Norfolk this week are being investigated.

Two separate sightings of glowing unexplained lights in the sky occurred at exactly the same time on Monday night when thousands of people all over East Anglia heard strange rumblings.

Norfolk police were inundated with calls for the, as yet, unexplained phenomena. British and American air bases denied their planes were responsible.

But details of an air disturbance lasting about half a minute — detected by seismic equipment operated by the University of East Anglia — have been handed over to the British Geological Survey Unit in Edinburgh and the International Seismological Centre near Reading.

People from the Lynn area and as far away as Suffolk reported hearing the noise which some have described as sounding initially like

thunder but changing to an aircraft noise.

And others claim they saw mysterious objects in the clear sky at about 10.15pm when all the other disturbances occurred.

Heacham man Laurie Marshall was settling down to watch television when he spotted a large, pulsating, brilliant orange object hovering in the air.

He called his wife June, who dashed to the window in time to see the cottage-loaf-shaped body shoot off at great speed in an easterly direction. The family, who live at 31 Kenwood Road, rushed outside but there was no trace of the strange object.

While Mr Marshall remains sceptical, his wife is convinced that what she saw was an unidentified flying object — a claim which is being

investigated. She told me: "It was larger than any star you see in the sky. It was stationary, then it shot off."

Mrs Marshall, who runs Heacham Tackle fishing business with her husband, is convinced she saw a UFO: "I have got a very open mind. We must accept that there must be other life forms out there."

John Davies and daughter Victoria (17), of Archdale Street, Lynn, were walking down Lake Road, when they spotted a horizontal line of light in the sky over North Lynn. A former RAF man, Mr Davies did not recognise it as under carriage lights of an aircraft.

"It was a yellow-goldy light, going across," said Mr Davies, a process operator at Master Foods. "It was flying slowly to the right, slightly descending, and then became very bright. Then it just vanished — we couldn't believe the speed at which it disappeared."

Kickabout ball was a UFO

A FOOTBALL-shaped UFO from Venus has put soccer mad builder Jim Wilson in an astronomical spin.

For burly JCB driver Jim almost started a kick around with ET when the glowing intergalactic off-side bounced down his road.

"It was the oddest thing I've ever seen and I must admit it was certainly frightening at first," said Jim, 40.

Now the sighting has kicked off amazing speculation that the extra-terrestrial visitor could be from Venus!

"It was about a foot wide and was shaped like a football," said Mike Hanson, Director of International Research for the Yorkshire UFO Society, after investigating Jim's sighting.

"It came from the Northern sky — the planet Venus is just slightly to the West of that part of space," he said.

By GARY THOMPSON

Father-of-two Jim was scraping ice from the windscreen of his car at his home in Rotherham, Yorkshire, when he saw the spaceball.

Sparks

He watched goggle eyed as it bounced down the street spewing out sparks before DISAPPEARING into thin air.

Defence chiefs have now launched a probe into the sighting. And a spokesman at RAF Finningly near Doncaster described the alien ball as "puzzling" and said a report would be drawn up.

CR: T. Good

Is there anybody out there?

City's first UFO club taking off

SOUTHAMPTON may be a popular resort with extra-terrestrials — and local apathy may have left many alien visits unrecorded.

But Dot Street, the city's first self-appointed official UFO investigator, is determined to change all that.

She wants to prove that more goes on over our heads than meets the eye.

And through regular monthly meetings she hopes to bring local close encounters to light.

"Seeing a UFO is very traumatic and something that changes your life forever," Dot told a meeting gathered at Bogarts wine bar in the city centre.

"The Southampton area has undoubtedly suffered from not having its own official investigator."

"And, although I am sure that there are regular sight-

ings on the first Monday of every month at the Above Bar hostelry, and she wants local UFO spotters to contact her direct.

"A couple at this week's meeting left before they had given me the details of their UFO sighting and I would be grateful if they — or anyone else who's interested — would write to me."

Letters to Dot should be addressed to 66 Drapers Copse, Claypitt's Lane, Diben, Hythe.

It also brought her into conflict with the Ministry of Defence, and finally led to the publication of her book, *Skycrash*.

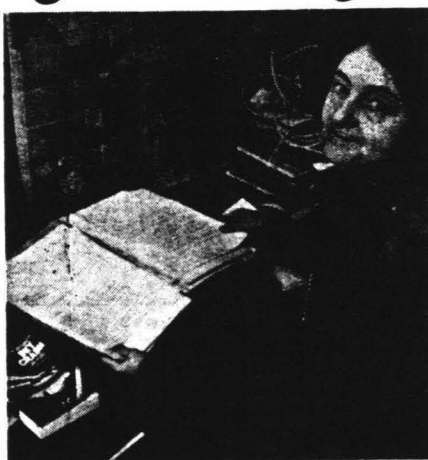
And she clearly takes her chosen profession very seriously.

She will be holding meet-

ings on the first Monday of every month at the Above Bar hostelry, and she wants local UFO spotters to contact her direct.

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Dedicated follower of aliens... UFO spotter Dot Street

ADVERTISER, Southampton, England

May 5, 1988 CR: T. Good

BARNSELY CHRONICLE, Yorks., England
May 13, 1988 CR: T. Good

That UFO again!

MRS. L. SAGE, Everill Gate Lane, Broomhill:

PLEASE tell the Darfield lady and the Barugh lady that my daughter and myself saw the U.F.O. on Wednesday, April 20, around 9.45 p.m.

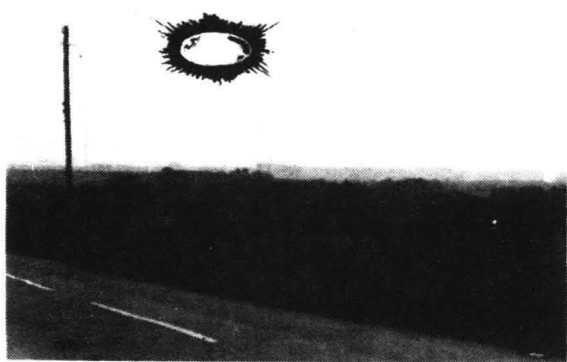
We were walking from Wombwell down into the village of Broomhill where we live, and half-way down the lane, my daughter saw this thing in the sky, with red lights and big white lights, some flashing on and off.

It turned all its lights out as it got nearer us, then came hovering round us and put two big white spot lights on us for a few seconds.

We were both a bit scared when it did this, and I said: "Come on, let's go home."

As we started to walk again, it put red, green and white lights on, and went towards Wombwell way. When we got home I told my son about this. He thought we were mad, so I didn't tell anyone else till I saw it in the paper.

But I know it was really a U.F.O. and won't ever forget that night I can tell you. I don't wish to remain anonymous!



The zig-zagging ellipsoid as seen over Harwell from the Rowstock to Wantage road

U.F.O.'D

FOR those who've seen 'Close Encounters Of The Third Kind' you may well have a good idea of what an Oxfordshire graphic designer saw recently.

While driving home after an evening at an Aston Tirrold pub, David White who lives in Oxford, witnessed a sighting of an unusual object in the sky.

"I'm a normal, level headed person and not a big drinker", said David, who first saw the object at 11pm. "At first I followed the object by car and instead of taking the normal route home I turned off for Wantage to try and get a better view".

After a little while longer David

stopped the car and watched from the road side. It wasn't until 11.41pm that the object disappeared.

"There was no doubt that it wasn't a plane or helicopter as there wasn't the usual sound from the sky. It was dead-silent and anyone would be stupid to think that a plane or helicopter would still be in sight after forty minutes. It would have been long gone."

Mr White who runs his own business, based in Oxford, described the

object as being oval in shape, red, orange and white in colour and fairly big in size.

"Never before have I had an experience like that. I didn't ever take much interest in U.F.O.'s but after my sighting my thoughts have changed and now I'm far more interested."

Any unusual experiences you'd like to share with us at Mainstream? Then give us a ring or drop us a line and we'll print the most mysterious.

TRUTH, Auckland, New Zealand - Jan. 25, 1988 CR: R. Collings

Vision that rocked star

IT happened on January 13, 1982.

Dave Davies of The Kinks was relaxing with his wife Nancy in his tour hotel room in Hampton, Virginia, "when suddenly the sensation hit me. It was like being grasped round the neck."

Dave, now 40, remembers, "except it was my mind that was gripped". "I called Nancy and tried to explain what was happening." He has tried to explain it ever since.

Dave leans forward, on the edge of his armchair, in his luxurious home in St John's Wood, London. His voice is barely audible.

"Oh yeah, I know some people will say... just another rich druggie pop star freaking out."

"But I was taken over by beings from another world."

Ask for descriptions, and Dave can't give them. He can only "visualise" the "beings" sitting round an imaginary table taking turns to speak to him.

"They showed me the world in a new light."

"They manipulated my arms. They changed the feelings in my body. Everything below my solar plexus went numb."

Thrilling visions bombarded his mind for the next six days. Yet he was able to play the gigs, feeling strangely relaxed throughout.

"The visions ended in Indianapolis," Nancy recalls. "Dave woke up and they were gone."

It was a hot day and he went off to collect firewood in the forest.

"I saw this green haze, like the sun streaming through the leaves," said Ron, now 54 and living in Southall, England.

