

UFO

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UFO sightings on rise in the district

By James W. Siehl
The Tribune-Democrat

A wave of unidentified-flying-object reports in the area that started last August never has let up, according to Stan Gordon, director of a Greensburg-based clearinghouse for strange happenings.

"In all the years I've been involved, this is the most unusual, continuous wave I have ever seen — month after month of unusual cases," said Mr. Gordon, an authority on UFO and Bigfoot phenomena.

He said a high percentage of sightings normally are explainable, but there has been a definite increase in the number of observations of things that cannot be explained.

Cambria high on list

Mr. Gordon said reports have been received of unusual incidents in 22 counties in Pennsylvania this year. Cambria County is one of the leaders.

He said 30 reports — the majority UFO-related — already have been received this year in Cambria County, which he said is a lot.

Checking off some of the communities with reported UFO activity, Mr. Gordon mentioned Cresson, Ebensburg, Nanty Glo, South Fork, Elton, Salix, Daisytown, Richland Township, Geistown, Riverside, Johnstown and Tanneryville, along with Carpenters Park and Davidsville in bordering Somerset County.

He listed these reports:

• On Aug. 8, people driving home from Ebensburg toward Nanty Glo after 10 p.m. saw a bright glow that made a high humming sound moving at a high speed in front of them.

• At 10:50 p.m. that day, Nanty Glo residents reported seeing an object with red and green flashing lights moving in a circular motion.

"Interestingly, within minutes we had other reports in Westmoreland County of people reportedly seeing exactly the same thing," Mr. Gordon said.

Daisytown sighting

• The previous night, a number of people in Daisytown reported observing an object hovering over and then zig-zagging out of the area.

"People claim to have seen a mili-



tary helicopter a short time later in the vicinity," Mr. Gordon said. "It could have been a coincidence. But in the past several years, we have been getting reports of military jets or helicopters in areas not accustomed to seeing military traffic."

Indiana County also has been the scene of many strange happenings, especially in the past several months near Homer City generating station.

"Historically, we know these things are attracted to energy sources, but what we are seeing now is more of a generalized pattern directly over the power installations," Mr. Gordon said.

Fireballs

Early last month, residents in the Homer City area reported seeing slow-dropping fireballs, which Mr. Gordon said did not seem to correlate with meteor activity — especially because they happened in the same area several weeks apart.

On July 17, near the Homer City station, people were fascinated by two bright lights at high altitude that criss-crossed each other's path across the sky. According to Mr. Gordon, one of the objects finally broke away and made several passes within 200 feet of the ground, making a high-pitched

hissing sound.

Witnesses described it as "a large dome-shaped thing" resembling a soldier's helmet, with four "legs" at the bottom and lights on the "legs," Mr. Gordon said.

Search for plane

The researcher is intrigued by an unsuccessful search for what was believed to have been a downed plane in the Homer City area early July 28.

People were awakened at about 5 a.m. by a very high-pitched sound, loud enough to be heard over air conditioners. One person thought he heard something hitting the tops of trees. Workers at the Homer City station also reported hearing the noise, Mr. Gordon said.

Although an extensive search was organized, no plane was found and none was reported missing.

On the night of Feb. 10, numerous witnesses in a 10-mile area covering parts of Cambria and Somerset counties reported seeing a huge, noiseless football-shaped object with multiple lights hovering over the trees within view of motorists. Witnesses said the object at times hovered at an altitude of less than 100 feet.

The sighting was one of dozens reported throughout the general area

for the next several months, Mr. Gordon said.

Teen saw object in sky

On Aug. 3, a 15-year-old girl in the Mundys Corner area of Johnstown R. D. 7 was looking out a window at approximately 11:15 p.m. when she saw an object cutting through the sky.

The object was leaving streaks of light and throwing off sparks, according to Art Leman of Ferndale Borough, a state section director for Mutual UFO Network, an international organization.

The object was said to be saucer-shaped, as if two plates had been placed together, and emitted a "tractor-trailer roar" as it passed directly over the house some 100 feet off the ground, according to Mr. Leman. He said the object had an outer rim and was self-luminous — bright with no other lights.

Planet "vanishes"

Mr. Leman had an unusual experience himself. He had been looking out of the window of his study at approximately 4 a.m. when he spotted what he thought was the planet Mars — a large, reddish orange ball in the eastern sky.

While his wife watched, Mr. Leman went to get a telescope. Before he could return, however, the object faded away.

According to Mr. Leman, his wife had not seen the brilliant light move in any direction.

"It simply disappeared," he said. "There it was and now it's gone. I said, planets just don't disappear."

Mr. Leman said there had been a few clouds in the sky, but none that would have obscured the object.

As part of National UFO Information Week, the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, headed by Mr. Gordon, will feature a display from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday at the Westmoreland Mall along Route 30 east of Greensburg.

The association has a 24-hour UFO hotline. The number is (412) 838-7768.

"We want the public to know that indeed things have been seen out there, and there are places to report these things confidentially without being laughed at," Mr. Gordon said.

Spaced out with Morton Downey Jr.

Page Six

BY RICHARD JOHNSON

POST, New York, NY

Aug. 6, 1988

CR: M. Luckman

DARING to venture where no talk show host has gone before, Morton Downey Jr. is ready to find out if he really was abducted by extraterrestrials.

It all goes back to one spine-tingling night in 1953.

Mort has told the story more than once: He was 20 years old. He was driving, alone, through the Berkshire Mountains, toward his family's log cabin. Suddenly, he remembers, he saw a brilliant light beaming from the horizon.

His car began to stall. Pulling over to the side of the road, Mort felt the hair on his head and his arm become electrified. Everything got hazy. Then he blanked out.

He awoke in a confused state and found that his car was now working. As he drove home, Mort recalled the dream he had just had. He dreamt he'd been lying on an examination table. When he reached the cabin, he saw that a clock there read 2:55 a.m. He checked his watch. It said 2:15.

Mort has long wondered what happened during those missing 40 minutes. Now he's ready to delve into that dark galaxy that is his subconscious.

"The plans haven't been finalized," emphasized Dr. Jean Mundy, professor emeritus of psychology at Long Island University. "But he has said he wants to be hypnotized."

Dr. Mundy noted, "We certainly couldn't do it on TV, because it could take several sessions."

Nevertheless, Mort has been talking with the New York Center for UFO Research about videotaping the hypnosis session for possible broadcast.

"Once you open that lid to the memory," Dr. Mundy told PAGE SIX's George Rush, "you have to be prepared to find out anything. You're really revealing a lot about yourself. It's a strange thing to reveal on national TV. But maybe it's not so strange for Morton."

"Of course, just because someone remem-

bers something doesn't mean it's automatically true." The psychologist said she's been studying people who believe they were abducted by aliens for about a year.

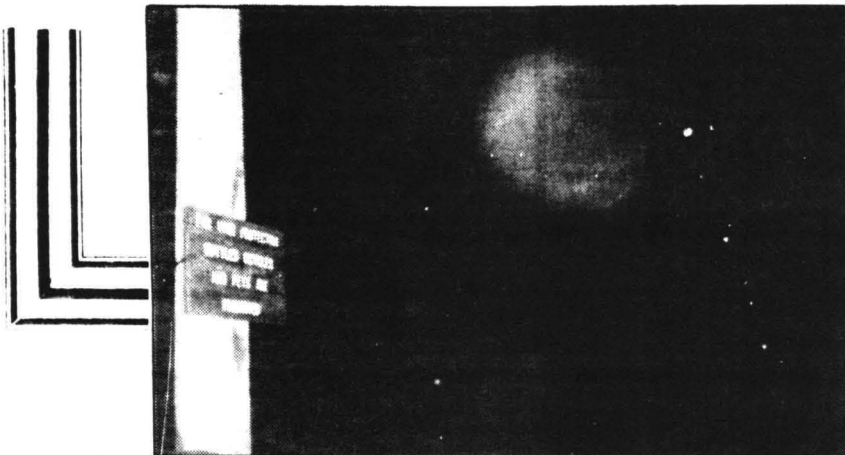
"I have no real certainty about what happened to them. But so many of them have similar stories, they're hard to ignore. I treat them as if they're suffering from trauma."

As for Mort: "I think there's a definite possibility that he believes he was abducted. By and large, the people who've come to me with abduction stories are not psychotic people."

Of course, the doctor noted, "I've only seen his show once."

Mike Luckman, director of the New York Center for UFO Research, told us Mort "feels there's a cover-up going on."

Naturally, even if Mort does remember green tentacled aliens probing his body, his foes may have one question: Why didn't the aliens take him with them?



This picture of an large round orange object was photographed on the beach. If anyone else saw this or can identify this object, please call the Sentinel.

UFO Reports Continue

BY DIANA K. HANSEN

The *Sentinel* recently received a roll of film and a hand drawn picture along with a note written on a brown paper bag that was left in the night drop.

The note read: "This was in the sky over the beach last Saturday, April 2. Maybe a jet. I think it was the UFO. Other people saw. Five minutes and disappeared."

And along with the drawing, another note: "11 p.m. - Later that night we were on the beach. It came overhead, maybe 100 feet. A white light hit us. I think we were out."

When the roll of film was developed by the *Sentinel*, the prints showed large balls of orange light.

On Wednesday, April 6, at approximately 9 p.m., 16-year-old **Brandon Wheeler** spotted something unusual over the Gulf Breeze area.

"We were going into Gulf Breeze on Hwy. 98 (from the east) and we had just passed the Naval Live Oaks sign when we noticed a big white ring over the trees," Brandon reported.

Brandon was with two other friends, 16-year-old **Tabitha Roddenberry** and 17-year-old **Chuck Jordan**.

"The lights started glowing brighter and brighter. My friends were freaking out and screaming." Brandon watched as the lights

"moved from the left to the right and crossed over Highway 98."

It appeared to be over Gulf Breeze. After the lights moved back across the highway to the left, they "totally disappeared."

A Whisper Bay resident reported seeing "something strange" on Thursday, April 14. "I know it was 9:02 p.m. because I called my sister on the C.B. radio as I was seeing it and she looked at her clock."

"I was driving down Hwy. 98 from Gulf Breeze coming home. As I neared the Naval Live Oaks area I noticed some strange blinking lights in the air. There were red lights and white lights. They were about as high as an airplane, but it made a real weird turn. The UFO moved out over the highway and then made a U-turn and went off into the opposite direction. I was trying to drive and watch at the same time, so I'm not too sure where it went."

Bruce and Diane McNutt of Pensacola were driving on Soundside Drive on Saturday, April 9 when they spotted what they believe was the UFO. It was about 10 p.m.

They both described seeing a big orange light that "shot off to the west very fast."

"I've seen plenty of airplanes and this definitely did not look like an airplane," Bruce told the *Sentinel*.

More Sightings PAGE 8A

"There were no red or green lights. And it was much brighter than an airplane."

The light was off in the distance. Bruce estimates it was over the Naval Live Oaks area of Hwy. 98. "We saw it for 15-20 seconds until it disappeared behind the trees."

On Thursday, April 7 at approximately 9:30 p.m., a Gulf Breeze stockbroker was coming across the Bay Bridge from Pensacola when he spotted a small craft flying over the bay from the east.

"I was just coming to the base of the bridge...I pulled over into the left turning lane and got out of the car to watch." He describes the craft as being triangular shaped, small, maybe 15 feet long. "If there were aliens inside they would have to be pretty small."

As the craft neared the bridge, it slowed and hovered for a few seconds. The man was able to see the shape of the UFO which was outlined in white lights with red and green lights in the center. "It looked kind of like a Christmas tree. Near the center, there were two indentations."

The witness watched as the craft turned and "glided" back over the bay toward Pensacola. "It made a tiny, low, aerodynamic sound as it moved away."

"I don't know what it was, but I'm sure it was not an airplane or any kind of craft that I know of," the witness told the *Sentinel*.

UFO UPDATE (CONT'D)

BY ALLISON BROWN

April 11, Monday, at 11:30 p.m. a second-time sighter was driving home from Pensacola Beach.

"I was coming across the Beach Bridge with a friend when I saw a line of lights by the trees before Naval Live Oaks," she said. The orangish/yellow lights were below tree level and were blinking in a type of rotation.

"It caught my eye 'cause it didn't look like a boat or house lights," said the viewer, who watched the lights for a couple of minutes.

"As we got to the foot of the bridge, some of them went out," she said. "They stopped the rotating blink, then blacked out altogether."

The sighter reported a windy night, but heard no noise from the object.

"We did stop the car after we got off the bridge," she said. "I got out for about five minutes but saw nothing else."

4/5/88 - Tuesday

Dear *Sentinel*:

It was about 7:15 p.m. and I noticed a bright light. We were swimming in the bay and I told David to look. It stayed lit for about 2-3 minutes then disappeared.

After about 4-5 minutes it came back on. It did this for 30 or 40 minutes. At one time a Navy plane passed over us, heading for the base. It turned off and then when the plane passed it, it turned back on. Plus, every time it turned on & off, it retraced its step, so to speak. It moved to the right, then left, like

it was going back & forth.

Sometimes it would be real bright, and sometimes real dim, then, as we were leaving, I looked back and saw it real high up. Then, within 2 seconds it dropped to the same height it was at.

I know it wasn't a plane because it was slightly higher than other lights.

Jason Carter
4/5/88 - Tuesday

Dear *Sentinel*:

It was about 7:15 and we saw a bright light above the Bay Bridge. It was right in the center of the bridge and it disappeared. When it came back on, it was a little left of where it was at first. We watched it for about 30 minutes. When a plane went by it disappeared. When the plane was gone it came back on. It went off then came back on right in the center of the bridge. It went real high and zipped back down. We watched it for a few more minutes. It went away about five minutes later, so we left.

David Sominski

4/5/88 - Tuesday

Dear *Sentinel*:

At about 7:15 we saw a bright light. It was higher than a pole and lower than a plane. It stayed there and then disappeared. When a plane flew by the bridge where it was, it disappeared and then came back when it had passed. We got out of the bay and watched it for about 30 minutes. When we were about to leave, it got brighter then disappeared, then we left.

Matt Carter

Behind The Scenes

The *Sentinel* office has been really busy over the past few months attracting national attention with our coverage of the UFO. The *Orlando Sentinel* published a several-page story with the Pensacola Beach sign in four-color on the front cover of their Sunday magazine. A Baton Rouge TV station filmed a segment.

Radio stations across the nation have broadcast programs concerning the Gulf Breeze UFO, including Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. UPI picked up the story that was printed in newspapers across the United States. An NBC affiliate in Los Angeles is coming this week.

Budd Hopkins, sculptor, artist, author of best selling *Intruders*, and investigator for the book *Communion*, is returning this month.

The *Washington Times* did a feature story, including a map showing Gulf Breeze and Pensacola Beach. The funniest comments in this article came from employees of a Gulf Breeze business:

At The Computer Place, fittingly, there is general skepticism.

"What's to come to Gulf Breeze for?" asks Dan Neal. "There are much better places to study our culture and science. It's wishful thinking. People want something to happen in their life."

"I think it's a hoax," says John Bunner. "If I was a UFO, I wouldn't come to Gulf Breeze. If there was a superior life form, they would know that Pittsburgh is the place to go."

These two employees must not have done their homework or they would know that Gulf Breeze is the second most educated community in Florida, with our students scoring top in the United States, not to mention the natural beauty of our area.

Sounds like our "UFO" aliens are more able to recognize intelligent life than two of our local business people! Maybe they should go to Pittsburgh to sell computers to the superior life form.

UFO Reports Continue

BY JANICE FRYE

3/4/88, about 9:15 p.m. - After watching the Channel 3 TV News Special, "The Sightings," concerning the Gulf Breeze UFO phenomenon, a *Sentinel* reader and his date decided to ride to the beach to see if they could find the controversial object. They drove down Soundside Drive to the water and waited. After seeing nothing, they left and drove north on Soundside. As they stopped at the stop sign at Hwy. 98, they abruptly found the object of their search.

"It was the same object I had just seen on the news special—the one in Ed's photos," the viewer stated. "It was very low, about 20 feet above the trees. It moved over 98 through a vacant lot by the Jr. Food Store, then hovered for a moment and rotated. It had very bright, white lights, but no sound."

"As we sat there with our mouths hanging open, it moved again, coming directly toward us. I grabbed my camera and started shooting. My date began pleading with me to back up and get out. She was clearly frightened. The only thing I could think of was to get the picture."

"Then, as it crossed 98, it turned

and went toward town, finally disappearing."

Unfortunately, the viewer said, his camera was loaded with 200 speed film, and none of the shots turned out.

The viewer claims to have seen the object about four times since that night, "but that was the last time I saw it up real close."

About 10:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, 1988, his camera now armed with 1000 speed film, he was driving home to Gulf Breeze from a baseball game in Pensacola. As he approached the National Seashore, he saw an object just over the trees on the south side of Hwy. 98. It was moving East, the same direction he was driving. Traveling at a very high rate of speed, it quickly passed him, eventually crossing 98 and disappearing on down the highway ahead of him.

"But—" he said, "it was a different object. This one was round and flat, with yellow-orange colored lights. It was definitely not like the ones I'd seen before."

He again was able to snap some shots, but "I don't know if I got anything. It was moving very fast."

Same Object... Maybe

BY ALLISON BROWN

Same object? Maybe. Wednesday, March 30, 8 p.m. Outside Grand Canal.

"It was the same kind of thing, in the picture we saw in the April 21 paper," said twelve-year-old **Misti Brown**, who, along with her friend **Jennifer Hall**, watched a strange object in the sky for about 30 minutes. The girls viewed the spiral object through binoculars.

"It was about the size of a dining room table," said Misti, "and was spinning around with red, yellow, blue and green lights on it."

Both girls went inside a home for a few minutes, and when they returned outside, the object was gone.

"The next night, we checked in the same place, and it wasn't there," said Misti.

SENTINEL, Lewistown, PA - July 7, 1988 CR: J. Vallee

'Dimensions' deals with 'wee folk' and UFO's

You don't believe in the wee folk?

Shame on you!

What if I were to relate a computer scientist, also trained as an astrophysicist and a successful author of 12 books with over a million copies (enough?) and yes, he does take their existence most seriously.

Surprised? Well you'll be much more in reading Contemporary Book's stunning "Dimensions."

Dr. Jacques Vallee not only suspects their being, he also presumes their relationship with UFO's, religious visions, so called Angels and Devils and many others of this genre. He puts forth a concept they exist entwined in a critical mission affecting mankind.

Far fetched, impossible?

Of course, but he's traveled to the corners of this planet plundering previously unexplainable paranormal events and folk tales to sew

Herb
Vallow



Book lore

together in a crazy quilt that, grossly flexing the imagination, seems to fit and become somewhat believable. Added are eminently distinguished fellow travelers wholeheartedly sharing his conclusions.

Even were it beyond belief, the fluency of Dr. Vallee's writing makes the book a fantastic experience.

Columnist Herb Vallow is a Pleasant Acres, Lewistown resident whose "Book lore" column is published weekly in The *Sentinel*.

Alien alerts

Local study group shares UFO tales

By MERYL MASCHAL
Staff Writer

Pat Stein is a Trenton contractor with a muscular build and a shiny shaved head. He looks like he'd be right at home hauling lumber and toiling in the sun.

To some, his brawny appearance and earnest personality might seem diametrically opposed to his claim of sighting unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in New Jersey's night skies. But the stories of what he witnessed are as firm as his handshake.

"It was around Easter time 1982, and I was coming back from the Jersey Shore at night. I was in the passenger seat, my friend was driving, and his wife and young daughter were in the back. As we were moving along Route 571, we noticed a bright light above the tree line that looked like a landing plane, or maybe a hovering helicopter. At first, I thought it might be a light on the fire tower.

"As we got closer, I saw that it was some kind of giant machine, 75 to 100 feet across with no fuselage and five lights shining down on a house that looked abandoned. It was gun-barrel black, and hovering only a few hundred feet above us in the air. I thought it was an experimental aircraft or something. But the more I looked, the more I realized it was like nothing I had ever seen before."

STEIN, WHO attributes his sightings (he says he's had two) to being in the right place at the right time and his habit of "looking up," asserts that it is illogical to assume that life on Earth is the only life in the universe.

"I represent a large segment of the population that believes we are not alone," explained Stein. "And I think it (evidence of extraterrestrial intelligent life) will come out in our lifetime."

His views are shared by a segment of the tri-state population that gathers on the third Wednesday of each month at Hamilton Township Public Library for the Central New Jersey-Pennsylvania UFO Study Group, led by local UFOlogist Pat Marcattilio. A recent meeting was attended by 18 well-dressed men and women whose ages ranged from late 20s to retirement. Many participants were regulars who have their own UFO stories.

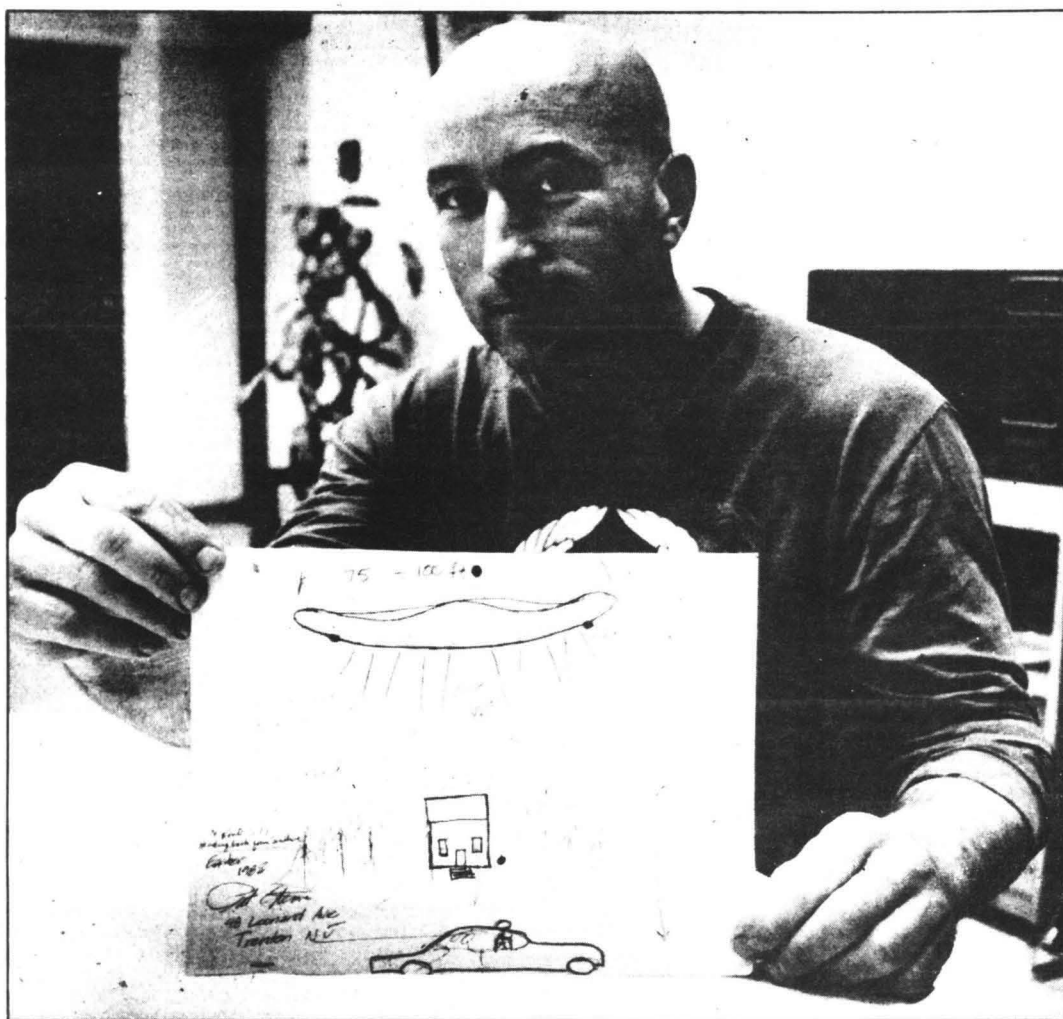
"I'm here because I just finished reading the book 'Communion,' (a best-selling non-fiction book by Whitley Streiber dealing with his experiences of extraterrestrial abduction) said newcomer Jack Turkel of Hamilton. "After reading the book, I can't stop wondering whether it really occurred. It has changed the way I think about everything."

GROUP LEADER Marcattilio understands feeling drawn to the subject of UFOs. A design draftsman for Power Generators Inc., Marcattilio's interest began 33 years ago, when he was 12 years old. At home in his Hamilton Township apartment, where the walls are lined with books with titles like "The Making of Star Trek," "The Unknown Reality" and "Strangest of All," Marcattilio recounted his UFO sighting.

"In 1965, I saw something in the sky. It was in Trenton on South Clinton Avenue. I saw an object hovering above the horizon that looked like a satellite. I watched it for about three minutes, then it sped away in a split second. I remember it was a bright whitish-yellow. I was very excited about what I saw."

Excitement about close encounters is evident among participants of the study group, who listen with rapt attention as information is shared and stories are told.

The hot topic at a recent meeting was "masked memory," a phrase coined in Streiber's book (which most of the attendees have read) to describe the phenomenon of missing time after an extraterrestrial abduction. Marcattilio says that not only have the incidences of sightings continued to grow, but evidence is building around the subject of abduction.



Photos by Paul Savage

Patrick Stein of Trenton with his rendering of the UFO he said he saw near the Jersey Shore.

"There's a growing number of people describing an abduction experience with the help of hypnotic regression," explained Marcattilio. "One of the most famous cases is Betty and Barney Hill."

The Hill case, one of the most intriguing on record, happened in 1961 in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. While driving along a dark road at night, the Hills spotted an object in the sky that began following them on the road, land, and take the couple aboard. A recent tape of a lecture given by Betty Hill was played at the meeting in Hamilton.

HILL WAS able to remember, under hypnosis, the details of her time on board the craft, her medical examination and a star map that was shown to her by one of the beings aboard. She sketched the map from memory in 1964. In 1972, the map was verified (the stars and planets she drew were seen in the same configuration through telescopes) as belonging to the constellation Reticulum, which exists about 30 light

years from Earth. She also passed subsequent lie-detector tests with flying colors.

Evidence like this does not surprise Marcattilio, whose belief in UFOs and extraterrestrial beings is complete. "I'm sure there are other civilizations out there, and I know that there is a lot more evidence than we have access to right now, because the government covers it up," he explained. He attributes this government practice to the panic that ensued after Orson Welles' infamous "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast in 1938. "I think the government believes it is looking out for our best interests — that they know of some event that would cause hysteria."

According to Marcattilio, the first government organization established to investigate UFOs was in 1947 and known as MJ-12. "The organization was assigned to research a report of a crashed UFO in Mexico that still had alien life aboard. Information was never released after that investigation, and

government secrecy grew from that point on.

"I gave up on the government a long time ago," Marcattilio continued. "I've read approximately 652 books on the subject, I do my own research and I draw my own conclusions."

Doing his own research now involves being a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an international organization based in Seguin, Texas, composed of about 1,500 consultants, research specialists, field investigators and other professional men and women dedicated to the serious study of UFOs. MUFON was formed in 1969 as a response to the "Condon Report," a controversial \$540,000 scientific study of UFOs financed by the U.S. Air Force. The report concluded that "there is no evidence that flying saucers come from outer space and no scientific justification for pursuing the matter further." Following the release of the report, all government funding regarding UFOs stopped.

IN HIS work with MUFON, Marcattilio takes reports of local sightings and, when appropriate, investigates for physical evidence.

Among his collection of 150 pictures is a series of snapshots showing a strange burned area in the marshes near Cape May. This investigation was prompted by a report from Trenton waitress Alice Haggerty.

"I was driving back from Cape May in the fall of 1986 with my 12-year-old son," Haggerty explained, "when I saw something coming in over the ocean. There were three bright white lights in front and the rest of it was pitch black. It was about 35 feet over our heads, and I could barely detect fuzzy edges. It went past us and appeared to land in the marshes. My son and I got out of the car to see where it went, but I was very frightened. Mostly of the unknown."

When Marcattilio went to the area, he was able to get pictures of a burn spot in the exact place where Haggerty saw the object touch down.

When asked why life from other planets might be trying to contact and study life on Earth, Marcattilio becomes philosophical.

"I THINK that 'alien' beings are simply a higher life form, more developed than we are. I think they are sent from God to help us because we are near the 'end times' talked about in the Bible. They are messengers from God, and I don't have any fear about it."

"I do what I do because I'm interested," he continued, "and because I believe if we could go to other worlds and find life, it would bring our worlds together and be the most exciting thing that ever happened." Marcattilio knows there will always be skeptics and disbelievers, but he attributes that to lack of knowledge.

"Most skeptics haven't done any research. I think if they would research the subject, they would realize that there are too many cases and too many witnesses to discount. But I know some will never believe until they see the whites of their (the aliens') eyes."



Led by Hamilton's Pat Marcattilio, the Central New Jersey-Pennsylvania UFO Study Group meets at the Hamilton Township Public Library.



Darrell James holds his homemade "UFO" at his Bonney Lake home. (Photo by Kris Franlich)

He's no stranger to the strange

by Jackie Soler

BONNEY LAKE — Darrell James has seen UFOs, stood inside a spacecraft and "talked" with alien beings.

He's even seen the legendary "Bigfoot" or "Sasquatch" in the woods near the Cowlitz River.

Now he's asking people to tell him about their experiences. James calls his Bonney Lake home a UFO Contact Center.

"E.T. (extraterrestrial) visits will be more frequent in the future," James said. "They're here for the same reasons as why we're exploring elsewhere. They just want to study us, to see what makes us tick."

James, 42, has been studying space objects since 1963. Since then, books, scientific studies, conferences and dozens of UFO sightings have kept his interest keen.

Inventing and engineering are James' full-time occupation. A former Boeing employee, he's applied his fiber optics knowledge to a product for the Eastman-Kodak Co.

High-tech knowledge on earth needs to be improved to compete with technology from other planets, James said.

"(UFOs) appear to be vapor but they can rearrange their molecules to be solid," James said. "The high-intelligent life forms are very sophisticated."

So developed, in fact, they've crafted round wings, commonly known as flying saucers. "We've already built a flying wing," he said. "So why not make a round one?"

Other lifeforms also have a headstart — their round wings are made of plastic.

"That's why they don't show up on radar," James said. "Plastic escapes radar."

A green, cigar-shaped object didn't escape the eyes of many Northwest residents early in

March, he said. Six calls were logged at James' contact center and an Oring man caught the craft on his video camera.

Scientists also need to try to understand the extraterrestrials, he said.

"They don't want to be hurt, but that's the first thing scientists would do — cut them up."

James said the opposite happened on his first meeting with aliens about a decade ago.

"They were trying to tell me something. They were here to help us, to warn us."

He said he believes he was warned about future earthquakes when he was beamed up to the craft and stood in a map room. Fault lines wiggling across the maps also signaled a possible tsunami, he said.

"We're overdue for a huge quake, like the one in '65," he said.

An electric crackling stirred James out of his domed tent that night. Outside was an aircraft about 350 feet in diameter. Figures waved at him through the craft's windows, he said.

"It was a nerve-racking experience," James said. "It took me a while to talk about it."

Seeing the warning maps also convinced James to move to higher ground from his home in Seattle, so he settled in Bonney Lake.

A UFO sculpture since has settled in a corner of his living room. Plaster of paris, cardboard, chicken wire, tiny Christmas tree lights and odds and ends from around home went into the 4-foot-high artwork.

Its base resembles Devil's Tower in Wyoming, the mesa portrayed in the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. In that movie, a character soon to be contacted by aliens built a similar sculpture. The model was displayed at a "New Dawn" convention at Pierce College a few years ago, James said.

Another memorable sighting was on a clear

evening last August. James and his fiancé Karin Wells were looking out a window at the Tacoma tideflats. Suddenly a long, white object appeared, surrounded by a cloud.

James grabbed a 35-millimeter camera and started shooting. Scientists were skeptical of enlarged photographs of the UFO, he said.

Unexplained objects aren't limited to the sky in James' book of sightings.

While sleeping in a tent near the Cowlitz River in 1977 — "Of course there was a full moon" — he was scared by sounds he heard through ground vibrations.

Grabbing the rifle next to his body, he unzipped a corner of the tent and peeked out.

There walked Bigfoot. Sasquatch. The 9-foot animal with 8-foot stride reportedly seen by many in the Northwest.

"He bent the poles of the tent as he walked by, and was breaking off limbs of trees 10 feet off the ground."

"He was more human than animal. He was pretty smart, eating at night."

James waited for him to pass then jumped into his car and drove to a tavern to wash away the shock of seeing the legendary hairy animal.

"And what did I see inside the tavern? Casts of Bigfoot footprints and all sorts of trinkets about him."

James said a professor is stalking Bigfoot with guns and a helicopter.

"I want to see that guy stopped," he said. "Hunting just for a trophy isn't a good way to go."

Personal priorities are keeping people from seeing and believing in UFOs, James said.

"People are so wrapped up in day-to-day events," he said. "There are a lot of pressures — life is complex now. People don't take time to listen and look up and look around."

Many sight mysterious object in sky

By David Lee Preston
Inquirer Staff Writer

Just think.

If you had been Ann Irrgang of Glenolden, Delaware County, you would have been watching *Murder, She Wrote* about 8:25 last night when you decided to take in the laundry. And from your yard, you glanced at the sky and saw ...

Yes: You saw ... an unidentified ... flying ... object.

Or you could have been the man in Loganville, in southern York County, who phoned a Lancaster radio station about 8:30 to say he'd just seen a flash of light and a puff of smoke in the sky.

Or you could have been one of the 65 people from as far north as Vermont who called the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle between 8:25 and 10 p.m. Eastern Time.

Alas, like most Americans, you missed it.

But what exactly did you miss?

Maj. Alex L. Mondragon, a spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) space surveillance center at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, said it may have been a meteor.

"I can confirm for you that it was not a re-entry of space debris or rocket bodies or satellites or anything of that nature," Mondragon said. "We're in a period of heavy meteor activity. The Perseid shower, that may have been it."

Yeah, right. The Perseid shower. Hogwash, according to Robert J. Gribble, director of the private National UFO Reporting Center.

"At this point, it's still unidentified as far as we're concerned, based on the information that we've gathered," Gribble said. "The Perseid meteor shower was a two-day affair that ended Aug. 14. Based on the descriptions given by the witnesses, I would discount any large meteor or bolide. We've had many large meteors and space junk re-entering the atmosphere, and this thing would appear to be traveling in a horizontal plane and just continued east. People along the coast report it just disappearing out over the ocean."

In fact, Gribble said, based on the descriptions his center received, the object was unusual even for a UFO.

"Considering the distance that the thing was seen traveling, it was unique," he said. "Most UFOs are seen over very short distances. I don't believe I've ever heard of an aerial phenomenon like this one — going across the sky in the form of a contrail and then breaking off into a bright red object and going across the sky over a multiple-state area."

"Whatever this thing was, it was at a very, very high altitude," Gribble said.

Irrgang, who had been taking in her laundry in the 400 block of South Scott Avenue, Glenolden, said she saw the object explode in the sky in the direction of North Philadelphia.

"I was starting to get drowsy and I thought, 'Well, I'd better get my things off the line before I fall asleep,'" she said. "Well, I was in the yard and taking some things off the line and I just happened to look up and saw this great big fire."

Mondragon said last night's sighting was unrelated to a Soviet rocket that lit up the Midwestern and Western skies about 1:05 a.m. yesterday as it re-entered the atmosphere.

Strange lights, unusual marks reported in area

Unusual marks in a rural Elmwood farm field and two reports of strange lights in Dunn and Pierce Counties late last week have the hearts of UFO fans pumping again.

"I don't know what to make of them," UFO Site Center president Tom Weber told an Eau Claire Leader-Telegram reporter Friday afternoon. Weber was at the scene of a supposed mysterious happening in Dunn County.

Charles Hutchins of rural Elmwood was cutting hay last Tuesday when he looked behind his mower and noticed some unusual circles in the field. The 15 to 20 marks were purplish-gray colored circles dusted with a white residue which felt like graphite to the touch. They varied in size from 10-12 inches.

The remote field, located near the junction of Dunn County Highways P and D, isn't one which might be frequented by pranksters trying to fuel UFO speculation, Hutchins told the Leader-Telegram.

A teenager who lives near the field recently told friends she had seen flashing lights in the area and saw something drop to the ground near the field before she became frightened and ran into the house.

Weber gathered soil and crop samples from the scene for analysis. In an unrelated report early Sunday morning, an anonymous caller reported a UFO sighting near the intersection of Highway 29 and CTH W.

The male caller told a Pierce County sheriff's dispatcher he'd seen a redish-orange craft which resembled NASA's space shuttle about 1:13 a.m., Sunday.

CR: R. Heiden

REPUBLICAN JOURNAL, Darlington, WI

Aug. 25, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

UFO sighted in Blanchardville?

Was it actually an unidentified flying object or just flashing lights with a practical explanation?

Either way, something was reported in the night sky from the village of Blanchardville, Aug. 17, and a Lafayette County Sheriff's deputy was sent to investigate.

The incident began at about 9:25 p.m. when a nine-year old Blanchardville girl called the sheriff's department, reporting flashing lights moving up and down at their residence. She and her siblings thought it was a UFO.

While the girl was on the phone, the sheriff's department received a call from the Grant County Sheriff's Department informing dispatcher Sharon Drees they had received a similar call from the girl.

Drees continued to speak with the girl, whose mother was relaying information to her about the location of their residence. The girl told the dispatcher that when she and her siblings went to the barn to tell their mother, the lights followed them. The kids got scared and went into the basement where they heard tinkling noises.

Deputy Walt Fischer was then sent to the scene.

The dispatcher later phoned the girl's mother, who confirmed that there was a light of some sorts. But her children hadn't convinced her it was a UFO.

The Lafayette county sighting came a day after a number of UFO sightings were made from Sheboygan to Fond du lac. However, published accounts of those sightings weren't reported until Aug. 18.



Staff photo by James Barbary

Gordon feels 'like a guru' about UFOs.

Gordon says the situation is "exasperating because it has become a story without an end. Since October 7, 1987, not one day has passed when I haven't received a call related to the UFO stir. Usually more information means a reporter can solve the mystery of a given story. In this case, the questions grow and the mystery looms unending," he said.

"I had to hide out to get away from the press at the peak of the sightings. I had nine newspapers and several radio stations plus three television stations all wanting interviews.

"Once, I stated on the air that I had some undeveloped exposures of a UFO sighting at my house. I came home to find that my house had been broken into and searched. I still haven't figured out who could have perpetrated the breaking and entry. Luckily, I was wrong about

cided to investigate. "I had reservations about getting into the story because I'm a reporter and am aware of the importance of remaining objective," Gordon said.

Gordon sighted his first UFO on Oct. 16 when he saw a saucer-shaped craft which made no sound and had no jet stream. It was silver-gray in color and appeared to effortlessly spin into space.

From that night through last Thursday, Gordon recorded more than 16 first-hand sightings of unidentified flying objects in the Wytheville area.

Meanwhile, his radio station was bombarded with calls of UFO sightings. More than 2,000 reports of UFOs were received last autumn.

The Wytheville string of UFO sightings is on record as the second-longest period of UFO reports since the craze in the late 1940s. And the Wytheville sightings continue, Gordon said.

Wytheville, Va. — Danny B. Gordon, the acknowledged authority here on unidentified flying objects, has a warning for the world: "Don't look up because once you see a UFO, you can't quit looking."

And Gordon speaks from experience.

On Oct. 7, Gordon ran a report on WYVE radio in Wytheville that changed his life. Two men and the police chief of Rural Retreat reported the sighting of an unidentified flying object.

The Wythe County Sheriff's Department then reported that a family visiting from Ohio, unaware of the other local sightings, reported being followed and run off the road by a UFO.

After the radio station received more than 300 calls reporting UFO sightings, Gordon, the radio station's news and sports director, de-

where I had left the film. It was in my briefcase."