"As I approached I saw a strange craft, big as a house, in the clearing. Then a man's voice said:

"Don't be afraid" and a hand stopped me.

"I was absolutely terrified but he calmed me."

"He had large eyes, a small nose. But his whole face looked as though a G-force was dragging it back. He was tall, with long hair and wore a matt grey skintuit."

"Slowly he stepped into the green haze and immediately his body

transformed like in an X-ray. He said that I would never come out if I walked into that haze."

"He told me his name was Abnemos. In the centre of his chest was a control panel."

"He touched some buttons and three silver balls emerged from the panel. Two hovered over my shoulders, one over my head."

"Then he walked back to his craft. As the bottom opened I could see about 20 more beings there, some like small children."

"Slowly the four clawlegs buckled beneath the round craft and it rose turning bright white with a flashing red rim. It spun, then van-

ished." Ron told nobody. Even then, he was used to confiding only in himself. His mother died giving birth to him. His grieving father died five months later.

Good

"It was years before I told a friend, but he said I was a loony. So I decided to keep it my own secret."

"I believe we were all like that man once. Maybe we became bad and lost those powers. I don't know who he was, but I know he was good."

"Call me a crank or a nut-case. But what I saw was beautiful - the most marvellous thing that ever happened to me."

CHASE POST, Cannock, England - March 3, 1988

Probe into UFO claim

A Burntwood man has claimed that he saw a UFO not once, but twice in the same evening.

Lee Haycock told Chasetown police that he and a number of other people saw an oval, cigar-shaped object hovering the Biddulph Park area at 9.30pm on Sunday.

It remained stationary for several minutes, with blue, red, white and green lights flashing, before shooting off in the direction of Rugeley.

An hour later, Mr Haycock saw the same object from a caravan site in Brownhills.

This time it hovered for some 10 minutes before repeating its earlier manoeuvre without a sound.

Mr Haycock reported both sightings to Chase Town police station, who in turn contacted Birmingham Airport and Shawbury air base.

Neither were able to confirm the sightings on radar, however. This is the third UFO sighting in the area during the last two months.

The incident is now being investigated by John Hurley of the King-standing-based UFO Studies and Investigations group.

CR: T. Good

PRESS & JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland - May 6, 1988 CR: T. Good

Puzzle as city folk see the light

MYSTERIOUS orange balls spotted over Aberdeen late last night created a puzzler for passers-by.

Several people phoned the "Press and Journal" to report seeing the phenomenon in Queen's Road around 11p.m.

They said they did not look like an aeroplane and were quite at a loss to explain what they were.

Mr Kenneth Morison, 30 Wallfield Place, said: "I just saw one ball-shaped light travelling very fast in the direction of the Beach. There was no wings or anything and it appeared, against a starry sky, to be only a few hundred feet up."

Mr Harry Diack, 20 Watson Street, said he saw several lights and people had stopped their cars to have a look.

"It was definitely something unusual and they seemed about 20-300ft. up. It was very strange."

Grampian Police said no one had yet reported the lights to them.

Whether or not UFOs were involved is unknown, but there were low-flying jets in the Aberdeen area yesterday.

At that time of night Aberdeen airport is closed and the witnesses said the lights travelled across the normal flight path over the city.

U.F.O.'s continue.....

AFTER the UFO story featured in the May issue of Mainstream a number of people have made sightings over the past month.

Thame Town Clerk, Mr Roland Devaney and his wife Val, saw a spherical object with flashing lights.

Mrs Devaney said: "The sight was amazing, it was a circular machine that had bright flashing lights. It was around for 10 minutes then sped off at a very high speed towards Brill".

The couple who live at Lea Park Estate, Thame were not the only people to make a sighting, another couple Mr and Mrs Walker of Brae Hill Close, Brill said they saw the object on four consecutive nights. Mrs Marie Smith and her daughter Julia, 26 a science graduate, watched the object over St. Mary's Church,

Thame, before it sped off.

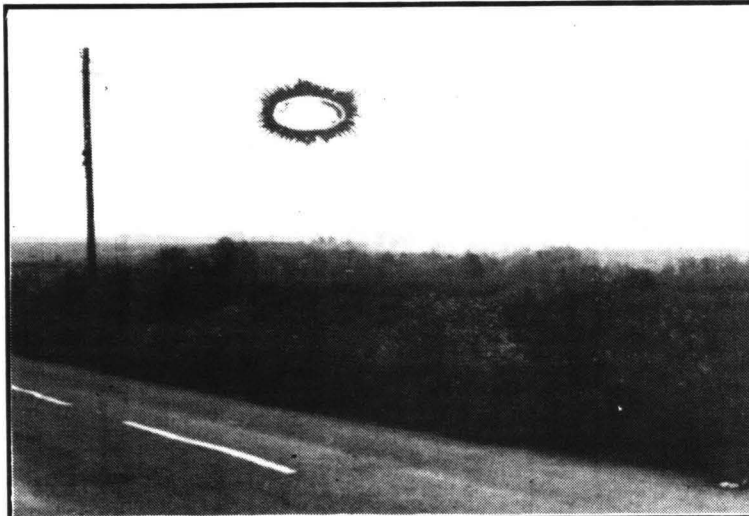
Recently there has been a great number of sightings made in and around the Oxfordshire - Buckinghamshire area and as yet there has been no official explanation to the reports of mysterious lights in the sky.

Neither the RAF or USAF bases have ever had machines like those described operat-

ing in the area.

All the people interviewed give a very similar description and whether you believe in it or not there has never before been so much talk and such a high incidence of sightings in Oxfordshire than now.

So when you're walking back from the pub or putting the cat out late at night, gaze up to the heavens and have a look for a while at the stars and all the other bright lights in the sky!



Flashback - how the artist's impression of the U.F.O. appeared in Last months Mainstream

MAINSTREAM, Oxford, England - June 1988 CR: J. Delair

The spooky side of Suffolk

REPORTS of strange happenings, bright lights in the sky and spectral figures lurking in the darkness bring a charge of excitement to Brenda Butler.

Brenda, of Mafeking Place, Leiston, has been researching the paranormal for the last 25 years, spending countless nights in cold, damp graveyards and haunted houses across East Anglia.

"People would be surprised at the number of reported haunted houses, black magic rites and UFO sightings in Suffolk," she said.

Brenda was an official investigator for the British Phenomenon Research Society. She helped devise programmes on American and Japanese television and she also writes for a range of international magazines.

In 1983 Brenda along with her colleagues Dot Street and Jenny Randles published *Sky Crash*, a book which detailed the alleged landing of an alien spacecraft in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

She claimed that in the mid-1970s Elm Tree Farm at Aldringham was visited by an alien spacecraft. During the night an unidentified vehicle landed in a field, gouging out two large holes. Eyewitnesses said they also observed the spacecraft hovering over Sizewell A nuclear power station. Brenda has a blurred photograph of one of the holes.

"There were no tyre marks or footprints, just these two holes. Also the tops of trees around the field were burnt off," she said. The EADT reported several sightings over Aldeburgh and Sizewell at the time.

She said that once again

sightings are on the increase. "The areas between Woodbridge, Rendlesham and Orford are particularly active and we are getting dozens of sightings every month. Just recently things seem to be on the increase. For some strange reason we get a dramatic increase in UFO sightings every seven years."

The reports included a new sighting in Rendlesham Forest by a travelling salesman just before Christmas.

An elderly woman living at Orford reported a similar sighting in October. She described to Brenda how bright lights hovered outside her bedroom window. Several other Orford residents confirmed this strange happening.

In December two people living outside Leiston reported UFO sightings to the police, but neither would leave their names.

This was particularly frustrating because the U.S. airbases at Bentwaters and Woodbridge confirmed they had nothing flying in the area at the time. The two large spherical objects were described as hovering over isolated houses between Leiston and Snape and Leiston and Saxmundham.

"Ghosts and poltergeists are much more interesting because they are actually there to be studied. UFOs have usually disappeared," said Brenda.

However, in 1973 Brenda came to face to face with ten strange objects hovering around a hill in Cambridgeshire. A BBC film crew accompanied Brenda and captured the event on film. "There was a huge orange ball just hovering in the sky and running around the hill."

"The villagers of Harston told us these lights were con-

ducted with a monolith on top of the hill. They said that black magic rites were held there and these lights were somehow connected with their rituals."

Unidentified flying objects are not the only aspects of Brenda Butler's research. At the moment she is devoting more time to the supernatural.

"There is an elderly man living in Leiston who has had a ghost following him since he was 14-years-old."

"He telephoned me to ask for help. He said that the ghost appears as an elderly nun. She comes to him at night and he believes saved him from several car accidents, appearing in the passenger seat in moments of danger."

Brenda asked the elderly man to speak to the spectre to ask her why she continues to come to him.

Has she ever been frightened? "I can honestly say no. I believe I have a guardian who watches over me. "When you walk into a building you can tell immediately if it is haunted by the atmosphere and the air temperature."

Brenda has investigated the stubborn spirits contained within the Black Horse public house in Leiston.

She said that a previous landlord, Mr. Fred Hammond, was unable to use the inside cellar because, he believed, the spirit was unwilling to release the cellar door. "When it was forced open a terrible smell came up from the darkness below. Then the door was slammed shut again as if it was attached to a very strong spring."