Gordon has attempted to take photographs of the objects, and has several of them but they don't present conclusive proof, he said. On one occasion, he was out searching the skies with a friend, three video cameras and a 35-millimeter camera.

"I can't explain why, but neither of us were able to reach for our equipment when the object was present. You put a lot on the line when you say something is out there. I used to be a skeptic, but the problem is that the sightings continue and no explanation has followed. This is the one story I have not been able to complete. Somebody with the necessary resources needs to follow-up to do some investigative reporting."

Gordon said the military has reassured the Wytheville community that the sightings aren't military-related.

"The question I pose is that if it is not the military and the military does not know the answer, shouldn't there be more concern," Gordon said.

"Some believe that the objects can change form or display a variety of characteristics. Others suggest that there are different types. A few have offered religious correlations concerning the sightings."

Most sightings occur on Wednesday nights, he said. And he said some of the sightings involve UFOs with dome, saucer and oblong shapes; with silver, clear and orange metallic shells; and with strobe-style and blinking lights with such colors as pale yellow, orange, red, green and blue.

The Danny Gordon story won't end until the reports end and until the sightings have some plausible explanation, he said.

"People continue to send in drawings, and I feel like a guru about it some times."

ENTERPRISE, Simi Valley, CA - May 11, 1988

Teen spots UFO Monday

It was a blue flame about the size of a helicopter but traveling faster than any airplane, said a Moorpark teen-ager who claims he spotted an unidentified flying object Monday night.

Robert Keenan said he was driving with some friends in Tierra Rejada, east of the Moorpark Freeway, heading west towards Moorpark at about 10:45 p.m. when he noticed something traveling in the same direction high above him.

"It was a blue flame, outlined in white light with an afterburn coming out of a little stub, traveling faster than a plane would travel," Keenan said. "It was about the size of a helicopter."

Keenan could not be reached today.

A spokeswoman for the East Valley Sheriff's Station said there had been no reports Monday evening of anything unusual in the skies over Moorpark or the vicinity.

On Monday night, "War of the Worlds," the 1953 film adaptation of H.G. Wells' frightening story of a Martian invasion was broadcast on local television.

Citizens, police officer report UFO

The South St. Paul Police Department have received a report that a stationary object was hovering in the western sky.

Officer Larry Snaza responded to the call and saw the UFO through binoculars. The object appeared round, green and yellow with a red light circling the outside, according to the police report.

Witnesses said the object dropped below the horizon and

out of sight after 45 minutes.

Police were contacted again by the same people later that morning, July 23. They reported another sighting of an unidentified object in the northeastern sky. Snaza also saw and reported the UFO.

Police contacted the Center for UFO Studies in Northfield, Ill., for further investigation. The Center has not responded to efforts made to contact it.

SUN HERALD, Gulfport, MS - Aug. 13, 1988

UFO fans beam down to Gautier for meeting

JACKSON COUNTY BUREAU

■ GAUTIER — UFO enthusiasts descending on the Gautier Convention Center tonight will have a close encounter with two men who swear there is life on other planets.

Budd Hopkins, a UFO research expert, and Charles Hickson, who bills himself as a UFO abductee, will share the center's podium at a UFO conference tonight at 7.

Both men have written books about UFOs. Hickson, of Gautier, is well known for his claim that he was taken aboard a spacecraft while fishing on the Pascagoula River on Oct. 11, 1973. Hickson wrote a book on the encounter called "UFO Contact in Pascagoula."

Hopkins says he first saw a UFO in the '70s. His interest piqued, Hopkins investigated a 1975 UFO landing in New Jersey. Eight others witnessed the landing, and an account of the sighting appeared in The Village Voice.

In 1981, Hopkins wrote "Missing Time," a book that compared a number of UFO cases and attempted to find patterns in the accounts. In 1987, Hopkins' "Intruders — The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods" was published. "Intruders" tries to explain the purpose underlying UFO intrusions on Earth.

Hopkins' UFO investigations were the subject of a segment on ABC-TV's "20/20" news program, and Hopkins has discussed his book on "The Today Show," "Good Morning America," "Nightline" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

What: UFO Conference
Where: Gautier Convention Center
Cost: \$10 per ticket
Details: Call 497-4317 or 762-9537

CR: B. Clendenon

Towboat operators recall UFO sightings on the Mississippi

By Michael Ashcraft
Leader staff writer

It was not a dark and stormy night. In fact, says Donn Williams, it was quite clear. The stars were shining brightly. Very brightly. In fact, one was shining a bit too brightly.

Donn Williams, and his brothers Larry and Mark, operators of Williams Marine Enterprises Inc., at 6721 S. Concord St., Davenport, have spent many a night on a towboat beneath the bright, starry skies over the mighty Mississippi. And a few times, they've had the distinct impression that they were not alone.

"I was down near the oil docks behind Case, (on the Mississippi in Bettendorf). Almost over the top of the water tower, well above the treetops, about 20 to 30 degrees above the horizon in line with Duck Creek Park, looking north and a little west, I saw this thing like a star, white light, but maybe 10 times as bright," Donn recalls.

"I wasn't looking at a star, and it got bigger, or brighter, and the brightness drew my eyes to it. It was a lot brighter than what a star ought to be. Brighter than anything around it."

"It could have been light-years, or a couple miles away, but it either got closer, bigger or brighter — something."

As it reached full luminescence, Donn saw what appeared to be a drop of light descend from the main object, as a drop of oil would descend a piano wire. When that drop reached halfway to the horizon, a second fell. Before the first fell below the tree line, a third appeared.

Suddenly, it's gone

I watched it for a very short time, a minute and a half — two minutes. I don't know if it winked out or receded in brightness. I had to make some adjustments to the boat, and when I looked back up, there was no evidence of it ever having been there."

Donn was the only one to see that sighting of — in this case — unidentified falling objects. Other such incidents on the Mississippi would be better attended.

The next encounter with the unexplained came a month or two later.

"I was down in Muscatine and saw the same thing occurring. The first time, my brother-in-law, Ollie, was asleep. This time I hollered, 'Hey, Ollie, take a look at this!' I told him what was going to happen and didn't anymore than get that out when —

blink! — the lights started dropping.

"If the star were a coffee cup, the drops were the size of the eraser on a pencil. I describe it as a drop, but it looked like a piece of itself; the brightness was about the same. The descent was about the same, like a fast parachute jumper, only this time I could see four lights in the sky at one time."

"We watched 'em all drop below the horizon, about three minutes."

These events occurred in 1969 and '70. Donn later told the story to a group of people and a man in attendance reported seeing the same thing in Korea in 1966.

Sightings make believers

The men of Williams Marine previously had been skeptical of UFO sightings.

"We never heard of any sightings by people who should be seeing them — airline pilots, or ship captains — people who watch the sky," said Larry. However, another incident made believers of them all.

On the river in the dead of night, the stars sometimes shine so brightly that it seems you could reach out and touch them. And sometimes, it seems like they could reach in and touch you.

"We were shoving a pretty heavy tow up from Muscatine, not moving too fast," Larry said. "We went without the spotlight, since we're so familiar with this part of the river."

"We noticed it about 10 miles from here. We were all in the pilot house, and Norm says, 'Looks like that star's moving.'"

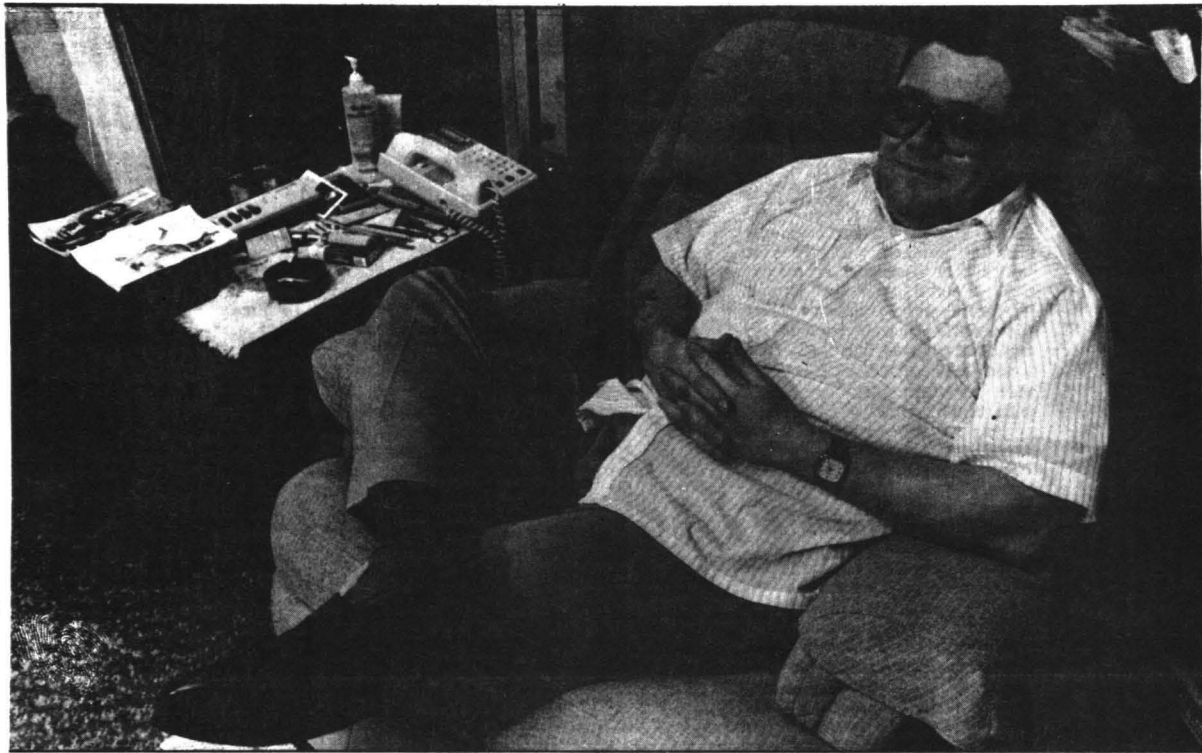
"We saw one and really started looking and saw several at varying distances. Maybe six or seven of them. Sometimes they moved closer or further away. Looked like the Space Needle, without the support. We saw it for an hour, hour and a half."

"Not the lights rotating, but the structure was rotating with the lights," Donn added. "More people than just our boat saw it. I was on the radio listening to other people talking about what we were all seeing. So maybe 100 people must have seen it. And there was nothing on TV, never any mention in the papers," said Donn. "The general feeling of color was orange."

"But there were distinct colors — red, blue, green — like they were rotating," Mark said.

"When we got up here near where we were going to land," said Mark, "it looked like one was coming right in on us."

LEADER, Davenport, IA - Aug. 10, 1988 CR: J. White



Ivan White has never seen an unidentified flying object but he's convinced they exist.

David Grunfeld/The Citizen

UFOs: Is there anyone there?

By BRENDA HILES

WATERLOO — "It's extremely difficult for me to believe we're the only planet with intelligent life — if you can call man intelligent."

Ivan White is standing in the middle of his living room, leafing through reports of UFO sightings. "There is no doubt in my mind that there's definitely life from another world."

White has been state section director of MUFON — Mutual UFO Network — since September. The regional office is headquartered in his second-floor apartment on the main street of Waterloo.

The local MUFON group is a small one — three members in Cayuga and Seneca counties. Their meetings — like UFO sightings — are sporadic. And members, with a cult-like fanaticism, shy away from media attention, fearing ridicule.

MUFON has 1,500 members nationwide and chapters in Europe. Last year, MUFON received close to 1,000 reports of UFO sightings.

People can be divided into two groups: those who believe UFOs exist and those who say they don't.

Philip J. Klass, the author of four books on UFOs, belongs to the second group.

"Ninety-eight percent of the reports (of UFOs) come from intelligent, honest people who are trying as best they can to describe what they think they saw," Klass says. "But after 22 years of investigating many, many UFO cases — some of the most mysterious of all time, I have yet to find one that can't be explained in prosaic or earthly terms."

Klass, who lives in Washington, D.C., spent 35 years as an electronics editor of Aviation Week & Space Technology. UFO investigation is his hobby. He frequently is invited to appear on talk shows — last week in Buffalo on superstation WOR.

"We all would like to believe there is intelligent life in the universe because we know the Earth is doomed to die, when the sun begins to die. We all wish for immortality, if not for ourselves, through our children. I can think of no more exciting thing than if we received a radio message from some distant world indicating intelligent life."

Ivan White dismisses Klass with a wave of his hand.

"I have no use for the man. He's narrow-minded. An extremist. It's like when Buck Rogers went to the moon in 1932. People said it would never happen. They close their minds to it because they can't understand it."

White also acknowledges there are extremists among those who have seen UFOs. Like the woman in California who claims to be in constant telepathic communication with aliens.

"Those kind of people give it a bad name," White says. "If someone reports to me on a weekly basis they've seen a UFO, then you know there's something wrong with the reports."

White has an answering machine to answer calls on the UFO hotline, 315-539-2420. He's had a handful of calls since September.

Many sightings go unreported because people are afraid, White says. Afraid of being ridiculed.

"Psychologically, it's a very difficult thing," he says. "People are reluctant to say anything. The media can make an absolute ass of you."

White has been interested in UFOs for close to 20 years now, ever since a friend started seeing what he calls "strange phenomena." He went to the Waterloo library and checked out every book on the subject. He's been interested ever since.

He has the cameras to photograph UFOs but hasn't captured one on film yet. "The problem is UFOs don't pose for you. They don't stand still."

White has had no close encounters with UFOs, though he has seen unexplained lights in the night sky and talked to people who have made sightings.

Like a sighting in Locke. Around 9 p.m. on Aug. 29, 1986, a craft the size of a two-story house hovered over the stone quarry, its landing gear and six rows of lights visible. Several people saw it, White says, watching it for about 15 minutes. Authorities were not contacted.

A spokesman for the Unidentified Flying Aquatic Aerial Phenomenology confirmed the sighting, though he asked that his name not be used. He also declined to release names of the five witnesses.

UFO Sightings Reports Continue

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL — May 12, 1988 CR: R. Reid

BY KIMBERLY STEVENSON

Ten p.m. on April 28, Truman Holcomb of Ocean Breeze Lane was driving home on Hwy. 98 near RR 191B, heading east from the Tom Thumb convenience store, when he noticed a circular object with a bright orange light to his right.

According to a statement given to MUFON Investigator Donald Ware, Holcomb drove for about 45 seconds at 45 miles per hour as the object hovered 100 feet away, then slowed down to keep up with it.

As he turned south toward his house on Ocean Breeze Lane, the object seemed to follow him at about treetop level. Holcomb said the light passed his street then stopped. So, he turned onto his street and stopped to watch the light. He could see a blue beam coming from the lower side of the object shining north, across Hwy. 98 toward the power lines. He watched it for about 10-15 seconds, 150 ft. from the object, which was about 100 feet above the ground. He said it was so bright that he had to blink his eyes a lot to look at it.

Holcomb's windows were open and he could hear no noise. He also noticed a short, blue streak shining perpendicular to the object. At this time he became excited. As he accelerated to get home to his wife about ½ mile away to show her the object, the lights blinked out.

Holcomb estimated the object was the size of a city water tank. His wife, Linda, reported that he was unusually excited when he got home. She went outside to look for the object, but did not see it.

Holcomb stated that 10-15 minutes later, three small planes appeared and circled around the area for about 10 minutes, then left. He also noted that a neighbor's dog barked for some time after the sighting and, across the highway where the blue beam was shining, dogs were barking until 2:00 a.m.

At 11:00 p.m. of the same night, one hour after Holcomb's encounter, he got a glimpse of what he believed to be the same object over the bay, north of Hwy. 98.

Several aspects of this account seem noteworthy.

1) Other cars apparently were on the highway at the time of the sighting.

2) This sighting was less than ½ mile from the place "Ed" photographed the UFO on January 12, 1988 when the craft hovered above the road.

3) On the night of "Ed's" sighting (Jan. 12) the Holcomb's noticed their television displayed considerable interference.

4) Holcomb is retired from the Air Force as an aircraft mechanic. Being familiar with many types of military aircraft, he told his wife Linda that this was "absolutely not an aircraft."

5) In the MUFON report the object was described as having a bright orange light on the bottom, a darker ring, then a dome-shaped glow on top. Even though it was

brightly lit, it did not reflect light off of anything. Only the blue beam and streak reflected out.

Linda Holcomb said her husband told her when he saw the blue light he got a "cold chill" all over. Whether this was brought from the blue beam or just the experience of seeing the unusual sight, was unknown.

Another person supposedly witnessed the same sighting and efforts are underway to locate this person.

Ware's MUFON report states that this sighting is considered a "significant unknown" due to the occurrence of the "blue beam and the proximity to other sightings in the area."

The Holcombs' next door neighbors Francis and Ginger Smith claimed to have seen an unusual orange-yellow light or glow on two occasions, one week apart from each other.

The events happened in March and as Mrs. Smith said, "the light was about at the top of the trees, half a mile behind their house. It began to drop down until it just turned out like a light."

The first sighting she said, the light appeared to "dim, get bright, then went out."

Their sightings were both seen between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and were on Thursday nights. Holcomb's sighting was also on a Thursday night.

Mrs. Smith said that recently they have had their cat, pet rabbit, as well as a neighbor's dog, disappear from their neighborhood. Whether there is any correlation to the UFO sightings or not is uncertain.

If anyone witnessed the sighting on April 28, 1988 around 10:00 p.m. in the Hickory Shores area, or have had any experience like this, please contact the Sentinel newspaper at 934-1200.

STAR, Fitchburg, WI — Aug. 25, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

UFO prompts call to police

Fitchburg Police were called early Thursday morning when a resident reported seeing an object hovering over his house near the intersection of Clausen and Rimrock Roads. He told police the ob-

ject was stationary, and flashed on and off. An officer responded to the call, but by then, the object had vanished. The officer's report did not speculate what the object may have been.

Is this 'contact' in Mercer County?

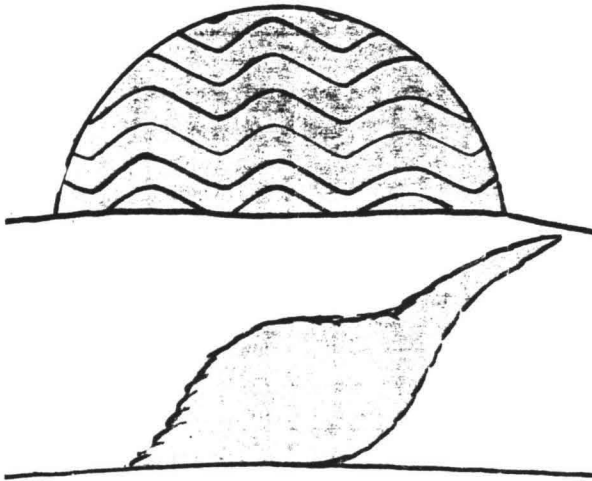
By Nancy Northrup

It wasn't a bird ... or a plane ... so what the heck was it? That's the question a north Zap farmer keeps asking himself about an unusual event early last Friday morning, when he'd gone out about 3:30 a.m. to check on some cattle.

The only answer he's come up with is one he's not so anxious to give ... it might've been a UFO, an unidentified flying object.

"I never believed in 'em and I still don't believe in 'em, but I know what I seen," said Victor Walker of the occurrence he estimates took place roughly a mile or two north of his place near the shore of Lake Sakakawea. "If it's some other phenomenon, I'd sure like to know it."

What Walker, a big, self-assured man, saw was not your



ordinary star-sprinkled Dakota skies. In fact, he didn't even notice if there were stars, he was so taken aback.

He was out by a yard pole when he saw the large, glowing shape to the north; he said it looked so much like a burning building he thought the neighbors to the north were having a house fire. In fact, he went back to the house and left his wife a note: "Went back to Little Soldiers, there is a fire there."

Above, a rough sketch of Walker's curious sighting; below, the tail-shaped light which faded away afterwards.



Victor Walker, who farms north of Zap, points out the general area where he saw an inexplicable phenomenon early last Friday morn-

ing. North of his place, he estimates it was about a mile away.