"Also at night lights would be mysteriously turned on and the taps behind the bar would be opened and



Leiston ghost buster Brenda Butler

wash across the floor."

Mr. Larry Lamb, the current landlord, does not have the same difficulties, although he does admit the pub is haunted.

He said, "We regularly hear footsteps across the hallway. One evening my wife and I were watching television when we heard footsteps come up to the living room door. I got up and opened the door and there was no-one there. I sat down again and the footsteps continued their way along the hallway."

Her most disturbing

experience happened several years ago at Bradfield Combe outside Bury St. Edmunds.

"I was out for an evening with friends. They were drinking in the local pub. I am not much of a drinker and went outside for a walk. The village graveyard is next door to the pub and I saw a

coach and horses being pulled through the graveyard and beneath a tree stood this white shape.

"I asked the pub landlady about the churchyard and she explained that they had to close the lounge bar because of nightly visits by the ghostly coachman."

She said drinks would be interfered with and on occasions the spectre would appear behind the bar.

Now Brenda is working on her own and is looking for help with her investigations. Anyone interested should telephone her on Leiston 830757.

Couple in UFO mystery

A THERFIELD couple believe they had a close encounter of the most extraordinary kind when they spotted an unidentified flying object from their home.

Eddie and Molly Owers were baffled by the sighting of a glowing yellow shape in the sky at the break of dawn on Monday.

They watched transfixed for several minutes as the huge object hovered motionless over the Bunt-

ingford area before disappearing from view.

Eddie, 56, said this is not the first time he has seen an inexplicable object in the sky from his home at 1 Meadow Way, Therfield.

And although he has always been sceptical about stories of flying saucers and aliens from outer space, Monday's uncanny experience may have changed his mind.

"I can only believe what I see with my own eyes, and I

know I was not mistaken. This cannot be explained away," he said.

Eddie was leaving home just after 5am to go to work in Royston when he stepped out of the front door to see the mysterious glowing shape in the sky.

"The dawn was just starting to break, and there was this bright light in a definite casserole shape and a most unusual yellow colour."

"I called my wife out and we watched it for several minutes. It did not move in

any direction, it was static, and it certainly wasn't an aeroplane."

When Eddie reported his extraordinary sighting to police at Stevenage, he was told that other people believed they had seen UFO's in the area that morning.

And three weeks before that, Eddie says he saw a dark grey object in the sky towards Barkway.

"I know it must all sound very strange, but I know I am not mistaken. It was uncanny but it's true."



Close encounter... Mr and Mrs Owers with photographer Martyn Annetts' impression of the UFO. MA 1793/26

By ELAINE COOPER

Twenty saw fiery UFO

A MYSTERY sighting over Southend caused 20 South East Essex people to contact the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association.

A bright orange and red shimmering ball, about the size of a hot air balloon, was spotted coming in over the sea at Southend and disappearing in the Westcliff area.

The ball, seen on the early evening of April 14, hovered and travelled fast and slow.

After an appeal in the Echo the association heard from 16 people in Southend, three from Canvey and one from Basildon who described the object as having bright lights.

One person said it was two balls, one below the other.

The association's Essex representative Mr Ron West still wants to contact anyone who might have seen the shimmering ball. He can be phoned on 0255 431391.

Strange lights riddle still hovers over town

UFOs 'TOO LOW, SLOW, QUIET AND BRIGHT'
TO BE VC-10s, CLAIM EYE-WITNESSES

MYSTERY still shrouds last week's UFO sighting over Stafford.

Two strange, triangular objects with a lot of lights were reported by Eileen Ballard near her Fernwood home on Monday night.

But this week, response from other readers who also saw them and Mrs Ballard's sketches in the Newsletter still disagree on what they were.

John Teasdale, of Knowle Road Stafford said he thought the

mystery aircraft were no more than VC-10s flying from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

And a phone call to Brize Norton revealed that two VC-10s did take off from the station at 8.35pm that night, and a spokeswoman said it was possible that they might have flown over Staffordshire.

But another reader who saw the mystery objects, Enid Turner, of George Elliot Close in Uttoxeter, said: "I don't believe they

were VC-10s, no way."

"I would know a VC-10 if I saw it. I often used to go to air displays, they definitely weren't that," Mrs Turner said the objects appeared over her garden hedge, very low, silent and slow moving with a lot of very bright lights.

"They were too low, slow and quiet and the lights were too bright for VC-10s. It might have been a glider, but I would have heard the wind and I heard nothing. VC-10s

are pretty big and heavy," she added.

Several other people in the town had also seen it, but had been afraid to come forward, said Mrs Turner.

She said she thought they may have been the top secret F-19 Stealth aircraft mentioned last week by the British UFO Research Association.

Other readers in Penkridge reported strange clusters of orange and red lights at the same time on Monday night which



Could this be the answer to the mystery of those strange lights - the VC-10.

moved quickly from one place to another, going out and reappearing seconds later.

Sightings of strange lights have also been reported by people as far

away as Wolverhampton at roughly the same time on Monday night but no answer to the mystery has yet been found.

THIS year is the year Bexleyheath is visited by beings from outer space - if they keep to their present pattern.

A wave of sightings were reported in both 1978 and 1983, when unidentified flying objects were landing throughout the Borough of Bexley.

Bell and Cigar shaped craft were most commonly seen, occasionally by day, but only nine spectators spotted alien bodies.

Margaret Fry had one terrifying experience when a UFO almost landed on her: "I was walking down Ashbourne Avenue, in Bexleyheath, when a craft approached from above.

"It came within 15ft. of me and stopped. I called some children over, who were playing hopscotch, to take a look, and doors and windows could be clearly seen.

"The object was an extraordinary colour which was like pewter. would The nearest earthly colour be gun metal grey blue.

"The upper half was a moulded dome and the whole craft was shaped like a hat.

"A rim, in the centre, had portholes one of which opened but no beings were seen. I would love to meet some of the children again who saw the ship."

A whole series of sightings were observed by the Conway Family during 1983, who lived in Erith Road.

Every second or third day a craft landed, in the fields behind their house, normally at around 6.30 pm.

On one occasion two space ships visited, but didn't land. They swung, like pendulums, in the sky.

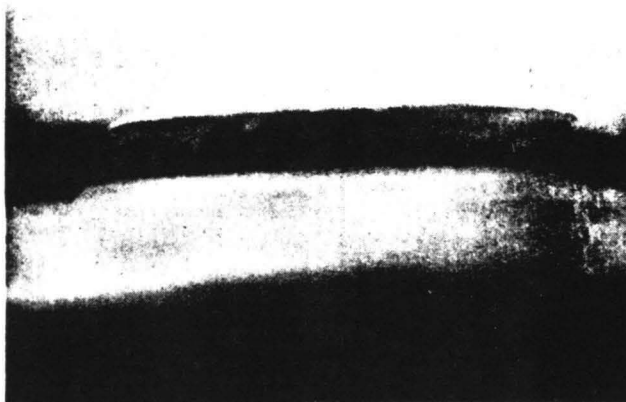
For some unknown reason these occurrences continued for two and a half months.

Ufology was pioneered in Bexleyheath when Harold Williams began research into sightings in the 1940's. He lived opposite Danson Park in Bean Road until he died in 1955.

Timothy Good, author, has detailed many other incredible experiences, in his book 'Top Secret.' It is proved therein, beyond reasonable doubt, that UFO's are not the figments of crazed imaginations.

Documents have come to light, which were prepared for President-elect Eisenhower in January 1952, for the first time.

Confirmation that alien bodies were recovered changes the whole concept of UFO's and extra terrestrial beings. It now seems indisputable that the United States' author-



ARE THEY FOR REAL?

By HELEN MORRIS

ities have bodies and UFO wreckage in their possession.

A top secret panel, the Majestic 12, was formed in 1947 to investigate UFO's and report their findings to the President.

The document newly released reads: "OPERATION MAJESTIC - 12 is a TOP SECRET Research and Development/Intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States."

This paper, of November 18, 1952, goes on to describe the sighting: "In July 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for security study."

"During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded.

"All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week

time period which had elapsed before their discovery.

"A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. The wreckage of the craft was also removed to several different locations.

"Civilian and military witnesses in the area were debriefed, and news reporters were given the effective cover story that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon."

This is just one paragraph from the amazing and unbelievable documents which have reached the hands of Timothy Good.

However, it has been authenticated, very recently, by Dr Roger Wescott, professor of Linguistics at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.

He is a Rhodes Scholar from Oxford and he compared the article with 27 other documents known to the written by Admiral Hillenkoetter, first head of the CIA.

He says: "In my opinion there is no compelling reason to regard any of these communications as fraudulent or to believe that any of them were written by anyone other than Hillenkoetter himself.

"This statement holds for the controversial Presidential briefing memorandum of November 18th 1952."

Timothy Good has himself seen UFO's. His latest sighting was in December 1980. Hundreds saw an elongated triangle in the sky, making movements that no known air craft could perform, over South East London.

It could be seen with the naked eye and a 40 minute video was taken by one of the observers.

Craft from outer space have, it is claimed, followed directions on a telepathic wavelength. If a spectator is frightened and wants it to go away, or is interested and would like a closer look, they have been known to follow these instructions.

Or maybe they are only tourists?

Write in and tell us of your experiences with aliens or their UFO's.

Address your letters to:

UFO
Silkdale Services,
Unit 6B
Europa Trading Estate,
Fraser Road,
Erith, Kent.

Goodness
gracious,
more balls
of fire!

ANOTHER orange light was seen over Aberdeen last night, in roughly the same area and at the same time as on Thursday.

A young man walking with his girlfriend in the Rubislaw area reported seeing an orange light travelling very quickly over the city at about 1500ft shortly before 11p.m.

He described it as flying laterally, unlike a flare, across the airport flight path. It appeared to be powered, but was not a plane or helicopter.

He watched it until it suddenly disappeared.

A Turiff resident also reported seeing "green balls" south-west of the town.

But a young caller to the "Press and Journal" last night claimed to know the real source of the phenomenon ... some friends of his who make mini-hot air balloons out of black plastic bin bags.

"They've been doing it for years and set off one tonight," he said. "They got the idea out of a magazine."

He declined to give either his name or that of his friends - perhaps wisely, since the aviation authorities do not take kindly to unauthorised users of air space.

His explanation was backed up by another reader, merchant seaman Mr Ron Calder, who was walking his dog in Fountainhall Road, on Thursday when one of the "UFOs" drifted to earth.

"It was nothing fantastic at all. It was like a parachute made of fine plastic with four strings attached to a flare holder," said Mr Calder, Blenheim Place.

"There was nothing scary or exciting about it. It must have been someone trying out some simple physics."

Mr Calder added that he first saw the device about 150-200 ft. up and watched it drop into the road about 11p.m.

County UFO alert

by Gareth Twose

LEICESTERSHIRE residents have reported spotting a bright yellow UFO hovering through the night sky.

Reports of the UFO which allegedly changed shape as it moved have been received by Radio Trent, the Leicester Mercury and police.

But neither East Midlands International Airport or the RAF Luffenham air base picked up any unidentified objects in their radars.

White light

The National UFO Investigation Society based in Draycott, Derbyshire, said such sightings were consistent with a rise in UFO activity in Leicestershire since August 1987.

Director of the society Dennis Harriman said sightings fell into three categories: orange spherical objects near pylons, gravel pits and reservoirs; pairs of white lights; a black bullet-shaped UFO with yellow lights at the back and a ring of red lights beneath.

Was it a UFO in sky?

A 'BERMUDA triangle' comprising Long Furlong, the A27 Arundel Road and Cote Street, including the weird domain of Clapham Wood, has been a centre of mystery for a long time.

In October, 1987, the Worthing Herald reported that two businessmen, Ian Sheaff, 33, and Tony Whittick, 44, saw a UFO while running over the Downs at Long Furlong.

At about 9pm one evening they were confronted by a glowing object in the sky.

Mr Sheaff, of High Street, Worthing, a salesman for Glover Cars, said, 'It was hovering, looking at first like a shaft of light right in the middle of the sky.'

Stretched

'It seemed to change shape, from a rugby ball, to a hemisphere, to a triangle then a square, then it gradually shrank into a red dot and disappeared.

'I have never seen anything like it in my life. There was definitely something up there. It was about the size of a full moon seen quite low.'

Mr Whittick, of Unicorn Carriers, Worthing, said, 'It was amorphous - it

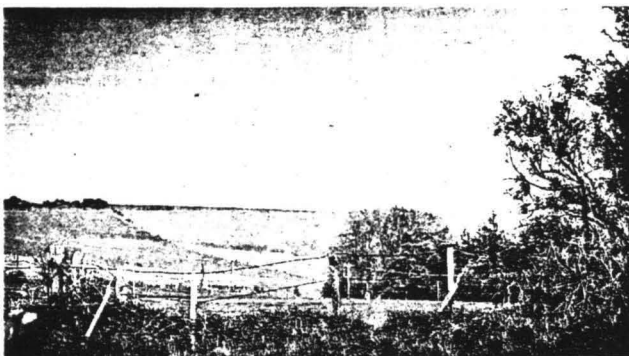


By Andrew Knight

kept changing shape. I have never experienced anything like it before. We could see it clearly for 20 to 25 minutes.'

Two days later Durrington insurance clerk, Mark Green spotted a strange yellow light over the Downs.

Mr Green, 18, of Torridge Close, said, 'It sort of



THE DOWNS ABOVE Long Furlong, where strange sightings have been reported.

stretched as if it was trying to break apart.

'It was as though some invisible hand was playing with plasticine - I assumed it was a supernova.'

Worthing Police notified the RAF after a UFO was spotted in 1981.

Mr Derek Stenning and his son Simon were driving home from Patching at 7.30pm when they saw it. The 13-year-old said, 'A large coloured disc was hovering above a clump of trees on the north of the A27.'

'One half was red and the

other white and the two colours kept flashing alternately.'

Incredible

The red and white lights also transposed their position as they flashed.

'It had two exhaust-type projections from which sparks were appearing.'

As he pointed out the object to his father it suddenly rose in the air, seeming to come towards the car as it crossed the A27.

Then it accelerated away

towards the sea at an incredible speed.

It all happened in less than a minute but left Simon terrified. He said, 'When I got out of the car at home my legs were all shaky.'

In October, 1972, a couple walking near Long Furlong saw a sphere low on the horizon move quickly northwards, keeping in line with the ridge of the Downs. When the object was above Clapham Wood, a beam of light descended, then rapidly withdrew, and the UFO moved away at great speed.

It came from outer space!

An unidentified flying object has been seen in the skies over Bromsgrove.

The close encounter of the first kind took place as a woman was travelling from Birmingham to Bromsgrove on the A46 road.

She saw an orange object with a green light on top which seemed "to light up the sky".

And more sightings of the mystery object have been reported to the lo-

cal office of UFO Studies Investigations.

Mr John Hurley, chairman of the British Aerospace-funded organisation, said all the reports had come from people he regarded as reliable witnesses, including a retired police officer and two workmates just finishing their night shift.

Anyone else who saw anything should contact Mr Hurley on 021-360-4580.

May 6, 1988 CR: T. Good

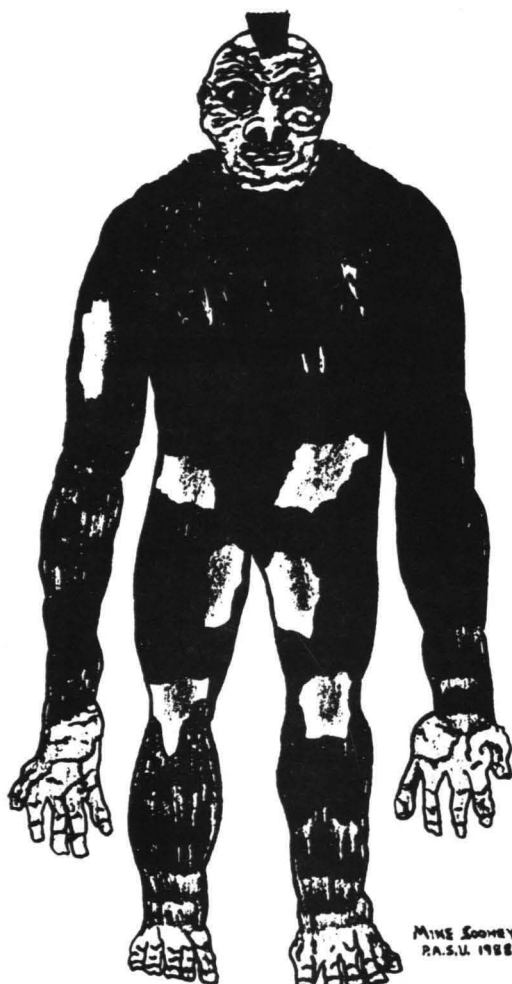
*BARUGH LADY:

I ALSO saw the U.F.O. seen by your reader. Although you do not state the actual date of his sighting, I saw it on Wednesday, 20th April at around 10 o'clock to the rear of Keresforth Hall.

It was dark at the time and although it could have been some distance away it still looked quite large and had two white lights (one on each end) and a third white light which was flashing on and off.

It was definitely hovering and completely silent. As I drove off, it moved silently away from me.

It would be interesting to know if your reader saw it on the same night. I also wish to remain anonymous.



Artist's Rendering Of Bigfoot

Bigfoot Sketch Released

By KIM OPATKA

Bulletin Staff Writer

Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU) has completed work on an artist's conception of a Bigfoot a Ligonier Township man claims to have been along the Loyalhanna Creek May 17.

PASU artist Mike Soohey completed the sketch following meetings with Samuel G. Sherry Sr., who said he saw the creature as he got out of his car to go lantern fishing at 11:30 p.m.

There are a number of important aspects about the sighting, according to PASU's Stan Gordon, including the time of observation, an estimated 12 to 16 minutes.

Sherry's description scales down the reported size of the creature to around six and a half feet and no more than 700 pounds.

The creature, according to Sherry, appeared to be old, with wrinkled skin and short dark fur, with patches of hair missing in places.

Its eyebrows looked like they were plucked out and drawn with a pencil, the experienced outdoorsman reported, and the hair on its head went across the top in a two-inch wide, two-inch high Mohawk-type configuration.