Walker likened what he saw to the end of a quonset, semicircular and roughly 40-50 feet across the base. Though its bright, flame-like colors made it look at first like a burning building, he says it was "too uniform. It glowed, and light come off it, it was like whitecaps coming in, always moving but they always keep their uniform shape," or like uniform heat waves that rolled upwards from the ground to the top of the object. The peaks and valleys of the moving shapes were what reminded him of a house fire, but the longer he looked at it the more he realized it wasn't; they held their shape too perfectly; he also likened it to the way carnival ride lights go on and off in precise patterns.

He went in the house to leave the note and get the field glasses for a better look, after having gazed between the trees at the light for roughly 20 seconds. When he came back, he says, the intensity of the light "had dropped from, say, a thousand-watt bulb to about a 40." Then it faded and left behind a softly glowing tail-shape, like a person would see if a rocket took off, that lasted for less than five seconds. Whatever it was, the tail part pointed north.

Walker was still concerned about the neighbors and drove up on the hill in his pickup, but when he got there he could see all their yard lights burning. No fire. No signs of trouble.

Walker says he's not a gullible man, and he's paced over to that light pole "at least 50 times," he said. "People are gonna think I'm cuckoo. But I know what I seen." He just doesn't know what it was.

He had a friend spy out the land from a plane, but there were no burn or scorch marks found in the area where Walker thought the object might have been; but, as a hill could have obscured his vision of the lower half of the object, he speculates it could have been hovering in the valley beyond and not touched ground.

Neither were there reports from areas north of the lake, from McLean County or the Ft. Berthold reservation, of a propane tank explosion or other mishap which might have created a fireball that could be seen across the lake. But it didn't look like a fireball. And Walker's secluded place is north of the plants, so if there were an accident that way, he'd have to look south to see it.

Don Johnson, Bismarck, an investigator with MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network headquartered in Texas, said he's had a lot of UFO activity reported in Burleigh and Morton Counties but none this far north. He says his organization, the largest in the world, has investigators all over the world who record UFO sightings and compare them for similarities and characteristics. Late Monday he was anxious to talk with Walker about his possible sighting.

So, it could be that the reluctant and skeptical Walker, out checking his calves at a fortuitous time, pulled down the first official UFO sighting ever in Mercer County.

"If it comes back," Walker jokes, "I hope they take me for a ride."

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Aug. 14, 1988 CR: S. Gordon

District UFO sightings increasing

By The Tribune-Review

On a February night a huge, noiseless, football-shaped object with multiple lights hovers over trees and cars, at times dipping to an altitude of less than 100 feet.

UFO investigators say it wasn't a case of the Goodyear blimp slipping its mooring.

But nor can they come up with an explanation for the object that numerous witnesses reported seeing in an 18-mile area bordering Cambria and Somerset counties.

For that matter, they can't explain the large, cigar-shaped object that several people reported seeing in the sky near an electrical sub-station in Hempfield Township last year.

About the only thing members of the Greensburg-based Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained can conclude is that there are a lot more unidentified flying objects in the sky seen by multiple witnesses with no reasonable explanation.

The sightings are among the longest continuous wave of reports of unexplained UFOs in recent years, investigators say.

Most UFOs after investigation are found to be misidentification of natural objects such as bright stars and planets, meteors, lights on aircraft, says Stan Gordon, PASU's director of operations.

"But the number of unexplained reports far exceeds the number of cases we've seen in many, many years," he adds. "I've no idea why there's been such an increase in the past year."

Military aircraft and two bright planets — Venus and Jupiter — often head the list of the misiden-

tified.

Despite PASU's reports of an increased number of UFO reports, Paul Johnson, director of the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research in Pittsburgh, says the sightings reported to his organization have been fairly constant. Although one might expect more sightings to occur during the summer months and on weekends when people are more active outdoors, Johnson's records show just the opposite to be the case. October and March have seen the largest number of reports. More sightings occur in mid-week, with Wednesday the busiest day for UFO reports.

"We don't know why," says Johnson, a chemistry professor at Duquesne University, who has some 40 years of records to draw from.

Of the 3,000 such reports, Johnson says, only 300 have been

found to defy explanation.

While most cases can be explained, Gordon, an electronics technician, says he can't explain the growing frequency of reports. From Laurel Ridge to the Susquehanna River, Gordon says, the number of UFO sightings has continued unabated, including strange happenings in the vicinity of power plants.

One UFO incident occurred at the Homer City power plant in April. By July there were several reports of fireball-type objects that appeared to drop slowly to the ground in the vicinity of the plant.

On July 17 several people said they saw two bright spheres of light above Homer City, one of which came within 200 feet of the ground, including an object resembling a soldier's helmet with four leg-like projections bearing lights that did not conform to any

conventional aircraft.

"When this thing went across the ground, it hissed like air escaping from a tire," says Gordon.

Witnesses to one of the strange aerial occurrences said they were convinced an aircraft had crashed in the vicinity. But no aircraft were reported missing and a search failed to turn up wreckage.

Gordon says there have been hundreds of reports of UFOs hovering near sources of energy, including power plants and high-tension wires.

"It is kind of interesting because prior to the big northeast power blackout in the '60s there were similar reports of such activity," he says.

And consider the case of a businessman driving on a back road near Harrison City in April. It was shortly after midnight when a bright, white spherical object very low to the ground suddenly zoomed toward the car only to make a sharp turn to the right. "There was static on the radio, then the car went dead," says Gordon. "After the object left, the power came back on."

There have been 34 such reports of large objects very low to the ground. In February, several witnesses reported what looked like a three-tiered cruise ship, directly over vehicles and trees, moving very slowly.

Large disks emitting beams of light have also been reported in the sky above North Irwin, Jeannette and Harrison City.

"In the past year there's been a major increase in UFO activity, not only here but all across the world," says Gordon.

PASU to display material

In observance of the 4th annual National UFO Information Week, which begins today, the Greensburg-based Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, will hold a UFO display Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Westmoreland Mall, east of Greensburg.

The display will feature photographs, video representations of UFOs and residues alleged to have fallen from UFOs. Also featured are recent and historic UFO documents ob-

tained through the Freedom of Information Act which PASU investigators say indicates the federal government takes UFO sightings seriously.

The week-long observance is a project started by MUFON — Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas, the largest international UFO research organization.

PASU, a volunteer organization composed of research specialists, staffs a 24-hour UFO hotline — 832-7768.

EDITORIAL

Last Wednesday evening after the *Sentinel* had gone to press, Channel 3 Evening News reported that a Maryland based UFO investigative "organization" had pronounced the Gulf Breeze UFO a hoax.

The pronouncement by Mr. Ray Stanford on "Project Starlight International" stationery was based on weather data from Appalachicola that said the winds at 15,000 and 30,000 feet were blowing North to South on the evening of November 11, 1987, and therefore, the clouds should have progressed from right to left in the series of photos taken by one Gulf Breeze photographer.

In their newscast, Channel 3 presented this "evidence" to Mayor Ed Gray III, who responded that he thought the whole thing was a hoax.

In a phone call with the mayor Thursday morning, I pointed out to him that Stanford had already recanted his accusations and apologized to the photographer and the MUFON investigators when presented with Eglin Air Base weather statistics showing our winds that evening were from the West, not the North.

Mayor Gray maintained that he still thought it was a hoax independent of the Ray Stanford/Project Starlight International fiasco.

He went on to say his belief was due to a long conversation with a high network type photojournalist who told him how the photos were made. I asked the mayor if the method described would apply to the Marth 17th photos taken with two parallel Sun 600 Polaroid cameras, as well as the earlier shots taken with the older Polaroid camera. He said he didn't know the details and that he had asked the photographer, who preferred to remain anonymous, to call the *Sentinel* direct to tell us how it had been done.

Late Friday afternoon, we received a call from a deep authoritative-voiced man who said he was calling from Israel (where he was on assignment) to tell us what he had told the mayor about how the UFO photos had been hoaxed.

We listened carefully as this high network authority, who insisted on remaining anonymous, told us how he knew the Gulf Breeze UFO was a hoax, even without benefit of seeing the original photos and without interviewing any eyewitnesses.

He went on to say the UFO images were simply reflections on a pane of glass held in front of a camera shrouded by a black cloth while the photographer (or his assistant) held the lit model above the black shroud so it would reflect on the glass.

As most *Sentinel* readers may recall, several local photographers first considered this possibility, but abandoned it immediately since photo number one was partially obscured behind a tree branch. (If the UFO had been a reflection, it would have obscured the branch behind it.)

When presented with problems associated with the tree branch, the would-be debunker on the phone said it could be managed by cutting a piece of black cardboard to match the tree branch before taking the picture, then holding it in exactly the right place between the lit model and the glass pane to make the UFO appear to be behind the branch—a truly remarkable, if not impossible, accomplishment according to optical physicist Bruce MacAbee.

Why the mayor believes this anonymous "New York Authority" in spite of the multitude of local professionals who have already considered and discarded the same theory can, I suppose, be explained as an infatuation with the high network position claimed by the caller. I must admit the man did speak with the confidence of one who is not accustomed to being questioned on his authority.

I will respond to this hoax hypothesis with a quote from Bruce MacAbee, the only scientist who has studied the Gulf Breeze UFO photos and interviewed witnesses. In his fifty-page report on the Gulf Breeze UFO, MacAbee considers the possible hoaxing of the March 17th photos as follows: "...He would have to position the image on one photo, e.g. the left photo, so that it would appear reasonable (not between himself and a nearby tree or building, for example) and then he would have to calculate where the second image ought to be on the other photo so that it would appear to be at some reasonable distance and then place this image correctly on the second photo. The calculation and positioning would have to be accurate to within several hundredths of an inch to create an apparent object at an apparent distance over 100 feet."

Also, it seems our knowledgeable photojournalist has overlooked a problem known to even the novice photographer. If there were a pane of glass in front of the camera, we would see the flash bounce back in each photo where flash was used. The Sun 600 flashes every time, whether it needs it or not, then sets its own shutter speed and aperture (lens opening) to compensate. So, if a glass pane were being used to reflect an image of a dimly lit UFO, it would certainly reflect the flash as well!

I have empathy for Mayor Gray, who is probably tired of being introduced as Mayor of the UFO Capitol of the World, but I think he was premature in pronouncing a hoax and he was wrong in suggesting that the UFO has hurt Gulf Breeze's image or economy.

Finally, all this discussion about the possible hoaxing of the photographs seems to have overshadowed another equally important aspect of the case:

If the photos are hoaxes, what did all the other witnesses see?

The voice on the phone from Israel said simply, "They're all lying, of course." Presented with the same question, Mayor Gray was a little more circumspect when he supposed they probably saw something, but he was not ready to concede that it couldn't have been a military aircraft.

View Points

BY CHARLIE SOMERBY

This is an open letter to Gulf Breeze Mayor Ed Gray, investigator Ray Stanford and other doubting Thomases who, with their heads buried deep in the sand, probably still believe that the earth is flat, that the sun revolves around it and that the report Americans landed on the moon 20 years ago is a figment of someone's imagination.

Come off it, mayor, we're on the threshold of a new century when many sensational events can be expected.

What has bothered the dozens of people in this area more than anything else who have seen something unusual for the past several months is that Mayor Gray, in a public statement over television, called the sightings a hoax.

Now that's a very insulting word which implies underhandedness or crookedness. In other words, all of us who have reported what appeared to us as unidentified flying objects are a bunch of liars.

Mrs. Somerby and I are two of that group accused of deliberately making false statements.

Let's go back to sunset on Veterans Day, November 11, 1987, when the two of us were taking a stroll along Hickory Shores Boulevard in Midway.

As is her wont, she was looking out over East Bay admiring cloud formations when she spotted a flying object and yelled to get my attention. We kept our eyes on the apparition until it disappeared behind sand pines at the edge of a clearing.

We tuned in the evening news and scanned the morning paper to see if anyone had reported the object. No luck!

Had no intention of telling anyone what we had seen, but upon dropping in to The *Sentinel* office on the way back to Milton, strolled into the make-up room where son Duane was in front of the upcoming page one.

He told us that he knew something we didn't and showed us pictures of an unidentified flying object submitted by a local resident.

Almost simultaneously, Dori and I informed him that we had seen the craft, presumably just a few minutes before it passed over Gulf Breeze.

Now our eyesight and integrity are being questioned by some non-believers.

In court, I would probably be accepted by a judge as an expert witness in connection with evaluating unidentified flying objects.

During World War II and the Korean Conflict, I served as a Navy communications officer in the amphibious force and spent more than three years in combat areas. I was with the troops that landed in Sicily and in Southern France. In between those two assaults, I spent a year in the China-Burma-India area and was in operations against the Japanese along the Burmese Coast from Chittagong to Akyab.

I participated in the amphibious assault at Inchon, South Korea and in the UN withdrawal from Hungnam/Wonsan in North Korea. I was officer-in-charge of the joint communications center on the staff of Rear Adm. James E. Doyle aboard the command ship *Mt. McKinley*.

All concerned in such assaults had been well-trained in quickly identifying bogeys (unidentified aircraft). Our lives depended on determining if aircraft were friendly or hostile.

Drawing upon this wartime experience, there's no doubt in my mind that what I saw on Veterans Day night was exactly what was depicted in the pictures published in the *Sentinel* and taken that same evening.

As we near the start of the 21st Century, I think that we must be aware that there is life outside our wee planet. We should appreciate the fact, too, that it is a distinct possibility that those civilizations may be light years ahead of us in many ways. Just how long can the Federal Government, the U.S. Air Force and now the City of Gulf Breeze refuse to recognize the authenticity of sightings here and elsewhere?

Personally, we think the mayor owes all of us, who have stepped forward at the risk of being called liars and inviting ridicule, an apology.

Millions of people who had never heard of Gulf Breeze, Florida, before, now know there is such a community.

And, incidentally, mayor, you are the first person of the hundreds who have commented on the subject to challenge our credibility.

Dear Editor,

The Mayor of Gulf Breeze is evidently far more visionary than anyone could have ever imagined, for he has been able to unequivocally denounce the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings as merely a "hoax." According to Webster's dictionary, a hoax is "an act intended to trick or to dupe."

It seems almost impossible that anyone could mastermind a hoax of such magnitude that it would encompass and involve virtually hundreds of people. And for what reason? If it is a hoax, Mr. Mayor, with your obvious superior intellect, please explain why all of these people have set out to trick us. Who was the target of this elaborate scheme?

Really now, how can you make a statement that the UFO sightings are a hoax and bad for our community? An unidentified flying object has been seen on an almost nightly basis since the last of November. Literally hundreds of sightings have been reported to the *Sentinel*, with many more sightings where people have not come forward. Are you saying that all of these people are liars, all part of a scheme to dupe the community?

What is a mystery and can only be conjecture is where these UFO's are from, and why they seem to be content to make themselves known in our town. Questions for which we may never receive satisfactory answers.

But, because we don't know the answers to dismiss the subject as a "hoax" is ridiculous and an easy way out, Mayor Gray. You owe "Ed," the *Sentinel*, the City Council, and the citizenry of Gulf Breeze a humble apology for your embarrassing commentary on tv last week. We're waiting!

Name Withheld Upon Request

Dear Editor,

I would like to verify two sightings on April 7, 1988 approximate time between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Both sightings were published in the *Sentinel* on April 14.

My wife, daughter, and I were returning home to Gulf Breeze from a trip to Mississippi, and as we crossed the three mile bridge from Pensacola to Gulf Breeze, we watched two objects to the east of the bridge. One was located over Pensacola in the Scenic Highway area. This object may have been a plane, only it stayed in the same location the whole time we were on the bridge. It had three very bright lights in a horizontal line and no blinking lights. The other object was over Gulf Breeze. It too appeared to be standing still and very low. This object was elongated in shape and had four bright lights aligned.

I realize that a flying plane seems to stand still while you are traveling in an automobile, but the time it takes to cross the three mile bridge, would likely allow enough time for them to move some.

If the sightings were UFOs it would be the second time for me. The first was in October 1973, between Port Gibson, MS and Jackson, MS. This object was identical to the first photo taken in Gulf Breeze.

I cannot say that extraterrestrial beings do or do not exist. It would be foolish for anyone to confirm the unknown without facts, although some people think they can. Contact is the only way.

The objects we are seeing are probably military experimental crafts, whether they be of this country or not. Don't expect anyone responsible to own up to it yet.

If they are prototypes, someone, somewhere, is to be congratulated for they are the ultimate flying machine—and thanks for the show. Thank You.

Gulf Breeze Citizen

Dear Editor,

I have finally had a terrible burden lifted from my shoulders. You see, I was contacted by some of the aliens from one of the UFO's we are all familiar with around Gulf Breeze. They communicated to me they wanted a couple of volunteers to accompany them back to their extraterrestrial homeland.

At first, I was excited about the prospect of being able to extend an invitation to some deserving scientist or astronaut or maybe a politician and the guy across the street who likes to play his stereo too loud. Then I thought of the possibility they might not return or be subjected to some fiendish torture or something.

It was at that time I realized I was in a real quandry.

Amazingly, I read the front page of the April 21st *Sentinel* about the sweet elderly lady and the unforgivable deed that was bestowed upon her. Voila! My problem was solved!

I have submitted the proper names to the aliens and I didn't even ask what their plans were for the two "volunteers." Bon Voyage!

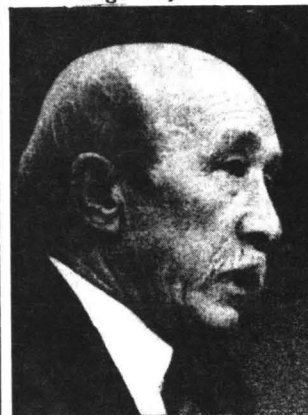
B. H. Gray
Pensacola, Fla.

Dear Editor,

I was very disappointed to hear Ed Gray state on the Channel 3 newscast that he believed the UFO sightings to be a hoax. The statement that the City of Gulf Breeze has lost business because of all the publicity is ridiculous. Does he have any photographs to back up that statement?

Even though I have not seen a UFO myself, I am a believer who refuses to call "Jim" and many other citizens liars.

If and when we do make contact, let's please remember to leave Mr. Gray out of all the festivities!



Charles Hickson

Believers, skeptics at Gautier UFO talk

By JOHN FULMER
JACKSON COUNTY BUREAU

■ GAUTIER — Roy Rumbly came and saw and remained a skeptic.

Rumbly sat with more than 200 curious onlookers at a UFO Conference held at the Gautier Convention Center Saturday and listened as self-proclaimed UFO abductee Charles Hickson and UFO encounter expert Budd Hopkins talked about outer-space craft that swoop up earthlings.

A retired International Paper Company worker from Moss Point, Rumbly, 62, remembers radio reports on Hickson's abduction in October 1973. Hickson and Calvin Parker say they were fishing on the Pascagoula River when beings from a spaceship whisked them aboard, examined them and released them.

"I thought it was kind of a hoax for a short time," Rumbly said. "Then the sheriff came on to tell all about it. It went on for about two or three days and I kind of enjoyed it. I kind of wanted to believe it."

But Rumbly remained unimpressed by the conference, which included talk of space creatures building a hybrid human/alien race.

"I haven't been convinced" by the speakers, he said. "The thing that happened to them must be in their mind, not a being from another planet."

Hickson, of Gautier, told the conference goes Saturday that he wanted to keep his story quiet at first, but felt compelled to tell authorities for defense reasons.

The experience has taken its toll on both Hickson and Parker. Hickson's quest for belief is almost obsessive; Parker, who now lives in Texas, was hospitalized briefly after a nervous breakdown.

"I had to prove that this hasn't only happened to Calvin Parker and myself," Hickson said. "There's no telling how many haven't admitted it."

Hopkins, a New York-based painter and sculptor who has authored two books on UFO abductions, understands Hickson's obsession. In 1964, Hopkins says he spotted a spaceship, and since 1975, he has investigated UFO sightings and interviewed dozens of suspected UFO abductees.

Unlike Hickson, many have to be hypnotized by psychotherapists to tell their traumatic stories, Hopkins said.

Contending that UFO abductions aren't random incidents, Hopkins tried to convince the crowd that a pattern of close encounters has existed for decades. Sensing the possibility of doubting Thomases, Hopkins often explained what he had to say might seem "totally crazy," or "totally unbelievable."

However, many in the audience leaned forward in rapt attention as Hopkins read off a litany of UFO abductees' case histories. Hopkins spoke of one man who was so terrified and panicked under hypnosis, he

(continued on page 9)

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- Aug. 15, 1988)

"scared the psychologist more than anyone."

But what is really scary for the entire human race, Hopkins said, is that a species of aliens may have tracked certain individuals since childhood. He bases his theory on the number of abductees who paint the same picture of their abductors — smooth-headed beings with large, swimming black eyes — and by the similarity of their abduction/examination stories.

"This is the biggest story there is," Hopkins said. "I know this is happening to people."

The people come from a wide list of occupations and backgrounds. Many are professionals — lawyers, doctors, police, psychologists — who don't wish to have their tales made public, Hopkins said.

"The whole thing begins in childhood," Hopkins said. "They seem to follow a particular bloodline, like we would track an animal's bloodline for research."

Using brain implants, the aliens check up on their selected humans. Hopkins believes that the aliens later visit the human and take cell, sperm and ovum samples to build a hybrid alien/human race.

His interviews "with so many cases" lead him to think that human women are sometimes re-abducted and shown the hybrid child.

"Whatever they are and wherever they came from, they appear to be at some evolutionary dead end," Hopkins said. "(Humans must have) some genetic properties they seem desperate for."

One of those properties is "the huge range of human emotions," according to Hopkins. The aliens watch the human mother responding to the child. The entire human/alien connection takes decades because the aliens are interested in the way humans mature, he said.

"It's not evil. It's totally detached," Hopkins said. "They borrow people."

But the abductions end in deep-seated phobias and memory losses for humans, Hopkins said. One young man he interviewed watched a television documentary on UFOs and began to weep for no apparent reason. Hopkins said the abduction experience was erased from the surface, but still remained in his subconscious.

"He started to cry and cry and cry. There was a tremendous reservoir of emotion down there," he said.

Gary Albano, 32, of Gautier, was working the sound equipment at the conference, which cost \$10 per person to attend. Albano said his parents witnessed a UFO in New York, and although he has never seen an alien craft, he believes they exist.

"A person would have to be a pea brain not to believe there are other people in the universe," Albano said. "The Lord's a lot deeper than that. If He's going to make creatures, He's going to make a lot of them."

Never a strong believer in UFOs, Judy Marsh, 34, a teacher from Ocean Springs, was impressed most by Hopkin's tape recording of a man recounting an abduction experience under hypnosis.

"He seemed genuinely frightened," Marsh said, as she stood in the darkness outside the center during a break in the conference.

"I don't want to stand out here too long," she joked. "I've never been that much of a skeptic."

A Letter From the Mayor

Mr. Donald M. Ware, State Director
Mutual UFO Network, Inc.
662 Fairway Avenue
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548

Dear Mr. Ware:

I appreciate your letter of April 21, 1988 and your wanting to clarify your findings in relation to a report by Mr. Ray Stanford. I want to make my position very clear in the fact that my conclusions as expressed recently on Channel 3 television were not reached as a result of Mr. Stanford's report. Information made available to me by knowledgeable persons not only in the field of UFO studies, but also in the field of broadcast journalism who have done extensive analysis on the photographs taken by "Jim", led me to my conclusion that the sightings are not as depicted in recent months.

I have also been informed following my disclosures made on television that certain data pertinent to the matter and pointing to a conclusion that Jim's photographs may, in fact, be invalid has been revealed to yourself and other associates within MUFON. If this is the case, my question then becomes why persons such as yourself, in trying to do an objective evaluation of the reported sightings, would not make known to the general public you have, in fact, received some data which point to the possibility of a hoax. To maintain the integrity of your organization, it would seem to me a disclosure of information to the contrary of what "Jim" has sighted becomes imperative for you to disclose such.

To conclude, let me reiterate as I have to "Jim" personally, I have no intent to discredit him as an individual nor your organization as a group. I have not belittled him by informing the public as to his true identity, nor have I publicly tried to discredit your organization. I simply, based upon knowledgeable people reporting knowledgeable investigations, have concluded we do not have a situation whereby the reported sightings are bona fide and without any reasonable doubt as to their validity. The responsibility that I have to the general public makes it necessary and incumbent upon me to reveal that I have information contrary to what has been publicly expressed by "Jim" and certain other groups such as MUFON. I would submit to you you also have the responsibility to disclose such information which I am aware you are privy to.

In closing, let me also state I have no intention of prolonging a discussion of the UFO matter. Quite candidly, some members of the local news media encouraged me to participate in their coverage of the UFO matter and state my views on it. As I know you are aware, ever since this matter first became a news topic dating back to late 1987, I have taken a position I can offer no input on the subject since I have experienced no first-hand information. Suddenly, however the frequency of the question "Have you seen any green men lately?" or "What is that hovering over your house each night?" or "Beam me up on your next flyover," all of which were said in jest but underneath the statements insinuated we had nothing better to do in our community but look in the sky each night for objects which may or may not be identifiable. In a moment of frustration at such statements, I elected to respond to the request of the local television station when asked if I wanted to make comments on the news program. Quite frankly, unless some new evidence surfaces or some new circumstances arise which indicate I should become more involved, I intend to offer no further comments on the UFO sightings. The on-going median beautification program; increased recreational programs and projects for the betterment of the community; constant monitoring of the traffic situation, both as it affects Gulf Breeze and, in my capacity as MPO chairman, as it affects the entire two-county area; pending subdivision developments which will require careful city planning; public works and utility projects which are soon to be contemplated by the City and which will need careful scrutiny to structure proper financing plans; as well the other routine public appearance requirements which my job as mayor demand, all are reasons along with my regular professional capacity why I cannot devote further time to the subject which will result in sacrifice to much more productive efforts. Thus if the Gulf Breeze Sentinel, Channel 3 News, Pensacola News Journal, or any other form of mass media communications chooses to further investigate and report on the topic, I would only ask they do it objectively and occasionally submit both sides of the questions.

Sincerely,
Ed Gray, III
Mayor

Mayor Ed Gray
16 Highpoint Drive
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

Dear Mayor Gray,

I am writing because I thought your comments on WEAR-TV last night may have been significantly influenced by Ray Stanford's Project Starlight International report, "A Strange Breeze in Gulf Breeze." Ray called me last night after he learned he had been misled as to the direction the camera was pointing when Ed's photos #1 and #2 were taken. The bearing from the camera lens to the pole across the street is 309° True. Since Ray thought it was pointing more to the south, his finding of a strange breeze was in error, and he apologized to me.

Clouds were reported at 15,000 ft. My calculations of cloud movement from data taken at the scene and from original photos indicates a direction of 275°. This is consistent with 15,000 ft. winds measured from Eglin AFB balloon releases 10 Nov. at 1300L and 12 Nov. at 0800L, 249° and 291°. Ed Keppel, an Eglin AFB meteorologist at 882-5960, told me the 18,000 ft. winds from 500mb charts on 10, 11, 12, and 13 Nov. 87 ranged from 230 to 270°. Ray's figures show some readings slightly more to the right (290-300°) although his time conversions were in error. (These charts are based on NWS balloon releases.) It seems the breezes in your lovely town are not so strange.

Our MUFON files on the Gulf Breeze sightings are now several inches thick. If you want to learn more about what is going on, our investigators are available to brief you. Please call me at 1-862-6582 or Charles Flannigan at 478-0465 (h) or 478-5530. We are also interested in any information you may have on the sightings. We have gotten to know Ed and family very well.

I think it is important to all who have seen UFO's and those who might yet see them, that the public knows more about your views on the sightings as you learn more about the phenomenon.

Sincerely,
Donald M. Ware
State Director

Dear Mr. Gray:

This is in response to your recently televised (Channel 3) comments on the "Gulf Breeze UFO" situation. It's rare and refreshing to see a politician take sides on so controversial a subject. I applaud your fortitude.

You obviously have strong evidence to support the charge that the "Mr. Ed" photos published in the Sentinel were contrived. I urge that you quickly make this crucial supporting evidence available, too. (Public interest has now been stimulated to the point that it is unlikely any unsupported expression of opinion will put the matter to rest.) Suggest you relay your evidence to Mr. Cook at the Sentinel, who will relay it to the investigation team working on the case. The perpetrators of hoaxes do not deserve privacy or other personal considerations.

All agree that a hoax of this nature and magnitude can only tarnish the image of Gulf Breeze and the entire Emerald Coast. It was funny at first, but now we must get this mess cleaned up. The sooner the hoax is exposed, the sooner we can all return to normal.

Sincerely,
Robert E. Reid
Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

P.S. It will be unfortunate should your evidence turn out to be no more substantial than that recently produced by other "distant experts" (e.g., Mr. Ray Stanford of Annapolis, MD., who assumed the camera was pointing in a different direction). I truly hope your evidence is not so flimsy. Otherwise your remarks on TV may be extremely damaging, both to the reputation of a respected citizen and to the scientific pursuit of truth itself.

Air Force claims UFO actually B-52

SHEBOYGAN (AP) — With a little help from the military, the mystery of Sheboygan's UFO sightings on Tuesday night appears to be solved, at least partially, officials said Friday.

According to Sgt. Craig Dooms, a public information specialist at Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville, Ark., a B-52 bomber was over Lake Michigan Tuesday night just after 11 p.m. dropping flares one at a time and in clusters.

The huge long-range strategic bomber was testing its war-time defense system against heat-seeking missiles.

Should the mammoth bomber come under attack, the flares distract heat-seeking missiles from the bomber's engine.

"The mission was to test the flare-drop system to see if it generates the desirable amount of heat ... more than is generated by the engine," Dooms said.

While the Air Force offered no assessment as to whether the flare-drop was successful, several residents attested to the light-producing quality of the flares.

The flares were so brilliant that motorists on Sheboygan's west side believed the lights were coming directly at them.

As calls continued to come into the Sheboygan Press, there were reports of sightings as far west as Plymouth and the Sheboygan Marsh, 15-20 miles distant.

Corrine Richart, of Plymouth, was camping at the marsh with a group that observed a light display in the eastern sky from 11 p.m. Tuesday until 12:30 a.m. Wednesday.

She saw what appeared to be an orange ball that lingered in the sky long after six lights under the ball went out in sequence, two at a time.

She said she is skeptical that the Air Force maneuvers could account for everything she and the other campers saw.

Tuesday night also produced a flurry of reports of UFOs in the Oshkosh, Appleton and Fond du Lac areas.

An Eden farmer, John Dins, saw a huge oval-shaped object with bright lights in the southwestern sky at about 11:15 p.m.

Dins said the formation was so strange that it frightened his dairy herd.

The Air Force had no explanation for other UFO sightings in the Sheboygan area Tuesday night between 9 and 10 p.m.

Some reports consistently mentioned a soundless swift-cluster arrangement of lights followed by a semi-circle of three lights.

Another report was of moving red lights spaced over a large area moving at extraordinary speed.

CR: R. Heiden

SENTINEL, Gulf
Breeze, FL - Aug. 4,
1988 CR: R. Reid

Unsolved Mysteries to Air Segment on Gulf Breeze UFO

NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries* will air a segment on the Gulf Breeze UFO this fall said Director Raymond Bridges during his visit here last week.

Bridges will return next week with camera a crew to interview

local witnesses and film sighting locations.

Bridges was excited about the show saying he was impressed with the credibility of the witnesses and the graciousness of the Gulf Breeze community.

Handling hoopla

Proposed Elmwood UFO center draws media

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a three-part series on UFOs and the town of Elmwood, Wis. The series concludes Wednesday.

By DAWN M. AERTS
Staff Writer

Larry Feiler, Elmwood, Wis., mayor and businessman, doesn't mind if people refer to his town as the "Flying Saucer Capital" of Wisconsin.

In fact, he and residents of the sleepy community, population 991 and not growing much at all, don't think twice about all the commotion over UFOs or the convergence of media moguls like Dan Rather of CBS and "Gerald" at their doorstep.

They didn't plan any of this fascination over UFOs.

Indeed, people around here have been spotting strange-looking objects in the sky for years, and most hardly ever bring the matter up unless asked. In the case of Mayor Feiler, he admits that, personally, he's had no sighting in his past 40-plus years. But Feiler grew up here, and he says that talk about seeing sau-

cers was never considered extraordinary.

What has caused a stir in town lately is a recent proposal by a non-profit corporation called the UFO Site Center based in Chippewa Falls, Wis., to build a multi-million-dollar landing site — right in the town's own backyard.

Feiler believes that the frequency and continuous series of quality sightings in Elmwood has made it a natural for such a landing site.

Hope is that a "secure" landing site would lead to contact, dialogue and, ultimately, a full association and relationship with advanced civilizations — which purportedly have been observing our planet for years. The site would also serve as a major scientific mecca where professionals from the international community would conduct research and attempt to open the channels of communication.

Since the plans were announced at a press conference last February, the phone has been ringing off the hook in Mayor Feiler's office. He's received letters,

too: letters from skeptics and lunatics; letters from people who believe in such things and who are ready to make this town their vacation spot when Elmwood's annual UFO Days arrive in July.

The idea for UFO Days came in about 1978, notes Feiler. It used to be called the Stars and Stripes Festival, but Elmwood decided to launch a competition to rename the event. The winner, inspired by a string of major sightings near and around Elmwood, won a \$5 prize for the UFO Days theme.

Actually, the news about the landing strip was released a lot sooner than the village had planned. Feiler explains that a small ad ran in an Eau Claire newspaper requesting participation from those interested in such a project. A reporter noticed the ad and wrote up an article, which was later picked up on the Associated Press news wire.

That's when Feiler began to understand the impact of such sightings on his hometown.

"We started to get calls from as far away as Australia, British Columbia and South Africa," says Feiler. "I was getting phone calls from Gerald and PM Magazine — one from Pierre Salinger."

He says that radio stations — at least 20 of them — started to request interviews. Not long after, Dan Rather showed up at Elmwood's doorstep with a helicopter crew and three days worth of taping ahead. To put it mildly, the town had not seen that much excitement since the series of UFO sightings over a decade ago.

"It got to a point where the phone didn't stop ringing... so we decided to have the press conference," says Feiler. "Now we're looking at Elmwood as being the potential site for a 20th Century Fox motion picture... There's been talk of Spielberg's interest in the area, and the town is digging in for what may be one of the longest tourist seasons in its history."

Feiler points out that Elmwood's townspeople are not affiliated with the UFO Site Corporation in any way. The position that Feiler has taken is that of a representative of Elmwood. He says that from a tourism perspective, Elmwood has finally earned a place on the map.

"As I said before, I have never had a sighting myself," he says, "but as far as the people themselves go — I knew Carol Forester and George Wheeler — there's no question about the credibility of the story."

"In my opinion, there is something out there. And we suspect that the government has covered up a major part of the story."

Feiler points out that with the increasing numbers of UFO sightings, most organizations involved with aerial phenomena are no longer investigating distant observations.

"The ones these centers are looking at now are those who have some detailed descriptions, if they've seen the actual vehicle. They're also focusing on reported abductions."

According to Feiler, the proposed landing site and increased media attention have not changed the general day-to-day pattern of Elmwood residents yet.

"When these TV stations come to town, we're not out there trying to promote any of this phenomena... People are pretty much doing the same things they do every day — shopping, yardwork, running their businesses," says Feiler. "But if such a landing site and facility should come to pass, this town would be looking at a considerable impact in terms of jobs and the local economy."

Feiler estimates that the proposed facility could require as many as 50 to 100 scientists and professionals to run the operation.

"With that kind of facility, the town is bound to grow," says Feiler. "And so far, the publicity has been overwhelming... We couldn't afford to pay for this amount of coverage."

For the next few weeks, Feiler and other officials will be trying to iron out plans for UFO Days and the tourist season still ahead. Plans are in the works for a special tour bus which will give visitors a glimpse of several reported UFO-sighting locations. Elmwood also plans to renovate an older building in town which will be used for an exhibit on local encounters and sightings.

"Most of the residents of Elmwood are taking the fascination in stride," says Feiler of his home town. "Right now, UFO Site Corporation representatives are studying topographical maps of this area, using Elmwood as the center. After that, they can take the necessary steps to obtain property."

As Feiler leafs through a book of letters he's collected over the last few months, he says that at least 90 percent of the mail has been positive. But he's decided to keep the letters from skeptics and lunatics, too.

"My understanding of this facility is that we will finally be able to send the signal that we're ready for contact," says Feiler of the landing site in Elmwood. "Hopefully, mankind is ready to extend that invitation."



Elmwood Mayor Larry Feiler says that local residents have been spotting strange-looking objects in the sky for years, and talk of UFOs is not unusual. (Gazette photo by Dawn M. Aerts.)

UFO frightens cows

near Eden

By PAT ZIETLOW
Reporter Staff Writer

Eden's John Dins lives under a commonly used flight path for the Oshkosh and Fond du Lac airports. So he's used to seeing all sorts of jets and planes fly over at night.

But none of them had ever frightened his cows before.

Dins, a dairy farmer, was taking his cows out of the barn 11:15 p.m. Tuesday when they suddenly turned around and rushed back in.

"I wanted to know what was out there that had scared them," Dins said. "So I walked around the building and off to the east there was this big, oval or saucer-shaped thing with orange lights. I'd say it was 1,000 feet up and it had to be 100 feet in diameter."

"At first, I just thought it was jets in formation," continued Dins, of 1781 Vista Drive. "But I watched it for 15 to 20 seconds and it didn't move and there was no noise associated with it. It just sat there. It was kind of scary. It was a hot night, but I got chills looking at it."

Dins then went to get his wife, Marie, because, "I wanted someone else to see it, I didn't want anyone to think I was crazy."

But when Dins looked again, the object was gone. Later, Dins saw the orange lights off farther to the east.

"They were the same color as the lights before," he said. "They would go off and on. It was definitely not an airplane. I've seen lots of jets fly by with their landing lights on. I've never seen anything like this before."

Dins, 41, called the police, who later got several other calls according to Chief Deputy Sheriff Ed Henke.

Similar looking unidentified flying objects were also reported over Lake Michigan according to the Associated Press.

Kate Ludwig, of Sheboygan, said she was walking with her son, Matthew, 12, and a friend, Mary Belleau, when they saw a series of bright red lights Tuesday night.

"There were seven or eight of them, 50 to 75 times the size of lights you would see on a plane. They were huge," Ludwig said. "They were in a precise line, but were curved on the end."

Belleau said she observed a yellow band of light between the red lights.

"The lights stretched out, expanding outward, and then appeared to fall in toward the center," she explained. "One of them disappeared. It all happened within seconds."

The Associated Press said strange lights were also observed Tuesday night by four people gathered in a yard at a different Sheboygan location. A man, who asked not to be identified, said he saw as many as 10 lights followed by "a 'V' formation... I don't know what I was seeing. Not planes, not helicopters. I just don't know. There were no sounds."

Inspector Clarence Kolb, of the Sheboygan Police Department, said he had heard speculation that the lights might have been from military night photography exercises, but had no further information than that.

UFO update:

SURFCOMBER, Del Mar, CA - Aug. 3, 1988

Searching the Milky Way for saucers in the night

By Patricia Morris
North Coast Beat Editor

The warmth of the clear May evening embraced Dan Clements as he stepped out of a Borrego Springs vacation cabin. He slowly gazed at the darkened sky, leisurely marking the patterns of the stars. But when his eyes scanned the area west, over Escondido, something unusual caught his attention.

"Here came this blue disk going like crazy," reported the 69-year-old Encinitas resident. "I couldn't tell its size, but I did have a stop watch on my watch. I timed it, and it traversed the entire sky in 45 seconds."

Clements is just one of the many people who have spotted a UFO (unidentified flying object) since the modern rash of reported sightings started during World War II. "I've been interested in the phenomenon for over 40 years now, Clements is accustomed to people discounting what he saw that warm evening in 1975.