The ears were small, sunken into the head, as were the eyes. The ears weren't big and pointed as other reports had stated, but small, not much bigger than a quarter, according to Sherry. He said there was no visible nose, with a low bridge and big nostrils, flattened down on its face.

It was breathing through the mouth, which was sunk in noticeably, with its lips puckered and deep wrinkles in its face. The eyes were nearly the size of golf balls and were "fiery and glowed orange like a bears."

The creature had no visible waistline or buttocks, Sherry reported, and had a musty odor, with breath like "spoiled seafood."

"Its eyes were constricting due to the bright light," he added, "from big to small, like when you're focusing a pair of binoculars."

The feet were about 13 inches long, he estimated and

about six inches wide with five toes, and the animal walked on two legs.

The animal was "digging into its sides real hard," Sherry said. "It had no claws and its fingernails looked like they were worn off, and it looked like it had mange."

The arms reached to about four inches above the ankle, and the creature had very erect posture.

Gordon notes that Sherry was cross-examined several times by two different teams of investigators, and his story was consistent.

"We have no reason to believe he is making such a story up," Gordon added.

Sherry did not show fear of the animal and it appeared to be curious about him, he noted. It had opportunity to harm him but did not, he emphasized.

As was noted in yesterday's story on Bigfoot, persons who have sighted the creature are asked to contact PASU at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, or call 838-7768 at any time.

PASU is a volunteer statewide scientific research group which investigates incidents such as UFO and Bigfoot sightings.

Bigfoot easy to fake, anthropologist claims

By HILL WILLIAMS
Of The Seattle Times

A Washington State University anthropologist has found that it's relatively easy to fake one of the more impressive bits of evidence in so-called footprints of the Sasquatch.

The Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, is a legendary human-like creature that has been reported in mountains of the Northwest for generations.

Some of the better preserved footprints have shown dermal ridges, the tiny whorls that appear in the skin on the bottoms of toes and feet, similar to fingerprints. The feature occurs in humans and apes but not other animals.

In fact, some apparently fresh footprints — 17 inches long and 6 inches wide — that John Bodley found in the Blue Mountains of Southeast Washington last year, showed dermal ridges clearly. But some other things about the prints made him suspect they were fake.

Back home in Pullman, Bodley decided to see if he could fake dermal ridges. He began by fashioning a clay mold of an oversized foot. Then he rolled his bare big toe in the soft clay to leave impressions of dermal ridges. He did the same with his heel. Then he pressed his forehead into the center of the clay footprint.

Bodley's son, Brett, 16, spread glue on the skin of his fingers and feet, peeled it off and then pressed the dried glue into the clay to leave still more impressions of skin patterns.

Bodley poured plaster of Paris into the mold and let it harden into a cast of a Sasquatch foot. Then he pressed the cast into soft ground. The dermal ridges were clearly visible in the "footprint." And they were still visible in a plaster cast he made of the print.

Bodley wasn't trying to fool anyone, and his fake print didn't. He showed the cast to Grover Krantz, a WSU anthropologist who has investigated reported Sasquatch sightings. Krantz

pointed out that the crudely shaped toes were a giveaway. And at Bodley's request, Krantz showed the fake footprint cast with dermal ridges to six fingerprint experts.

"I showed them two casts and told them one was a fabrication and the other was of unknown origin," Krantz said. "Each one picked the fake immediately. They said the dermal ridges were not oriented correctly on the foot."

The experiment did not shake Krantz's conviction that Sasquatches do exist, even though no bones of the legendary animal ever have been found.

"It would be extremely difficult to fake dermal ridges well enough to fool the experts," Krantz said. "It would take someone well versed in the arrangement of ridges on the feet, as well as skillful in the technique Bodley used."

Krantz cited one supposed Sasquatch print seven inches wide with dermal ridges running the entire width. "No human foot is that wide," he said, "and there was no patching of the ridges. It would have been impossible to fake."

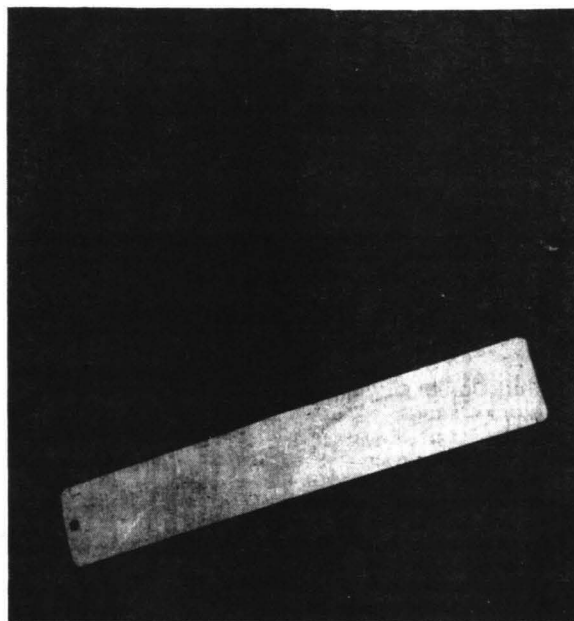
Bodley says he is "not a disbeliever" in the Sasquatch, given the persistence of the legend in history.

"But it's possible hoaxers are a lot more sophisticated than I thought and we're going to have to be more careful in examining footprints," he said.

The footprints Bodley found last year didn't appear more than 30 minutes old.

Although the prints were spread out over a quarter mile of trail, only one sequence of left-right prints was found. And Bodley was puzzled why there were so few tracks on so much available soft soil. Still, he felt he needed to account for the presence of the dermal ridges.

"Now I think it's even more likely they were fake," he said.



'Print' with 12-inch ruler

Mystery Monster? Probably Print Prank

By CONNIE SPIVEY

Staff Writer

John Alexander was wondering what it was that went through his fields near Pine-town last weekend.

Whatever it was, it left big tracks.

Tom Henson said he had the answer. Henson, an animal expert, says it was not an animal but a prankster.

Alexander said he spotted some tracks Saturday morning. "The sun was just peeping up," he said, when he saw some bent grass while he was walking through a field.

He looked around and found

what looked like tracks in a plowed area. They were nearly round, about eight inches across and 11 inches long. Each had what appeared to be six claw marks.

Alexander said the trail was about 75 yards long.

There are bears around Alexander's farm, which is near the Dismal Swamp, but these weren't bear tracks.

Neighbors who looked at the tracks couldn't agree on what might have put them there. Alexander consulted the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department

and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Henson, an animal specialist for the wildlife commission, inspected the prints. His conclusion: "Somebody's having them a little joke."

He said no animal had such a print and that an animal would have left indentations from paw pads. These prints were flat, leading Henson to think they were made from boards.

He said the steps were regular-sized steps for a person. "They made sure they walked in a plowed field and not in the road," he said.

Besides that, he said, he detected some snickers and some sidelong glances among the people who watched him inspect the tracks.

"I think that some of those folks knew more than they were telling," Henson said.

Henson said he did not take any plaster casts. But at least one Pinetown resident did, according to Alexander.

Alexander plowed over some of the prints, but some still barely remain in a small field beside his house. And neighbors have been spreading the word, drawing some Beaufort County residents to the farm.

Whatever their source, the prints definitely made an impression.

DAILY NEWS, Washington,

NC - June 9, 1988

On the lookout for 'Lizardman'

'Monster' sighting enthalls S.C. town

By Wayne Beissert
USA TODAY

Something's out there — and some residents of Brownstown, S.C., think it's Lizardman.

Whatever's roaming Scape Ore Swamp has up to 1,000 people a day calling local radio stations and 75 hunters a night trying to capture it.

Christopher Davis, 17, of nearby Spring Hill says a green, wet-looking, 7-foot-tall, three-fingered, red-eyed, scaly monster attacked him while he was changing a flat tire at 2 a.m. in the alligator- and rattlesnake-infested swamp.

"No doubt he saw some-

thing," says Bill Moore of the Lee County sheriff's office.

A state biologist called in by Sheriff Liston Truesdale says it was most likely a drunk who got up out of a muddy ditch.

Davis is willing to be hypnotized to remember more.

"It's like Santa Claus. You know it isn't real, but in the back of your mind, maybe it is," says Gerry McCracken of radio station WSOC in Columbia, which is offering \$1 million for Lizardman's capture.

Locals have been interviewed on radio in New Zealand, England and Arizona.

"I hope the publicity's not bad. Being a small rural South-

Other creatures stalking USA folklore

► **Bigfoot:** A.k.a. Sasquatch, this huge, ape-like being roams the Pacific Northwest.

► **Jersey Devil:** This one has a horse's face, a kangaroo's body, a bat's wings, a pig's hooves and emits a piercing howl over New Jersey's Pine Barrens.

► **Champ:** In New York's Lake Champlain, tales abound of the creature with the blackish-gray, snakelike neck supporting a small head on a body up to 50 feet long.

► **Dover Demon:** Some in Dover, Mass., swear by the orange, 4-foot tall animal with a head like a figure 8.

► **Giant penguins:** 10 feet tall, near Clearwater, Fla.

► **Wallowa Lake Monster:** This one has seven humps, is 50 feet long and calls this eastern Oregon lake home.



By Elys McLean-Ibrahim, USA TODAY

"Our primary problem is keeping people with guns out of the area," says Moore.

Callers to WSOC say they'll bring Lizardman in "damaged, but alive," says McCracken. "Those kind of guys are scary."

ern town, people look at us as rednecks, which I guess some of us are," says Moore.

Tom and Mary Waye of Bishopville suspect Lizardman

stole their car's hood ornament. Officials say a red fox made the tracks and scratches.

Sightseers stop at the sheriff's office to ask directions.

DAILY TIMES CHRONICLE, Reading, MA

Aug. 3, 1988 CR: J. Melesciuc

Capitalism and the Lizard Man

BISHOPVILLE, S.C. (UPI) — Lawmen and tourists can seem to find neither hide nor hair of the elusive "Lizard Man," but commercialism has caught up with the scaly "Bigfoot" of the Scape Ore Swamp.

Hordes of the curious — reporters, tourists, hunters — have been gathering at the Lee County swamp in central South Carolina each day around dusk over the last few weeks, hoping for a glimpse of the fast and fearsome monster.

Small-time entrepreneurs trying to make a buck are out there too, hawking T-shirts, hats, buttons and bumper stickers bearing a likeness of the eerie creature. There's even an official "Lizard Man Information Center."

"Bert Floyd, my cousin from Charleston, does a great Elvis tribute," said Gail Gaddy, one T-shirt entrepreneur. "He's real famous down there. He's gonna cut a record about the Lizard Man. I've seen some of the lyrics. They're real cute. I promised I wouldn't repeat the words. I think it'll be a big hit."

Christopher Davis, 17, the teenager who reported seeing the beast up close, spent Monday at the information center autographing \$10 T-shirts and recounting a purported face-to-face meeting with the "red-eyed devil."

Davis said the creature is green and 7 feet tall, with three fingers on its hands. It's been likened to the legendary monster "Bigfoot" of the Pacific Northwest.

The soft-spoken Bishopville high school student said he saw the monster about a month ago as he changed a tire on his 1976 Toyota Celica in the Scape Ore Swamp area.

"I had finished changing the tire and was putting the things in the trunk," said Davis. "The moonlight was out. I turned around and saw a red-eyed devil. He was about 30 yards from me, in the field. When he would run, his arms would swing."

"I ran to the driver's side and got in. When I was sitting in the car, I saw him from the neck down. I pulled off and after about 2 yards, he jumped on the roof."

"I saw hands, rough-looking black-fingernailed hands. After he jumped up on the car, he frantically."

Davis said the Lizard Man apparently fell from the car but continued chasing him on foot at up to 40 mph — a speed dispelling the teenager's initial thought that someone might have been dressed in a monster suit.

The youngster pulled up to the family's home, blowing the horn frantically.

"He was so upset he left the car running," said his father, Tommy. "He was huffing and puffing. In a few minutes, he started crying. We asked him what had happened, and he said what he saw was 7 feet tall, had red eyes and had three (fingers) on each hand."

Then on July 14, Lizard Man allegedly struck again at the home of Tom and Mary Waye. The creature is said to have been responsible for pulling the chrome and molding off the Wayes' Ford LTD.

Last week, a deputy sheriff showed off a plaster cast of some three-toed, 14-by-7-inch "tracks," the last physical evidence of the creature. Sheriff Liston Truesdale called it the work of pranksters, but two law officers who found the tracks were convinced "something was out there."

Davis has become the closest thing Lee County has had to a celebrity. Joye Reis of Sumter says she's representing the teenager in his dealings with the media and those who want to profit from his experience.

Reis and a business partner, Randy Galloway, are cashing in, as well, through the sale of Lizard Man memorabilia and guided tours of the nearby swamp area.

Wanda Knight, who reported selling more than 1,200 T-shirts, said she thought the Lizard Man story "was a big joke until I saw those footprints the thing made."

"I don't think it'll ever die down," she said. "Too many people believe it's real. Last Saturday night there were probably three to four hundred people out here."

"For something to change, they've got to prove it's a hoax," said James Knight, her business partner. "It will go on forever. It could be a legend."

CHRONICLE, Houston, TX - June 19, 1988

Monstrous curiosity forces Loch Ness exhibit to expand

By GREGORY JENSEN
United Press International

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland — Any mystery is a magnet. The mystery of the Loch Ness monster attracts so many people that its exhibit is being forced to expand.

"We'll be moving it in here," said Anthony G. Harmsworth, gesturing at a bulky, two-story granite building on the north shore of Scotland's most puzzling lake.

Below are the brooding waters where people have been "seeing" monsters for 1,400 years — a pencil-slim, 24-mile-long lake cupped in the pine-covered slash of the geological fault called the Great Glen.

Alongside the granite building looms the monster of legend, a 30-foot sculpture whose prehistoric long neck thrusts from a bulbous body with diamond-shaped flippers, held in a flower-ringed pool.

"Oh, that's entirely fanciful, I'm afraid," Harmsworth said. "We're having second thoughts about that."

Such frankness is surprising from the curator of the Official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition, now crammed into garagelike structures behind the granite building.

But the exhibition is more serious than it might seem. And Tony Harmsworth, 43, is anything but a fanatic about whatever lurks in the

peat-darkened waters of the landlocked, 720-foot-deep lake.

His exhibition displays all the famous photographs that have made "Nessie" the world's favorite phantom — and then proves most of them are fakes or frauds.

It lays out evidence collected by side-scan sonar, underwater strobe cameras, computer-enhanced photographs and many other devices that have searched the lake.

"The loch has been surveyed for decades — by the Royal Air Force, eminent scientists, cranks, crackpots, mini-submarines and millions of pounds worth of high technology, including NASA computers," says a local tourist pamphlet.

"And we still don't have proof."

Even last year's much-publicized "Operation Deep Scan," the most thorough sonar sweep of the lake yet made, was ambiguous.

"They got three contacts they can't yet explain," Harmsworth said. "They're coming back this year."

Harmsworth and a partner set up the Loch Ness exhibition in 1979 because "there was a genuine need for people to find out about the monster."

By now it has grown through several extensions, added a hotel and filled the big granite building with shops and craft displays. Last year about 250,000 people came, and half paid 1.65 pounds (\$3.10) to tour the

"monster" exhibition.

"People come in for a laugh, but they're surprised by all the factual information," Harmsworth said. "They don't expect to learn about the loch as a habitat, its fish and invertebrate populations."

But do visitors learn whether "Nessie" is mere myth, or that it is real?

"In the end it's all down to personal opinion," Harmsworth said, his eyes swiveling almost involuntarily to the lake's unbroken surface.

"But I think there's something there."

"Sightings" still go on. A plaque by the door lists five in 1986 alone. But despite St. Columba's "monster" report in 565 A.D., "Nessie" is really a modern phenomenon. Most of the more than 4,000 serious "sighting" reports have come since a lakeside road opened in 1933.

Harmsworth delivers his considered opinion about what lurks in the lake.

"I think it's a fish," he said.

Even so, he ends his introduction to the exhibition's guidebook with a sensible warning:

"If you are to be skeptical, then be skeptical of any person who claims to be able to prove the matter one way or another. The mystery at Loch Ness," he says, "goes far deeper than you can ever imagine."

WEEKLY NEWS, London, England - April 2, 1988 CR: D. Speed

FELL TO EARTH FROM AIRCRAFT MASSIVE ICE BLOCK CRASHED DOWN IN FRONT OF HOUSE

A WOMAN was shaken when a massive block of ice hurtled from the sky to smash onto the drive in front of her house.

Luckily no-one was hurt in the incident in Farlington, Hants, although there were workmen nearby and a woman delivering rate demands was only next door.

The ice had fallen to the ground from an aircraft but this is not a particularly new or rare phenomenon. In the past two years, a total of 38 objects identified as being parts of aircraft have fallen to the ground, along with 40 blocks of ice.

In spite of the number of such occurrences, there have not so far been any serious injuries as a result—but there have been some very near misses.

Market workers who were setting up for the

day's business at London's New Covent Garden were lucky to escape unscathed when a 20-pound wheel chock came crashing through the roof of the market.

Trapped

The steel-encased solid rubber block had been trapped in the undercarriage of a Boeing 737.

As the aircraft made its approach to land at Heathrow airport, the chock worked its way loose and fell 3000 feet to earth.

There was a loud bang as

the "bomb" hit the roof of the market and crashed to the ground only three feet away from a market salesman. The impact left a gaping, 16 square feet hole in the roof.

In the event of your car being flattened by such an object or your house damaged by a block of freefalling ice, the Civil Aviation Authority offer the following advice. "The normal procedure is for the incident to be reported to the local police, who then inform us," said a spokesman.

"The information, such as the location and the time of the incident is put through the CAA Safety Data Analysis Unit. Radar records are checked and, if it is possible to identify the aircraft, the relevant company is informed of the incident, and the information is passed onto the person involved."

Generally Speaking

by Rick Schwab



WE GET SOME strange mail at *The Echo* office. In fact, we have one regular correspondent whose letters are very detailed, but quite incomprehensible. When I started getting them, I was concerned enough that I asked postal and police authorities to look into it, to see if they represented some sort of threat. They assured me I had nothing to fear; similar letters from the same correspondent were also going to *Time* magazine and other respected publications.