"I never reported it to the government, it would be a waste of time," explained Clements, who went on to write the humorous book, "How to be Kidnapped by U-folk." "I used to care if people believed me, but now I don't give a damn. I always run into condemnation before examination."

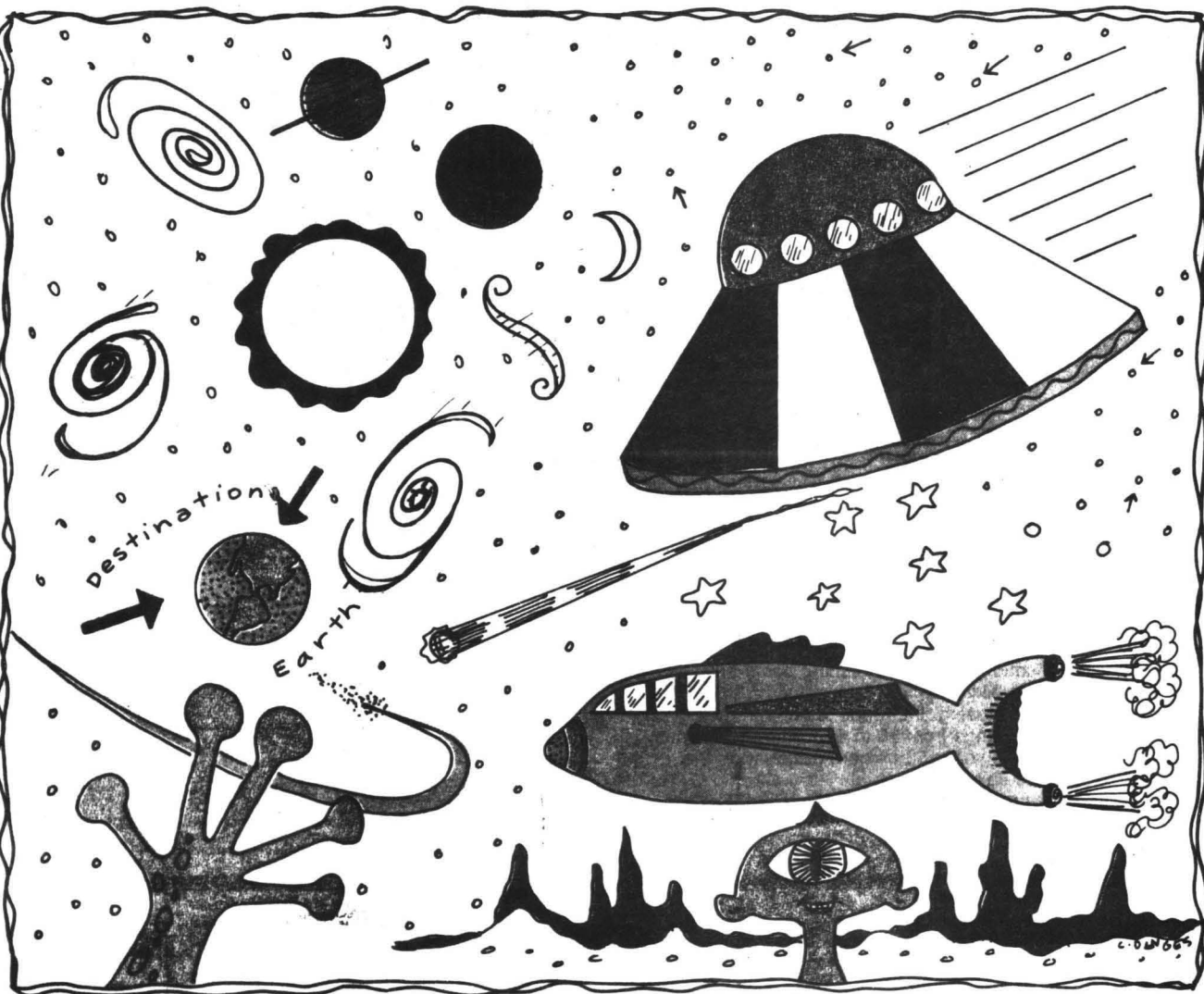
La Costa resident Mary Crockett had just the opposite experience. Many years ago as she was walking toward a restaurant on the San Francisco peninsula, everyone stopped short. "It was 8 o'clock on a warm summer evening and it had just got dark," she recalled. "I saw these two ships, one behind the other in military precision. They were oval in shape, and big in front like a tadpole. They were a luminous pale metallic green. I have the impression they were humming."

Up to then, Crockett had not believed in UFOs. But in mentioning the incident to friends in places such as Santa Barbara, she found they were not surprised. "My friends say, 'Oh yes, we see them all the time. Of course you saw one,'" she said.

UFO Facts

While sightings of UFOs are many, the facts are few. The modern history of the UFO began during World War II, when pilots reported strange vehicles moving around them. Then in 1947, veteran pilot Kenneth Arnold reported disklike objects near Mount Rainier in the state of Washington. Since then, an estimated 70,000 sightings have been reported, according to an August 1987 article in Reader's Digest. More have gone unreported.

"Seeing is believing," is an old adage, but one that applies perfectly to UFOs. Those that have seen and do believe often find their veracity, their sanity or both called into question because of the lack of evidence.



Illustration/Cathy Dinges

"I always say that absence of evidence is not evidence of absence," Clements said, summing it up.

While physical evidence does seem to be in short supply, there have been numerous sightings in which more than one person saw the UFO, including a 1978 incident in La Mesa. As many as 80 people have seen the same object, not to mention the photographs, videotapes and even presumed evidence that has been collected. Yet scientists have never validated any theory concerning UFOs.

"It's a touchy story," said Barbra Dillenger, teacher of psychology and metaphysics at Kairos Institute in Encinitas, and an expert on UFOs. "The people who have degrees are afraid to come out publicly about what they believe personally."

Still, scientists who work in the space field will admit to the possibility of other life forms in the universe.

"It is remarkable that, given the sheer number of stars and our efforts to find life, we have never detected any signs of living organisms, let alone intelligent life," said James Pasavento, the planetarium director at Palomar College. "I believe that the possible forms of life in our galaxy are so varied that our limited imagination falls short."

Growing Interest

That possibility is being recognized by more people every year. A growing number of people feel it would be pompous of us to believe that Earth holds the only life forms in this immense universe. Now that government

funding is looking like a possibility for the NASA-run SETI project (a telescope microphone that is looking for radio signals in space), space may finally really be the last frontier.

"It's like we're living in the time of Columbus," commented Dillenger, who reports that there have been increasing sightings in the San Diego area. "Some said the world was round, others said it was flat. We're living on the same kind of edge. What we need now is an open mind."

A government cover-up of UFO evidence has always been whispered. But experts in the field believe the government would be wise to not risk the panic that such public information should cause. "This is the story of the century," claimed Clements. "It would tremendously upset the world we live in — everything from religion to power cartels. It would be plain traumatic."

Fear of UFOs

That trauma was never more evident than in 1938 when Orson Welles broadcast his historic radio play, "War of the Worlds." The broadcast caused an entire nation to panic, because some people thought aliens had really landed on this planet.

But over the years, the attitude toward other life forms has changed. That evidence is plainly visible in the movies — from the venomous monsters of "War of the Worlds," to the heightened expectations of "Close Encounters of a Third Kind," to the ever-cute "E.T." With "Star Trek" and

"Star Wars," space has gone from scary to exciting.

Now, more than ever, many people are willing to consider the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors. "I believe in the possibility of them," said Dr. Wes Leffingwell, a dentist in Cardiff and a student of Dillenger's. "I'm sure something's going on at that level."

UFO Fans

This last year has been a boom period for UFO believers. Three books, all bestsellers by noted authors, have once again brought the phenomenon to the public's attention: "Communion," by Whitley Strieber; "Intruders," by Budd Hopkins; and "Light Years," by Gary Kinder. As if arranged by a press agent, a number of sightings have been recently reported, with the majority coming from Australia.

The UFO phenomenon has been remarkable for its staying power. Every year, thousands of people come forward with stories of UFO sightings or kidnappings. Like the Loch Ness monster and Bigfoot, the UFOs just won't disappear.

And, as with people who report visions of Loch Ness or Bigfoot, those who report UFOs quickly have their sanity questioned. Admit it, the first thing that pops into your mind when someone mentions UFOs is that the person must be a crackpot. The same people that see little green Martians in their gardens. The crazy lady down the street who claims to have been kidnapped by aliens. They've got to be crazy, right? Maybe wrong.

It's right to question. Spotting a UFO can be an attention-getter. Or it just might be an optical illusion. But there are others, sane, professional people, who are quite certain of what they saw.

UFO Truth?

Such is the case of Dr. Robert Perry, who doesn't just believe in UFOs. He's seen them — up close. A 31-year veteran of the Air Force, where he was a test pilot, he saw things that were "unexplainable" while flying in World War II. Later he was involved in several retrieval projects concerning downed UFOs. "I was in the right place at the right time," said the Fallbrook resident. "As far as I'm concerned, E.T. has been here for centuries."

As a member of the Air Force Reserves, he is not at liberty to talk in great detail about his experiences, but says he can reveal some facts.

For instance, Perry recalls a downed saucer in Great Falls, Mont., in 1947. "It was a typical recovery, class 3 vehicle with room for three crew members. Cylindrical in shape. My job was to fly it out and deliver it to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base," Perry, who has a doctorate in psychology, was also involved in an incident in White Sands, N.M.

"This kind of information has not been suppressed, but it hasn't been widely publicized. That's why the mystique around the subject still exists."

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11 -
SURFCOMBER, Del Mar, CA
- Aug. 3, 1988)

UFO Questions
That mystique surely does still exist, perhaps because there are far more questions than answers. Why haven't UFO crews ever shown themselves to a government official? Why has presumed evidence been withheld from the public? Are the people who report UFOs sane, insane or mistaken?

The only consolation to these questions is that someday they may be answered. "If they have the capability to travel to our planet, then we're thousands of years behind them," said Clements of other life forms. "We first have to catch up with them to understand them."

Look, up in the sky. It's a bird, it's a plane. It's a UFO.
Or is it?

LEADER, Burbank, CA - May 28, 1988

Sky is falling?

Diego Mazzoleni and an older friend, Zoltan Bukovacz, were sitting outside a home in the 200 block of South Spark Street shortly before 6 p.m., Thursday when they claim they saw something fall from an overhead plane.

Both described the object as switching from red to silver as it plummeted toward earth.

Mazzoleni called for his aunt, Bonnie Bunyik, who also watched the strange airborne object.

"I really panicked because I thought it was coming for our house," she said.

They watched the object hover over Burbank as it then drifted out of sight.

They wondered if it was something deliberately dropped from a plane or if it fell off.

Mazzoleni then called the

Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport and hung up after waiting on hold for a few minutes. None of the trio called police.

"I just figured 9-1-1 (the police emergency line) was not the place for this," Bunyik said.

Instead, they called The Burbank Leader.

Mazzoleni expressed remorse the object came no closer to Sparks Street than it did.

"I wish it would have hit the house," he said. "It would have been great."

And he added he didn't care what people thought.

"They already think I'm crazy so it doesn't matter to me," he said.

Airport and Federal Aviation Administration officials said they had not received any reports of airplanes falling apart Thursday over Burbank.

—PHIL DRAKE

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR
May 2, 1988

Lawrence described the size as "what I imagine a Volkswagen would look like at about 5,000 feet." If the Volkswagen were on fire, that is.

He tried a different perspective: "If a full moon had been out, this thing would've been about the same size as a full moon straight up in the air." As for the form, he said, "It looked like a transparent jellyfish in the act of thrusting itself forward."

They figured others must have seen and reported the object. They were wrong.

"We called an editor at your paper and they said they hadn't heard of anything," Marcia said. "We called the airport tower, and they hadn't heard anything. And the sheriff's office said nothing had been reported there."

That's when they began wondering if they should say anything. They're not sure how public they want to go. They didn't want their picture taken, for example.

What could they have seen? The planet Venus is particularly bright these nights, but the O'Briens are sure that this was no star or planet.

I SEEM TO remember a Springfield resident telling me several years ago about his son pulling off a UFO hoax. The kid rigged a candle on a light wooden frame attached to a paper bag or balloon, which acted like a full-sized hot-air balloon. It rose through the neighborhood as the candle heated the air inside and gave it an eerie glow.

But the O'Briens said the object they saw moved too fast for candle propulsion.

Back in 1981, some Veneta residents reported five dazzling red lights swooping through their neighborhood. An R-G reporter then talked to the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, where a researcher theorized that the objects could have been a natural phenomenon called "ball lightning."

When I tried to contact the center last week, however, all I got was an answering machine. It gave me the whereabouts of the human staff.

And the O'Briens don't think that what they saw was caused by nature — or humans.

"I don't know whether it's a probe sent from somewhere else . . .," Lawrence said. "But unless it was a hoax with some gadget used by somebody, there's no possible way this country has anything that would travel and climb the way that thing did — in silence."

He's sure of that. What he's still debating is whether he should have kept his own silence.

GAZETTE, Indiana, PA - July 30, 1988 CR: S. Gordon

by REBECCA MURESHEK

Gazette Staff Intern

Have you seen bright lights in the Indiana sky that can't be explained as an airplane, helicopter or meteor? If you have, Stan Gordon may be just the person to talk to.

Mr. Gordon, founder and director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU), and a team of volunteers of doctors, military personnel, scientists and other professionals, are on call 24-hours a day to answer and check calls on sightings that range from UFOs to Bigfoot.

Mr. Gordon has been involved with UFO sightings for 23 years and although he has never seen one himself, nor has anyone else on his volunteer staff, he keeps an open mind about the subject. Every call that his organization receives is checked for all details possible, and physical evidence is even obtained in some cases.

Indiana County has given Mr. Gordon some of his most interesting cases in Pennsylvania, he said. Most recently, he has been investigating a meteor sighting in which he claims the evidence he has seen is pointing to the sighting being a UFO, not a meteor.

Saturday Headliner

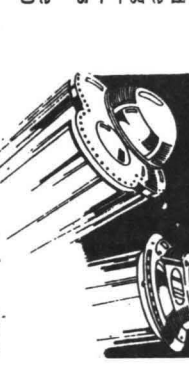
The incident occurred on July 17 at the Homer City Power Plant. More than one witness has come forward so far to give Mr. Gordon the details that include seeing two objects hovering over the power plant, occasionally crossing paths with each other. One of the objects was reported to have come close to the ground but did not land.

This was not the first sightings to be made at the power plant, Mr. Gordon pointed out. In the late 1960s, when the Homer City Power Plant was being built, many reports came to his research center about people seeing strange lights and cigar shaped objects.

He says it is because the objects seem to be drawn to power sources. Dams and power plants are frequent observation places, although power outages in towns for no reason have also been reported to him.

Another interesting case Mr. Gordon pointed out was involving a man being abducted by a UFO in the Saltsburg area. On March 18, 1968, a man who was visiting friends in Saltsburg left to return to his home around 10 p.m. on what was usually a forty-minute trip.

He traveled on a back road alone and along the way Mr. Gordon explained, the man noticed a bright red light following him. Soon after, he experienced car trouble, got out to check his engine, and re-members waking up in the front seat of his car.



From there, he drove to a store where he found the time had elapsed to around 12:30 a.m.

Mr. Gordon said the man had no recollection of what happened to him during that lost time period, but under hypnosis, the man told startling details of his abduction. The man claimed to have been taken aboard the spaceship by a man-like creature who was about four-foot tall and dressed in a robe. He was then examined by several of the creatures before he remembered waking up in his car.

The similarity between this man's abduction and others that have been investigated by Mr. Gordon's organization is the insignia the man identified from the creatures clothing. Mr. Gordon said several

other people have drawn the same insignia after similar experiences and they did not know each other.

Bigfoot has also gained a reputation throughout Pennsylvania as well as in this part of the state. There have been recent reports in Latrobe, Ligonier and Johnstown of sightings of the seven-foot tall, long-haired, man-like creature that is said to have a diet consisting mainly of corn, apples and berries. Mr. Gordon explained that cases have been made of footprints and they are not human prints. The size and dimensions make that obvious to the group.

Other sightings in the state include black panthers which are not believed to live in Pennsylvania, as well as that of the Eastern Cougar, which Mr. Gordon pointed out, has been extinct since the 1890s. Paw prints from these cats have been examined and verified, both by Mr. Gordon's scientists and trappers.

These episodes may sound hard to believe, but Mr. Gordon and his organization work hard to sort the fact from fiction and present the evidence they have found. Mr. Gordon and his staff can be reached at 1-412-838-7768 or 6 Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

He asks only for a detailed account of any occurrence and any drawing of what was seen, and everything is kept strictly confidential. A show in conjunction with the 4th Annual UFO Information Week is being held at the Westmoreland Mall, Greensburg, on Aug. 20 for one day.

DON BISHOFF



What to say about UFO?

IF YOU SAW an unidentified flying object, would you tell anybody? Think before you answer.

Naturally, you'd want to talk about it. I mean, it's certainly a more interesting topic than the h-o-u-m Eugene mayor's race or the Orioles' losing streak.

But would people think you're daffy? Would neighbors scuttle indoors and hold up crossed sticks when you passed by? Would kids ride their bikes past your door calling out, "Flying-saucer man?"

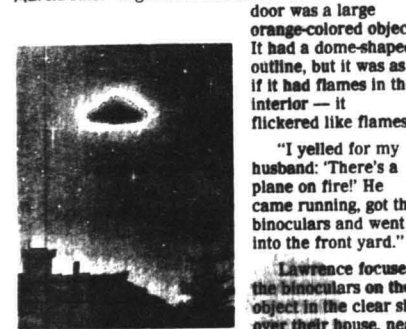
Marcia and Lawrence O'Brien of Springfield were having those kinds of thoughts last week.

"We are the most stable kind of older people," said Marcia, a 69-year-old retired dental assistant. "But we saw something Friday night. . . ."

Said Lawrence, 73, a retired sheet metal worker: "I feel kind of stupid. I don't want to tell anybody."

But he and Marcia finally phoned to see if I'd had any other UFO reports from that Friday, April 22. I hadn't, but their story is fascinating.

"A little after 11, bedtime, I went into the bedroom to pull down the shade on the window," Marcia said. "Right over the roof of the house next door was a large orange-colored object. It had a dome-shaped outline, but it was as if it had flames in the interior — it flickered like flames."



Springfield UFO?

vertically to see it passing over our house," he said. "It went across the street, coming from the northeast to the southwest."

"I don't know how far it traveled, but it went to possibly hovering over the back yard of the house in front of us on the other side of the street. Then it suddenly stopped and veered due east."

"I was looking at it at an angle of about 45 degrees, and it kept in sight of my binoculars, but it kept getting smaller and smaller. It must have been rising (away from him) at an angle of about 45 degrees, southeast."

Then it disappeared.

About nine minutes had elapsed from 11:15, when Marcia first saw it. The O'Briens immediately went into the house and wrote out individual descriptions of what they'd witnessed. They found that their versions matched closely.

Describing exactly what they saw was more difficult.

"I'D SAY THAT, in relation to a star in the sky at the time, the thing was the same size as my thumbnail," Marcia said. "I'd say it had a dome-shaped top, but you couldn't really see that — you got that illusion without absolutely seeing it. It was more of an aura."

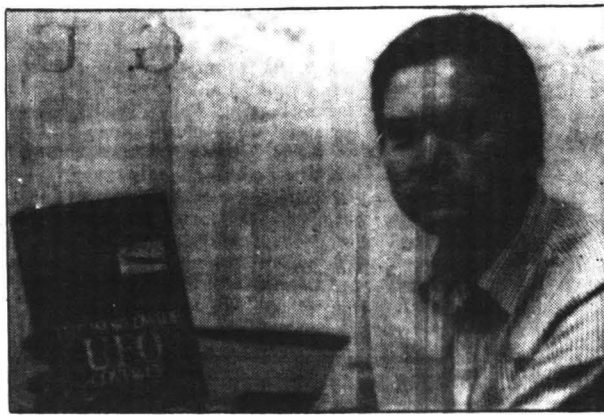
International UFO Author Visits G.B.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL
July 21, 1988 CR: R. Reid

Timothy Good, Britain's foremost lecturer on unidentified flying objects and author of *Above Top Secret, The Worldwide UFO Coverup* visited Gulf Breeze last week to meet with "Mr. Ed" to learn more about the Gulf Breeze UFO case.

Afterward he stopped by *The Sentinel* to discuss the case.

I've seen the video. I've met "Mr. Ed." I've met with Bruce Macca-bee. There's no doubt it is genuine. Timothy Good proclaimed for the record.

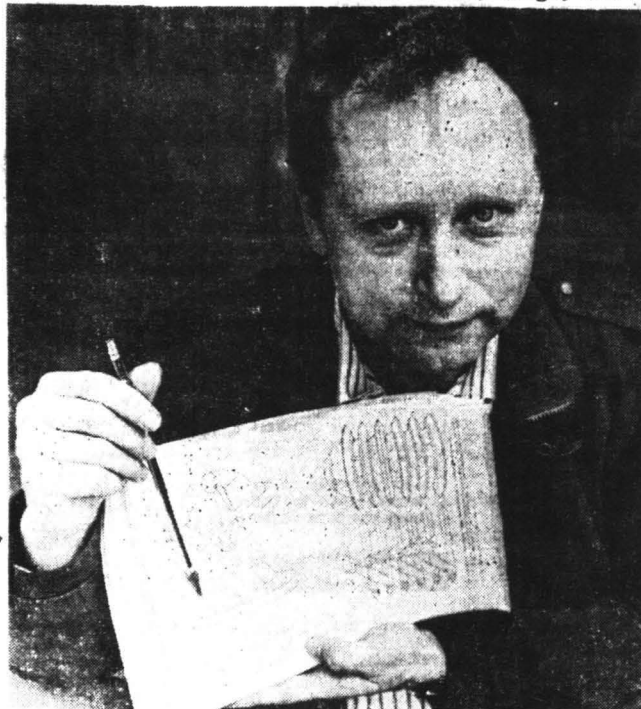


Timothy Good

UFO sightings in Homer City, Saltsburg investigated



DAILY TIMES, Otago, New Zealand - June 28, 1988 CR: J. Pajak



Dr Jan Pajak, of Dunedin, points to explanatory diagrams in his treatise on flight by electromagnetically powered craft. He says the eventual construction of such craft could revolutionise New Zealand's future.

Small space craft 'possible for N.Z.'

Dr Jan Pajak, of Dunedin, dreams of the day that man-made space craft, propelled by electromagnetic pulses, will be seen in the skies over New Zealand.

Dr Pajak, a senior lecturer in the department of quantitative and computer studies at the University of Otago, stresses that his theories about magnetically powered space craft are a hobby interest pursued in his own time.

His university work — and his main academic specialty, involving the development of computer software, is entirely separate from his hobby interests.

Dr Pajak was a university lecturer in computer assisted design in Poland before taking up a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Canterbury in 1982.

In 1983 he was appointed as a tutor in computer programming at Southland Community College in Invercargill and he took up his University position earlier this year.

Dr Pajak has written a scientific treatise, about 500 pages long, to back up his theories of flight by means of electro-magnetic power.

He says that a further investigation of the concept of a saucer-shaped "magnocraft" could enable a small country such as New Zealand to initiate its own space programme, leaving larger nations to continue to experiment with large conventional rockets.

Unlike space craft such as the space shuttle, which has thousands of moving

parts, all potentially prone to breakdown, a magnetically propelled craft need have no moving parts although they would include electronic componentry, he said.

Although even a small magnetically powered craft would require a very large initial input of electrical power, the energy would be "largely conserved," because the craft would create its own partial vacuum surrounding it, greatly reducing atmospheric friction.

The craft could theoretically travel at speeds of up to 70,000 km/h in the atmosphere at speeds approaching that of light in space itself.

Such vehicles would be silent and pollution-free and would provide not only a swift form of transport, but also would open up the possibility of moveable homes and factories.

"In a theoretical way the solutions for all the main problems that hold back the completion of this spacecraft have been found and worked out," Dr Pajak says in his treatise.

"This means that in the event of finding an authoritative sponsor and receiving appropriate support for the research, the first flying prototype of this vehicle could be seen in our skies before the end of the next decade."

His theories have met opposition in some academic quarters and have occasionally been greeted with scorn. However, a growing number of people are beginning to listen to his ideas and take them seriously, he said.

'Large orange star' sighted

The outbreak of UFO sightings over the Cannock Chase area has escalated with eye witnesses reporting seeing a "large orange star" at tree level.

Mrs Lynette Lloyd, of Burntwood, was driving from Lichfield to Rugby with a friend when they both spotted the orange glow in the sky.

"It was like a large orange star which came down slowly," she said.

"I stopped the car and it came down to just above tree level. We headed off the main road towards it and when we reached the trees it was hovering just above them."

"We watched it for a little while and as we got back in the car it went up slowly."

Mrs Lloyd said she later watched the object disappear "like a white power flash".

Mrs Lloyd's sighting brings the number of UFO's reported in the Cannock Chase area to 80 in the last few months — a figure normally reported in a year.

Mr John Hurley, the chairman of UFO Studies Investigations, said the latest report was obviously a very genuine one and he was looking closely at it.

CR: T. Good
MAY 17, 1988
EVENING MAIL, Birmingham, England

MAIL, Oxford, England - May 17, 1988 CR: T. Good

Thame town clerk says he's never seen anything like it

More UFO witnesses tell of lights in sky

MORE people are claiming to have seen the UFOs, first spotted last week between Brill and Thame.

The latest UFO-spotters are Thame town clerk Mr Roland Devaney and his wife Val.

They say they saw the same bright spherical object with flashing lights which Mr Keith Walker and his wife Faye spotted from their home in Brac Hill

By IAN TOWNSEND

Close, Brill, on four consecutive nights.

Mrs Devaney said the sight was astonishing.

"It was a circular machine with flashing lights which was around for several minutes before travelling off at very high speeds towards Brill," she said.

Mrs Devaney said she watched

it with her husband from their home on Lea Park Estate, Thame.

Mr Devaney said he had never seen anything like it.

And Mr Bryan Wyatt, of Milton Common, said he saw a similar sight a month ago near his home and another two weeks ago when most of the sightings were made.

The Walker family in the Buckinghamshire hill top village of

Brill told the Oxford Mail they saw two machines on different evenings two weeks ago.

They saw it with their neighbour Mr Eric Crawford at their home in Brac Hill Close.

And Mrs Faye Walker says it has returned.

Their sighting and the description they gave of the machine was confirmed by a mother and

daughter in Wellington Street, Thame.

Mrs Marie Smith and her daughter Julia, 26, a science graduate, watched the object over St Mary's Church, Thame, before it sped off.

No official body has been able to give an explanation of the machine.

Neither RAF nor USAF bases have had machines like it in the area.

CR: T. Good
JULY 18, 1988
MERCURY, Leicester, England

WITH reference to the "Corn rings", suffice it to say that what I saw travelling in the heavens at a tremendous speed on Thursday, July 7 at about 10.30pm was no "pie in the sky".

It was something I have never seen before. flashing lights, round in shape like a cluster of stars and emitting blinding flashes of what seemed like molten metal.

J. WATKIN, Leicester.

Girl's UFO 'sighting' backed-up

FIVE independent sightings of a UFO matching the report of a 14-year-old Cambridgeshire schoolgirl's "close encounter" have been logged by the British UFO Research Association.

Since Pauline Emerson, of Bridge Place, Godmanchester, saw a shiny, black UFO pass within yards of her on the evening of March 2, BUFORA has received further reports of sightings of an identical object.

Appealed

Mr Ron West, one of BUFORA's eastern region investigators revealed that two sightings were in Huntingdon, two in West Suffolk, and one in Cambridge.

After a national newspaper reported Pauline's experience Mr West visited her to question her about her sighting.

"I have spoken to her at length and I believe, absolutely, what she says. Her description ties in with the other

reports we have received," said Mr West.

He appealed for anyone else who saw a strange object in the skies during the evening of March 2 in the Cambridgeshire, Suffolk or Northamptonshire area to contact BUFORA.

Mr West said that reports — which can be passed on by phoning BUFORA on 0255 474427 anytime — would be treated in confidence.

Pauline has not fully recovered from the shock of seeing the UFO at such close quarters. She has been prescribed tranquillisers and been off school for a number of weeks since the incident.

Mrs Barbara Emerson, Pauline's mother, said: "She has suffered because of this. She says she wishes she had never seen it or mentioned it. Now we may have some more people speaking out," she said.

At Hinchbrook School, Huntingdon, Pauline has been subjected to bullying and abuse by fellow pupils since she revealed her UFO sighting, claimed her mother.

AFTER MP's PLEA, MORE TELL OF UFO MYSTERY

'I stood under it for 15 minutes'

A REQUEST by Stafford MP Bill Cash for more details on last month's UFOs has brought further reports from witnesses.

Last week, Mr Cash said he would be putting the strange sightings to Defence Minister Roger Freeman for official investigation.

But this week, The Newsletter received several new reports. The most startling was from Joan and Michael Acocks, of Hillcote Hollow, Stafford.

Mrs Acocks said she and her husband actually saw the object appear and disappear in exactly the same position several times.

"We were just on the way back from a stroll on the Monday night and we saw two triangular shapes hovering above some trees. They were lit up, but somehow they didn't seem solid objects."

"I stood there looking and all of a sudden it just disappeared. I stood there for a while and then it appeared again exactly as before in the

same place, hovering for a few seconds before it disappeared again and we walked on."

Mrs Acocks said she and her husband, who is an accountant, saw the UFO at the same time as previous reports, 9.50pm on Monday, May 16.

"What struck me more than anything was that it was absolutely silent," added Mrs Acocks.

see any markings or anything to identify it. The amazing thing about it was that it was so quiet, there was no sound at all.

"It was going very slowly and seemed in no rush to go

By Barry Heafield

Another witness, Elaine Willey, of Harrowby Street, Litchworth, said she had a look at the object through binoculars with two neighbours.

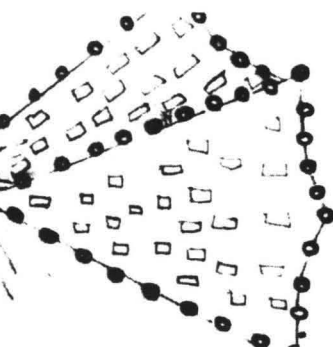
"It came across the sky, looking just like the sketch in the paper," said Mrs Willey, "then it seemed to turn quickly and as it came over, it was just an array of bright lights, orange, red and blue."

"We had a look through binoculars but we couldn't

anywhere. It felt as though someone was looking down on us and taking pictures."

David Myatt from Marston House Farm, Church Eaton phoned in and said he'd seen exactly the same things seven years ago.

"There were reports about it at the time," said Mr Myatt. "I saw it just outside Brocton on my way to Stafford. I looked up and saw it and stopped and it was right over head, about 50 feet



from end to end, completely motionless and completely silent.

"There were a lot of lights around it. I got out of the car and stood for about 15 minutes, hoping it was going to land, but it just drifted off."

"It definitely wasn't a plane, there was no sound at all."

But the British UFO Research Association still maintains the mystery objects are the American top secret radar proof F-19 Stealth fighter.

Director of investigations at BUFORA, Jenny Randall, said: "It's often very difficult to make factual observations at night. If it has a lot of lights and suddenly they're put out, it's easy for the observer to assume it's disappeared."

"Hovering can be an illusion because it's difficult to judge distance and the complete silence can be caused if the engines are highly tuned and the wind's blowing away from you."

"I'm as certain as I can be that there's a conventional explanation to this one, probably the F-19 or remotely controlled reconnaissance aircraft known as RPVs which are all sorts of shapes and sizes and are also an open secret. They can hover and they're fairly quiet and they've used a lot in Northern Ireland."

Mr Cash reiterated his request for all information on the subject from witnesses to be sent directly to him so that it could be put to the minister.

NEWSLETTER, Stafford, England - July 1, 1988 CR: T. Good

3rd GREEN UFO RIDDLE



EXCLUSIVE

By KAREN PICKUP and PAULINE CORRIGAN

The circular burn marks (pictured above) have been found on Baxenden golf course following an alleged sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object over the town.

Four golfers discovered the strange circles scorched in the rough near the third green hours after a terrified motorist claimed he saw bright lights in the sky above the club.

Experts believe it is more likely the marks were made by hoaxers rather than an alien spaceship.

But local skywatcher Mr Raymond Broderick, 52, of Devonshire Drive, Clayton-le-Moors, is reluctant to dismiss the marks lightly, saying he is determined to get to the bottom of the mystery.

Mr Broderick, who has 32-years experience in probing UFO sightings, said, "Something is happening."

"I have been to the golf course and had a very close look. There is a half-inch indentation in the earth which would not have been there if fuel had simply been sprinkled on the ground and set alight."

"There is a definite framework within the markings and the centre has been blasted away."

"I can't see anyone going up there in the middle of the night - but if it is a hoax, someone has gone to a great deal of trouble."

Mr Broderick, a member of the 60-strong Hyndburn Skywatchers, said that in his opinion the spot where the marks were found would definitely be the type of place chosen by alien visitors because it was quiet.

Mr Broderick refused to say whether or not he thought that aliens had landed in Baxenden but added, "I will find out what is going on."

Baxenden Golf Club competitions secretary Mr Alan Gilbertson of Livingstone Road, Accrington, one of the four who stumbled across the bizarre burn marks, said, "If this is a

Aliens or hoax clash

hoax, it is a very elaborate one."

Two London experts have cast doubt on the origins of the baffling circles, claiming they were man-made and not the result of an extra-terrestrial visit.

Mr Hilary Evans, who has written several books on UFOs, said, "This kind of thing is so easy to fake."

"Nowadays there is a lot of information about, so people know the kind of marks alleged UFOs make."

"I think they are probably slightly warped in their minds. They aren't necessarily practical jokers, they are probably trying to produce evidence to convince people."

Mr Evans, a writer for the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal in London, said he liked to keep an open mind about the existence of alien beings but felt the golf course marks were man-made.

Mr Ian Ridpath, a London-based writer on astronomy and space, agreed with Mr Evans' views, saying that after years of involvement he was now "totally sceptical" because of the number of hoaxes he had heard of.

"There tends to be a great deal of wishful thinking by people. It would be nice to think of beings from other planets coming here, but I don't think they have landed yet," he added.

● The scared motorist who saw the lights in the sky last Wednesday night said that as he drove below them his car moved forward with great difficulty and his headlights began to dip and fade.

NEWSLETTER, Stafford, England

June 24, 1988 CR: T. Good

UFO witness plea

STAFFORD MP Bill Cash has asked the Ministry of Defence to look into UFOs seen over the town last month.

He is appealing for any witnesses to come forward so that information can be passed on to the minister, Roger Freeman.

This week, Mr Cash said: "I have written to Mr Freeman and given him details of the sightings and I have asked him to make inquiries and let me know his views."

"Several independent individuals in the constituency who can be regarded as reliable witnesses saw these things and were caused a great deal of concern. I don't know what they were myself."

The mysterious objects were seen over Stafford on Monday, May 16 at around 10pm by police statistical officer Eileen Ballard and five of her friends from their home on Fernwood, Stafford.

She reported large triangular shapes with a lot of lights cruising slowly and, most

remarkably, with complete silence overhead.

A story in the Newsletter and a sketch by Mrs Ballard sparked off other reports by witnesses. John Teasdale of Knowle Road, Stafford said he was sure they were refuelling VC-10s, but another reader, Enid Turner, of George Close, Uttoxeter, disagreed flatly.

An aviation enthusiast, Mrs Turner said the objects didn't even make enough noise for a glider, let alone a VC-10. Several other people in Uttoxeter, said Mrs Turner, also saw the UFOs and reports also came in from Penkridge and Wolverhampton.

The British UFO Research Association said it suspected the UFOs were in fact the top secret American Stealth F-19 radar proof fighters on test flight from RAF Alconbury in Norfolk.

The existence of the F-19 is officially denied by both British and American governments.

Taxi drive to outer space mystery

CLAIMS that a huge U.F.O. hovered over a car as it drove along a deserted road in South Tyneside have left police baffled.

The "flying saucer", measuring about 80ft. long and covered with bright lights, is said to have followed a taxi along the Coast Road while the man and woman inside watched in disbelief.

The woman driver, who works for a South Shields taxi firm and who wishes to remain anonymous, said at around 3 a.m. she picked up a man from South Shields, and was driving him home past Marsden Grotto, when they noticed the saucer-shaped object.

She said: "I was just driving along as normal when I noticed this brightly-lit object in the sky."

"As I watched, it came closer and closer until it was right by the car and following us."

"We couldn't believe what we were seeing. It was about 80ft. long, with red lights on the top and bottom

UFO kidnaps 26 elephants

A GAME reserve has lost 26 full grown elephants and eyewitnesses claim they saw them kidnapped by a spaceship.

The bizarre story is coming from Lugo, Spain, where an African safari park is located.

Eyewitness have said they saw a 250-foot UFO with purple lights hover over a herd of elephants.

Suddenly 26 of the animals were bathed in a beam of orange light from the spaceship and right in front of their eyes the witnesses saw they saw the animals beamed up into the belly of the vessel.

Mrs Imelda Gil-Casares was driving through the park at the

She said, "I thought it was some kind of a stage-managed stunt at first when I first saw the spaceship. But when all those elephants went up in the air into the UFO I became frightened."

The children were screaming and laughing but I was speechless."

She said the whole amazing episode lasted about two minutes. She said the spaceship was silver and shaped like an upturned bowl.

UFO researcher Jose Diaz-Salazar of Madrid says aliens have kidnapped 200 animals from zoos and safari parks all over the world in the past six months as part of an apparent study of Earth and its creatures.

He said governments were aware of the extra-terrestrials' activities.

SPAIN

time with her children when the incredible event took place. She saw the whole thing.

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England

July 11, 1988 CR: T. Good

Have you spotted a flying saucer?

A LARGE unidentified flying object described by some witnesses as large as a two-storey block of flats and only a few hundred feet from the ground seen over Southend and parts of Essex and Suffolk is still puzzling UFO investigators.

It is believed the UFO was in trouble and landed on the North Essex and Suffolk border for a couple of hours before it disappeared. That was in 1980, but the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association is still trying to find more witnesses to the sightings.

They would like to hear from a Georger Emslie, then of Cossington Road, Westcliff, who was a witness to that saucer-shaped object in the December of that year.

Witnesses can contact Essex BUFORA representative Ron West on 0255 431391. He will also be pleased to hear from anyone who believes they have seen a UFO



"IS THERE A MARS DEN GROTTO AROUND HERE?"

and a string of white lights along its rim.

"The roads were deserted and it followed us until I stopped the car near The Marsden Inn at Whitburn. It was just hovering above us at a height of about 30ft."

"It was definitely some sort of machine because we could see grey metal on its top. But the weirdest thing was the way it made no noise. Everything was completely silent."

"We got out of the car to have a closer look and it then backed off before disappearing over the golf course and away inland. There was nobody around and I know it seems ridiculous but we both saw it," she said.

After driving to the golf course to try to see the U.F.O. again, the taxi driver and the man decided to report the sighting to the police.

Today a police spokesman said: "We get quite a few reports of UFO sightings but this is the most dramatic I have come across."

"This woman and man are not crackpots and did not know each other before the incident, so there is nothing to indicate they would have made the story up. The whole thing is a real mystery," he said.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Northamptonshire, England - July 14, 1988 CR: T. Good

UFO mystery in wheat field

by Deborah Bowyer

Now Ernest Still, vice-chairman of the organisation's Corby branch and group member Raymond Shaw, from Desborough, are compiling a dossier on the find.

Mr Still, of Occupation Road, has been investigating UFO sightings for the last 25 years and

says similar circles have been found all over the world.

The last seen in the area was discovered at Twywell near Thrapston in 1977 and six days later three youngsters spotted a number of UFOs to the north of Kettering.

He claims the circles are normally found near water, or close to power lines and experts are

baffled about what causes them.

Mr Still said: "Something definitely landed there and it looks as if it was circular and heavy because of the imprint it left on the ground."