Some time ago I stopped opening these letters. Now I just add them to the pile of "kook" letters in a dusty corner of my office. The next editor of this esteemed publication is welcome to sift through them in search of meaning; I've long since given up on that task.

I thought last week was going to be a banner week for strange mail when I received a reported sighting of the legendary "Bigfoot" — or a creature remarkably similar to the stinky one. But this letter was different. It was signed, and a phone number was included to confirm the letter. I called the author, and the more he talked, the more he convinced me he'd seen something prowling the creekbanks at Sleepy Hollow last week Tuesday.

With Mr. Sherry's permission, I called Stan Gordon of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU) to see if he'd heard any similar reports of "Bigfoot." He had; he seemed interested in what the letter said, and he promised to contact its author.

Over the weekend, Mr. Sherry and Mr. Gordon got together at the spot where the sighting occurred to go over the sequence of events. As Mr. Sherry wrote in his letter, he saw the creature very clearly, and took time to study it and make mental notes. Mr. Gordon later told me that Mr. Sherry seemed like a very credible witness. "He stuck to his story — though he had no reason to make it up — and he provided a lot more detail."

All in all, said Gordon, "a very interesting report."

There have been other reports in the same general area on both sides of Chestnut Ridge in recent months, said Gordon. In early February, PASU received a report of a Bigfoot-like creature on the Ligonier side of the ridge, he said. It was described as being seven feet high, with very long arms. On March 14, there was another report of a similar creature on the Derry side of the ridge. This one startled a motorist because it was reportedly chasing a deer!

"The reports are very consistent," noted Gordon. And while these creatures seem curious about human activity, there are no reports of one causing injury to a human being. That's one reason why Mr. Sherry's report was so unusual, Gordon pointed out — there are so few reports of the creature acting in a threatening manner. Perhaps the creature felt its territory was being invaded, or was upset at the flashlight being trained on its eyes, Gordon suggested.

Gordon noted that upon further consideration, Sherry downsized the creature from his original estimate to about 6½ or seven feet tops. He also listed these observations: small head compared to its body size; long arms; large hands with narrow fingers; a wrinkled face; no teeth; long narrow feet; no discernable neck or waistline, and a "musty" odor.

Mr. Sherry provided one other detail — an interesting physical trait that is rarely mentioned, noted Gordon. He declined to say what it was, but he noted that Mr. Sherry, because of his experience as a hunter and sportsman, obviously took the time to observe the creature carefully to provide such rich detail.

In a follow-up visit to my office this week, Mr. Sherry described how the creature sounded to him and how he could smell its hot

breath as it approached his car. "It had no teeth so I guess it couldn't have eaten me," he laughed, but he added that a creature of that size could probably do some harm if it had a mind to.

Sherry speculated that the creature arrived at the scene via a large culvert pipe under Route 30 west-bound, and said he'd like to take a stab at live-trapping it. He figures Bigfoot may frequent the Sleep Hollow causeway area because of all the food and bait that's left around by careless fishermen. He also postulated that Bigfoot may reside in the labyrinth of limestone caves beneath Chestnut Ridge. Sherry plans to sit down with an artist to try to come up with a rendition of what he saw for the PASU group.

I REALLY DON'T know what to think of it all. I don't think I'll really believe in Bigfoot until somebody drags his mangy carcass into my office, or shows up with some other incontrovertible evidence.

It's the same with UFOs. As Gordon points out, most sighting can be explained. Reports always pick up when there are unusual planetary alignments.

But, he said, there seems to have been a lot of activity recently, in Pennsylvania and throughout the Northeast U.S. "There has been a very large wave of unexplained activity since last August," he said. "Many have been large objects seen close to the ground, many hovering around power lines — it's very interesting."

Now, I'd love to have a good photograph of a Bigfoot or a UFO to run in *The Echo*, but if you take one, don't call me first. Call PASU's confidential hotline at 838-7768, or write PASU, 6 Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

Also, if you have an interest in the subject of the unexplained, mark this date on your calendar: Aug. 20. That's when PASU will have a public display at Westmoreland Mall, including plaster casts of — you guessed it — Bigfoot's big footprints!

This ain't funny, but... could you imagine Bigfoot with rabies?

'Bigfoot' Lore Lures Tourists and Money to Calif. Town

BY JOE CEMPA
Reuters

WILLOW CREEK, Calif. — If not for the legend of a smelly 8-foot tall, human-like beast, little would set this northern California town apart from thousands of other American hamlets.

Often called the "Bigfoot Capital of the World," Willow Creek straddles Highway 299 about 50 miles from the Pacific Ocean amid lush groves of cedar, fir, pine and oak.

More than 4 dozen of Willow Creek's 800 residents claim to have seen the elusive man-ape, and a thriving industry has been built around the mystique of "Bigfoot," or "Sasquatch," as the Indians called the creature that leaves 16-inch footprints.

Willow Creek businessmen name their shops after the elusive creature and sell maps of sightings to tourists eager to clamber around in search of the beast themselves.

Visitors can shop at Willow Creek's Bigfoot Lumber and Hardware, search for clothes at Sasquatch Second Hand, examine antiques at the Bigfoot Curio Shop, enjoy a round of golf at Bigfoot Country Club and cap off the afternoon with a Bigfoot Burger.

As summer approaches, Willow Creek softball enthusiasts will organize tournaments and fire up barbecues for another round of Bigfoot Days.

Local beauties will preen, primp and

sell raffle tickets. She who sells the most tickets by the end of the season will be crowned Bigfoot Queen under the watchful eye of a huge Bigfoot statue in Bigfoot Square during a 4-day celebration over Labor Day Weekend.

"It's definitely helped the area," said Terri Castner, president of the local Chamber of Commerce. "The legend has been fantastic for our town."

The chamber's tourist information booth sits a convenient two or three "Bigfoot steps" behind a massive redwood Bigfoot statue.

The legend has been part of northern California Indian lore for centuries.

When a road-building crew in 1958 discovered 17-inch tracks, heavy 55-gallon metal barrels tossed about like toys, a 700-pound tire thrown over a cliff and large human-like droppings, Bigfoot entered the 20th century here.

A story appeared in the local paper, wire services picked it up, and Willow Creek found itself basking in Bigfoot glory.

But an expedition by a New York zoologist and several magazine investigations failed to find concrete evidence of the creature.

According to legend and unsubstantiated modern sightings, the man-apes have slanted foreheads, broad nostrils, coarse body hair, a shrill scream and a putrid smell.

Several years ago, variety store owner Al Hodgson took plastic im-

pressions of large tracks he found in a creek bed.

"All I can say is that the tracks were actually there. I couldn't tell if they were fake or not," he said. "One would think that by this time there'd be some solid proof. A bone, a body, something."

Despite the lack of hard evidence, sightings of the creature and his tracks keep pouring in, along with tourist dollars.

"Lots of people come up here just because of Bigfoot. We're known as the gateway to Bigfoot country. They're very interested in the statue and looking for Bigfoot in the woods," said Castner.

She has never laid eyes on the critter herself, but said with a grin, "I know people who have claimed it, but they're not people I'd believe."

Artist Bill Filbey designed a poster-sized map of Bigfoot sightings and lore, yet he is skeptical that the creature exists.

"I'd like to believe. It does seem odd there's no physical evidence. Lots of reports — no solid proof. There're so many reports, you have to take the position that all these people are either hallucinating or lying," he said.

"If only one person is telling the truth, then it exists," he said.

Bigfoot on film?

Area man says he has it

Don Keating, president of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Study Group, says he has a picture of what he and Mark Francis, a fellow researcher from Twinsburg, Ohio, believe is Bigfoot.

Keating said he and Francis were in southern Coshocton County on Nov. 7 "just scouting around. We climbed a cliff to get a better look and took some pictures. At 5:18 p.m., I was looking west, northwest, at a singular row of trees when I saw a stump, which I thought might have been something else at first. I called Mark over and he no sooner got to me than we both saw a very tall,

dark figure emerge from the woods, about 450 yards away. I observed it for a minute and 10 seconds and got two pictures, one when the creature was walking along the tree line and another when it was in a cornfield. We estimated it was nine feet tall and had black hair all over its body. It walked on two legs but did not bend at the knees. We estimated the stride to be at least four feet and the shoulders to be 3½-feet wide."

Keating said he has sent the pictures to a professional photographer to get the best reproduction possible but did not have the pictures back yet. He plans to have the pictures at

what he calls his last "Bigfoot" meeting on Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. at the Duke's Inn at Newcomerstown.

Keating said it would be the last meeting because of a lack of financial response from those people who are attending the meetings. Keating has been paying for the meeting room out of his own pocket and with any donations from those attending. Except those attending haven't been giving much money, Keating said.

However, Keating is expecting to have the final meeting and will have the pictures, if they are available at that time. Francis is also expected to attend.

Loch Ness Study Team, From Tulsa's Lowrance Corp., Boosted Area's Tourism

By JOE HOULIHAN

Scotland's Loch Ness is expecting a monster boom this summer — thanks to the efforts of a team of beast-hunters from Tulsa.

The team, from Lowrance Corp., provided vital equipment for a sonar scan of the mysterious Highland loch last October, hoping to solve the Nessie enigma.

Its ambitious efforts attracted worldwide media attention, and that has brought visitors flocking to the loch in the thousands this year.

Guest houses and Highland hotels report record bookings for the coming summer season and tourism chiefs say they have never known interest in the Loch Ness Monster to be so great.

Most of the international attention generated by the Lowrance search — known as Deep Scan —

has been directed at the official Loch Ness Monster exhibition center at Drumnadrochit.

The center is close to Castle Urquhart, which looms over one of the deepest sections of Loch Ness, a favored starting point for Nessie hunts.

Center curator Betty Gallagher said, "I think the booming season this year is a direct off-shoot of the Deep Scan project because at last the world has realized that it is a serious subject."

She said a video film of the Deep Scan search is now an important part of the center's monster exhibition and has been very popular with visitors.

Ms. Gallagher added, "We had 230 journalists here from all over the world when the scanning was going on. Now we are getting the feedback from all that worldwide publicity in the form of people

wanting to visit Loch Ness.

"There is no doubt that it has given a major boost to the tourist industry here."

The Lowrance Corp. supplied 20 highly sophisticated sonar scanning machines for the search. They were installed in 20 boats owned by a Scottish cruise company boss, Jim Hogan of Caley Crusies.

Technicians and senior officials from Lowrance were present for the scan and made a big impression on the Loch Ness locals.

Ms. Gallagher said, "They were tremendously helpful and really interesting. It was great to have people who were so enthusiastic about the whole Loch Ness Monster issue."

Sonar scans were conducted over three consecutive days, with the Deep Scan team turning up three definite "contacts." The

contacts appeared to be objects about the size of an average shark, moving at depths of between 500 to 600 feet.

Lowrance has not yet released its conclusive results of the three days of scanning, but Ms. Gallagher is confident the objects which were detected would turn out to be genuine and not, as some skeptics have suggested, shoals of fish.

Even so, it seems that the legend of a Loch Ness Monster will never be laid to rest until someone comes up with a genuine carcass, she noted.

Sightings have been made frequently since the first recorded encounter by St. Columba in 565 A.D., but they have not yet been enough to convince the doubters.

In the meantime, the speculation continues and, with the help of the team from Tulsa, that is good news for businesses in the area of the loch.

As for Betty Gallagher's theory on the monster — she thinks it will prove to be a kind of giant eel, about 12 feet in length.

(Joe Houlihan is with *Deadline News Services* in York, England.)



RETURN OF THE MONSTER?: Jeremy Reiman, step-son of Bob Reiman, points to trampled grass and what might have been a footprint of the Big Muddy Monster. (Below right) An artist's depiction of the monster from a sighting made several years ago.

Big Muddy Monster sighted in Murphy

By David Hiser
American Staff Writer

Just when you feel like everything's all right, it comes back.

Just when you feel like you're safe walking through that wooded area in the full moonlight, there it is.

Yep, it's the Return of the Big Muddy Monster.

"What was surprising to me was that it came right up behind the garage. It gave out a real high-pitched scream or bellow. No man could make a sound like that."

Bob Reiman was recounting the events of early Friday morning when the legendary monster reportedly made an appearance in his salvage yard on the north side of Murphysboro near the Missouri Pacific tracks just off Business Route 13.

Reiman had been called to the scene by security guard Charles Straub, who thought there might be a prowler in the salvage yard. Reiman and Straub searched the yard for a while, then came upon what they said was an 8 to 10-foot



tall creature covered with fur. "Its eyes were red in the beam of the flashlight," said Reiman. "And it had lots of teeth. They weren't like fangs, they were just teeth. You could sure tell it hadn't been using Polident."

Reiman said the first thing he and Straub noticed was a strong odor. Then they heard a rustling in the treeline on the edge of the lot and saw the creature.

"When they called us about it, we thought they were joking," said Joyce Tindall of Royalton. Joyce, Reiman's sister said she had loaded up some toilet paper to pull a prank on Reiman if it turned out to be a joke.

"When we say Bob and Charlie's faces, we knew it wasn't any joke," Joyce said she, Cheryl Reiman, and the rest of the group encountered the creature in the south portion of the salvage yard.

"When it stood up, I just couldn't speak. Then it ducked back down and all these words just came out of my mouth."

"It seemed to be making semi-circles around us like it was stalking us or checking us out. It seemed to be just as curious about us as we were about it."

The night before, Mrs. Tindall said they had heard a loud slurping noise coming from the vicinity of the pan of water which the dog normally drank out of. The next morning, the pan was dry.

Tuesday, Reiman was spending all his time on the phone in his garage, talking to reporters and other interested people.

"We didn't want to report it to the police, because we thought we'd be ridiculed. Folks from the newspapers haven't been like that, though. They seem to be genuinely interested in this thing."

The weeds in the area show signs of being trodden down and a path leads to the low area next to the railroad embankment where what was claimed to be a footprint of the monster has now seeped full of water.

The tale of the Big Muddy Monster dates back to 1972.

The creature got its name because some of the first sightings were in the 20th Street area and near Riverside Park adjacent to the Big Muddy River which flows south of Murphysboro.

There have been 12 reported sightings of the monster, most of them near Murphysboro.

Some 21 persons had previously reported sighting the monster.

Police Chief Larry Tinchler was quoted as saying, "Fortunately for the Murphysboro Police Department, the monster has stayed out of town."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - June 8, 1988
CR: G. Conway

BULLETIN, Latrobe, PA - June 14, 1988 CR: S. Gordon

Area Is Visited By 'PM Magazine'

By KIM OPATKA
Bulletin Staff Writer

Bigfoot reports in the area have been generating a lot of interest, so much so that the sightings will be the subject of a segment on PM Magazine.

Filming began yesterday for the segment with Jim Dever, host of the WJAC, Johnstown-based show, and a camera crew visiting the offices of Stan Gordon of Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained.

Dever also interviewed a Derry Township man who claimed to have seen Bigfoot near the Village of Gray Station in December of 1986. The man, who asked that his identity not be revealed, told his story in a Bulletin article in March of 1987.

Interviews are also planned with two other men who claimed to have seen the creature in the area, Samuel Sherry Sr. of Ligonier Township, and Robert France of Vandergrift.

An account of the sighting by Sherry, who claimed he saw Bigfoot along the Loyalhanna Creek while preparing to lantern-

fish, appeared in a June 8 Bulletin story, with a composite sketch appearing the following day.

France, who reported his sighting in June of 1982, allegedly saw it on Chestnut Ridge near Bear Cave, Derry Township. He was interviewed in May of 1987.

All will tell their stories for the show, which airs weekdays at 7 p.m. on WJAC-TV, Channel 6.

Dever will also be taking his crew to East Huntingdon Township, which, Gordon notes was a "hotbed" for sightings in 1973. Reports have been generated from that area on a regular basis since then, he added.

Dever said an air date for the segment, which will be "fairly long," has not been decided since filming has just begun.

Gordon, an internationally recognized authority on UFO's and Bigfoot, founded PASU, which is based in Greensburg, and serves as its director. The group is an all-volunteer, nonprofit, scientific research unit that conducts open-minded investigations of strange and unusual occurrences.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 3, 1988

Hair hailed as proof of 'Wildman'

BEIJING — Scientists say an analysis of hair reportedly belonging to China's version of the abominable snowman has proven the existence of the legendary "Wildman" that roams southwestern forests, a news report said Tuesday.

"The distribution of trace elements in the Wildman hairs is different from that of modern man, black bears, orangutans and other animals," Shanghai's *Wen Hui Bao* newspaper said.

Nicknamed "Fei Fei" by Chinese scientists, the creature is cousin to North America's bigfoot and the legendary abominable snowman of the Himalayas. (UPI)

Author hopes to hook legendary lake beast

Canadian Press
TORONTO — Michael Bradley's going hunting for a monster.

He believes a big worm-like creature lives in the depths of Muskrat Lake, about 90 kilometres northwest of Ottawa.

In August, he plans to ride a barge onto the middle of the lake, lower a big cage into its deepest

part, and maybe trap something you expect to see only in nightmares and fantasy movies.

For years the residents of Cobden, at the southern end of Muskrat Lake, have reported sightings of a large water animal that would surface briefly, frightening swimmers and boaters in the popular lake. There are no photographs of the beast, which is

fondly called Mussie, but descriptions give it a length of four to six metres.

Bradley, a Toronto author, admits the odds of success are slim. But he does have a legitimate one-month trapping licence — "a scientific collector's permit" — from the Pembroke office of the Ontario ministry of natural resources.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - April 20, 1988 CR: D. Speed

Tracking down the 'ice bombs'

THE football-sized lump of ice which fell off an aeroplane and smashed through the roof of a house near Tonbridge in Kent at the weekend wasn't such a freakish incident as many people might assume. Last year, 13 cases of falling lumps of ice were re-

ported to the Civil Aviation Authority. Occasionally there is a leak from a plane's water system. When the plane flies very high — where the air is cooler — the water freezes. On descent it may be dislodged while melting.

So far nobody in Britain has been injured by anything falling off a plane. The CAA says there is a limit to what it can do in such circumstances and asks for the public's help, particularly if they note precisely the time the ice comes down.

The CAA then recommends all planes in the area carry out checks for leaks. This, it says, generally does the trick.

The CAA stresses that it represents no danger to the plane.

JAMES HANNING