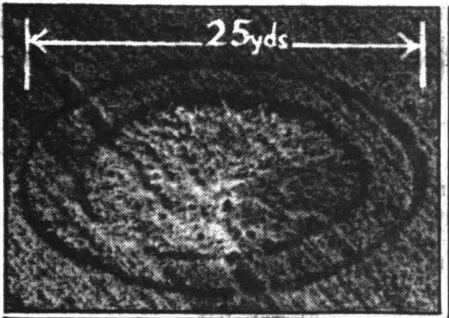
"It wasn't a helicopter because you would be able to see the markings of the landing pads and we don't think it was a military aircraft."

UFO spotters from Corby and Desborough have been called in to help solve a riddle after mysterious markings suddenly appeared in a wheat field.

A pilot spotted the formation of circles in a field near Oadby, Leicestershire, and alerted the London headquarters of the British UFO Research Association

ECHO, Sunderland, England - July 18, 1988 CR: T. Good

Photo-news asks: Did they come from outer space? Rings of mystery



LONG SHOT: UFO researcher Mr. Pat Delgado taking pictures with a camera on a pole. INSET, an aerial view of the corn ring.

SCIENTISTS have begun a top-level study of the mysterious corn rings in Leicestershire — the most northerly in Europe.

A radar expert, formerly with the North American Space Agency NASA, and an energy specialist, travelled from Hampshire to the wheatfield near Oadby.

Their geiger counter showed pockets of higher than normal radiation within the 25-yard diameter circle of flattened cereal. They also took soil samples.

Detailed photographs and a video record were made as national interest continued to surge in the phenomena.

Lightning strike

Retired NASA electro-mechanical design engineer, Mr. Pat Delgado, and his research colleague, electricity expert Mr. Colin Andrews, travelled to Leicestershire just four days after the circle's appearance was revealed.

And they agreed: "This is no hoax. It follows the same pattern as more than 380 others we have seen."

Theories that landing UFOs caused them were unlikely to be true. Alternatives that whirlwinds, lightning strikes or even rutting wild animals caused them were also unsubstantiated they said.

Mr. Andrews said 45 similar rings were now known around Hampshire and Wiltshire, particularly near Warminster and Stonehenge, and others had been found in the USA, Canada and even in the snow-bound Arctic.

In Japan, scientists were still baffled about how 25,000 gallons of water drained from a paddy field as one of the circular formations appeared.

Words: Anthony Walton
Pictures: Max Ewen

Great interest in the Oadby circle was fuelled by its position just 50 yards from the Roman Gartree Road. Many circles were near such roads — and once one appeared, others followed.

Mr. Andrews believes they may be caused by high-energy fields within the earth. Theories that they could be linked to ancient worldwide energy paths, Ley Lines, needed further exploration.

Mr. Delgado said: "They are created by an unknown force, possibly manipulated by an unknown intelligence. Any natural force could not create such intriguing patterns".

Leicestershire aerial archaeologist, Mr. Jim Pickering, plans to monitor the circles' development using infra-red photography techniques.

He warned that trespassers on the field between Gartree Road and houses at Copse Close, Oadby, could wreck any future investigations by trampling the wheat.

Bright light

But as scientists thrashed out possible explanations, one Leicestershire man spoke reluctantly of his strange experience whilst driving along a country road less than 24 hours before the ring was first seen.

The 41-year-old lay preacher, his wife and their 13-year-old son, all from Fleckney, saw a bright white light apparently hovering over east Leicestershire before disappearing upwards into cloud.

The man, who asked not to be named, said: "It was weird, but we know what we saw."



CLOSE UP: Two researchers, Colin Andrew (left) and Pat Delgado (right) check the area. Centre is Derick Butters,

LEAMINGTON SPA COURIER, Warwicks., England - July 29, 1988

Mystery or imagination?

A MAGICAL Monday night out to see The Tempest continued as a Leamington girl and her two friends drove home.

As they neared Warwick a mysterious neon lit object appeared in the sky before them.

Was it by any chance an airborne police patrol — ready to descend upon speeding motorists?

Baffled and bewildered the girls concluded that the strange sighting had to be a UFO.

They deny that their imagination could have been working overtime after watching the stage effects put on by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

And because they had to drive home at the end of the evening,

they had kept away from strong drink.

They are so sure about the sighting that they are writing to the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall who record details of mysterious sightings like this.

Joanna Goddard, 21, and her workmates Catherine Vaughan, 22, and Elizabeth Tranter, 23, said that the road was quite busy at the time.

Joanna, who lives in Willes Road, said: "We were driving towards Warwick at about 10.30 pm when we saw a round object in the sky with red and blue flashing lights."

She said that it remained stationary, then suddenly dropped, reversed and flicked to the left before it disappeared.



'IS there a chip shop around here luv?'

DAILY JOURNAL, Antigo, WI
Aug. 30, 1988 CR: R. Heiden

Israelis report UFO over Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM (AP) — Dozens of people, including a duty official at the state-run Meteorological Service, have reported spotting a UFO in Israel's skies.

"I see a source of light over Tel Aviv," Eliezer Danziger, the duty meteorologist, told Israel army radio on Sunday.

"The object changes its brightness from time to time but stays in one place. It's definitely not a airplane, just a source of light which doesn't move. Maybe it's a helicopter."

The army radio said dozens of residents of Tel Aviv and its suburbs called the station to report that they saw the unidentified flying object, or UFO.

On Ilkley Moor

WHAT'S THAT?

ILKLEY MOOR could soon be famous for more than the song.

For one of Britain's top UFO experts, Steve Balon, has an amazing photograph of a frightened, alien creature roaming the Yorkshire moors.

And Steve, who has been investigating extra-terrestrial mysteries for years, is convinced it's the best-ever proof there has been of a visit from Outer Space.

He says the creature was four and a half feet tall with two long arms trailing the ground.

It had big ears, huge goggling eyes, no nose, smooth green skin and no visible private parts.

The picture was taken in drizzling rain at 8 a.m. by a former police officer from the Metropolitan Force.

He was walking the moor with his automatic-

It's a scared little alien claims Steve

By DAVID PRICE

focus camera when he stumbled on the alien.

As he took the picture it stopped and waved its arms.

"It was as if to say, 'Go away, go away', said Steve, a 35-year-old factory worker from Leigh, Lancs.

Chased

The ex-policeman chased it round the corner.

"What he saw next left him stunned," said Steve. He watched the creature

disappear into what has been described as a large 40ft diameter space ship.

"The next thing he can recall is the craft taking off vertically, making a loud humming noise, and disappearing into the clouds."

The ex-policeman, who does not want to be named, walked to a nearby village in a daze.

His watch had stopped at 8.30 a.m. The town hall clock said 10 a.m. His compass had reversed poles and was pointing South instead of North.

For 90 minutes his mind was a blank. He later contacted the



Space shot... amazing photo of the "alien" on Ilkley Moor

UFO research association and they investigated.

They persuaded him to go under regression hypnosis to discover the missing 90 minutes.

Taped

An independent psychologist volunteered and the interview was taped.

Afterwards the psychologist said his subject was well-balanced.

UFO over golf club shocks a motorist

By KAREN PICKUP

A scared motorist spoke yesterday of his unearthly experience when he saw an Unidentified Flying Object hovering over Baxenden.

The man — who was too embarrassed to be named — said that he saw lights shining very brightly in the sky above Baxenden Golf Club.

As he drove below them his car moved forward with great difficulty and the headlights began to dip and fade.

The man said the lights were very low and he was sure they were not from a helicopter or a plane.

He reported the UFO sighting to the police but said that he felt very silly.

The police officer who took his call said yesterday, "The man did sound convinced that he had seen something and also sounded upset but he would not give us his name or address."

He added that there was very little the police could do as the caller rang in 12 hours after the alleged sighting.

ACCRIINGTON OBSERVER, Lancashire, England - July 22, 1988 CR: T. Good

NEWSLETTER, Stafford, England - July 22, 1988 CR: T. Good

Farm couple sight mystery UFO

ANOTHER sighting of a mystery UFO over Stafford has been reported.

Newsletter revelations of the strange aircraft hovering over the town sparked a call from Jean Morris, of Manor Farm Crescent, Burton Manor.

The 43-year-old said: "I was in the garden where we

were laying a patio when I saw this thing overhead.

"It was really fantastic. I called my husband out and we stared at it for quite a while. It looked like two aircraft together but they were really still and quiet.

"We didn't think anything about it until we read about the sightings in the Newsletter."

Dozens of people have reported seeing the mystery object and Mrs Morris saw the UFO at the same time as the others - 9.50pm on Monday, May 16.

Stafford MP Bill Cash is compiling a list of the sightings to present to Defence Minister Roger Freeman in a bid to start an official investigation.

Rings riddle for farmers

MYSTERIOUS giant circles have appeared again in a field near Silbury Hill about a mile from Avebury.

The perfectly-formed circles — one big one surrounded by four smaller ones — were found by puzzled farmers Roger and David Hues.

Farmer's wife Sue Hues, of Tanhill House, West Kennett, said, "How they got there is a complete mystery. They were not there Thursday night and Friday morning they just appeared."

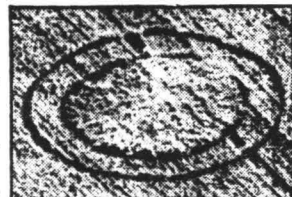
Last year similar circles appeared in the field of neighbouring farmer Steve Horton.

Only last month an investigation was started by scientists into what causes the shapes in cornfields.

But Bradford on Avon weather expert Dr Terence Meaden thinks he already has the answer — not UFOs landing but freak stationary whirlwinds caused by the side of the hill.



Expert on way to look at field



Field rings 'not UFO'

BRITAIN'S top authority on mysterious corn rings is to travel to Leicestershire to examine a field near Oadby.

Meteorologist Dr. Terence Meaden says the 25-yard diameter ring discovered earlier this month is the most northerly one currently known in the British Isles.

Britain's great flying saucer debate flared after the circle surrounded by a triangular formation of smaller circles was spotted in a wheatfield near the Roman Gartree Road.

Whirlpools

But now the UK's leading UFO research organisation are also admitting that the Leicestershire ring is unlikely to have any outer-space connections.

Dr. Meaden, an Oxford physics graduate and currently editor of the national Journal of Meteorology, has studied more than 200 rings since 1980, mostly in Hampshire and Wiltshire.

The rings are a result of a weather phenomenon called fairweather stationary whirlwinds, he said.

by Anthony Walton

Wind currents are divided as they pass around a hill or some other obstruction and form a vortex of air when they meet up again.

The invisible vortex can deepen and touch the earth — flattening cereal crops, he said.

This branch of atmospheric dynamics was complicated and it was possible for a number of smaller rings to be formed nearby due to smaller whirlpools.

He planned to visit the site during the next month to add to his increasing dossier of evidence on the rings. He said: "This is a very exciting discovery."

Mr. Clive Potter (27), Leicestershire spokesman for the British UFO Research Association, said: "We believe these rings have nothing whatsoever to do with UFOs."

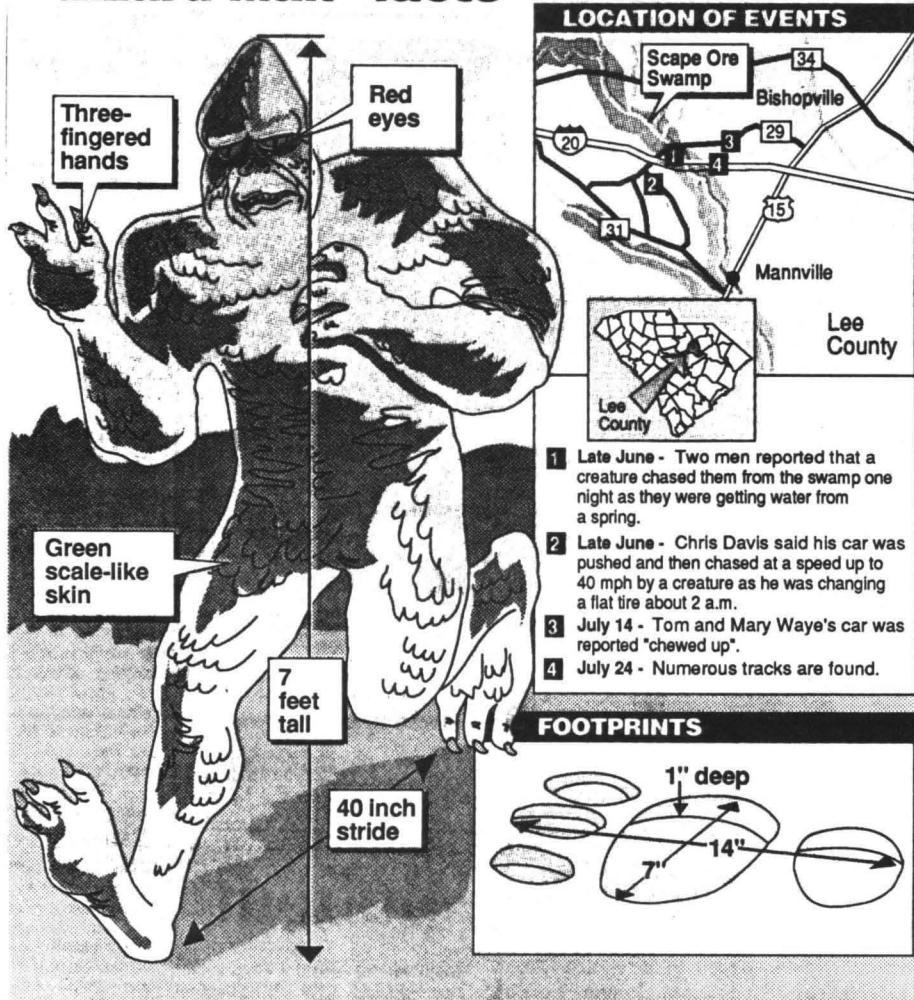
About 90 per cent of all UFO sightings were explained as aircraft, balloons or meteors — the other 10 per cent were not necessarily extra-terrestrial phenomena, he said.

MERCURY, Leicester, England - July 8, 1988 CR: T. Good

BATH & WILTS CHRONICLE, England - July 21, 1988 CR: T. Good



"Lizard Man" facts



Tim Goheen/State Graphics

Lizard Man: S.C.'s answer to Bigfoot

By MICHAEL LEWIS
Staff Writer

From the Abominable Snowman to Bigfoot, from Harry and the Hendersons to Lizard Man, elusive creatures are the stuff of legends, myths and folklore — and more than a modicum of controversy.

Unquestionably, the biggest controversy is whether they even exist. Detractors chuckle at the reports of Bigfoot, discounting them as the creation of overactive imaginations and pranksters' tricks.

Academics are just plain skeptical about evidence that they exist, while "true believers" accept the existence with an almost religious fervor.

And at least one anthropologist theorizes Bigfoot is a humanlike ape species known as Gigantopithecus that has survived virtually unchanged for 1 million to 5 million years.

"When I first got into it, I thought the idea of Bigfoot was ridiculous," said Grover Krantz, an anthropology professor at Washington State University. "But after looking at the evidence (that it exists), it's the only conclusion."

In fact, Krantz speculates the Bigfoot population in the Pacific Northwest numbers about 2,000. And, if the reports from other areas of the country are true, the total population might be closer to 10,000.

Krantz, however, admits he is in a distinct and tiny minority among the scientific community, virtually all of which discounts Bigfoot as fantasy rather than fact.

"Overall, I doubt if any of these creatures exist. The chances are infinitesimally small," said Frank Poirier, an anthropology professor at Ohio State University who refers to Bigfoot advocates as "true believers."

"There's no evidence there is a Bigfoot. It's much more logical to assume that somebody has faked it than Bigfoot exists," said Michael Dennett, a member of the Buffalo, N.Y.-based Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Krantz has spent 20 years seriously investigating the Bigfoot phenomenon and believes the most convincing evidence is the footprints.

"All you have to do is look at the casts to know there're just two possibilities, they're real or faked. No other animal could make them," Krantz said.

The sheer number and remote locations of the footprints, plus their characteristics, have convinced Krantz at least some are authentic. Borrowing a line from Sherlock Holmes, he said: "When you've eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

Stan Gordon, founder of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, reached a similar conclusion after spending nearly three decades investigating hundreds of Bigfoot sightings in Pennsylvania.

"When you've got a large group of people over a number of years telling you the same kinds of details, you've got to ask yourself what's going on," Gordon said.

Even detractors concede some merit to that argument.

"I collected casts of footprints in China that look very much like the prints Grover Krantz collected (in America). There's no way somebody's going to a remote region in China to fake footprints," Poirier said. "Not all evidence can be explained away to everybody's satisfaction."

Oddly, Krantz places less stock in the eyewitness accounts.

Most of the sightings are at night, he said, and "the people out at night are often not credible — they might be driving home drunk."

In a handful of cases, people have produced photographs of what is purported to be Bigfoot.

"They're all blurry," Dennett said. "We refer to a photo that's unintelligible or that's poor as a Bigfoot photo."

The most dramatic piece of photographic evidence is the blurry 16-millimeter movie footage shot in October 1967 along Bluff Creek in Northern

California. From a considerable distance, it shows a large, hairy creature walking upright along the creek bank.

"That's the only evidence I cannot totally demolish," Dennett said. "It is clearly not an misinterpretation of a bear. It looks to me like a guy in a gorilla suit, but it's a lousy picture."

The portrait suggested by all the evidence is of a large, usually dark, hairy animal up to nine feet tall and weighing anywhere from 450 to 1,000 pounds. Many witnesses also report it has a sour, sulfur odor and frequently emits a high-pitched scream.

And versions of it have popped up from Asia to Brazil. There's the yeti — or Abominable Snowman — of the Himalaya Mountains in Tibet; the Hairy Wild Man in China; the Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, in the Pacific Northwest and Canada; and now the Lizard Man in South Carolina.

One of the strangest versions, recalled Len Eisenberg, an anthropology professor at the State University of New York at New Paltz, came from southern Illinois, where the Bigfoot-like creature was called the Abominable Enema Man. It seems this animal broke into homes and administered forced enemas to women.

"I'm under the opinion that the possibility exists that we may be dealing with something that is not always of a physical nature," said Gordon, whose group also investigates UFO incidents. "It has the capability to come into the physical reality and leave physical evidence, but seems to have to disappear into another dimension. We've had cases where whole sets of footprints lead off then suddenly disappear."

"I hear that all the time," Poirier said. "Some say it has mental telepathy. Some say it has an electric field," which explains why it's so difficult to photograph.

"And some say it's an extraterrestrial," he said. "We're really dealing with the fringe."

Krantz has a more earthbound idea about Bigfoot: It's a living example of the Gigantopithecus, an ape



Stan Gordon/The State

Big footprint

This print was found near Greensburg, Pa., in Aug. 1973

species that inhabited China and India 1 million to 5 million years ago.

Krantz speculates the Gigantopithecus may have "expanded its territory" into North America, following the same migratory path the American Indians took — along the Asian Pacific coast, across to Alaska and down into the continental United States.

"For most of us, the Gigantopithecus becomes extinct. All we have (of the Gigantopithecus) is a few jaws," Poirier said, adding that the migration theory also is unlikely.

Krantz described Bigfoot as predominantly nocturnal, generally moving about between midnight and dawn with an appetite for just about anything.

"They seem to have little fear of humans," he said, either ignoring

them when there's an encounter or immediately departing, "but not in great haste or panic."

Krantz said he has not come across any three-toed prints of the kind reportedly made by the Lizard Man.

In contrast, Gordon said most of the prints found in Pennsylvania are the three-toed variety and most of the encounters with people have been during the day.

Gordon said Bigfoot seems to have an affinity for energy-related locations, such as near electric lines or dams, as well as mobile homes.

Krantz attributed its elusiveness partly to its appearance: "It's just the kind of thing people would invent stories about. It's the classic boogeyman."

"The only way to prove it exists is to bring it back."

Tracks pique public interest

By JAN TUTEN
Camden Barass

A cold front moved through Beaufort County in December 1970 as three boats carrying Dean Poucher, some friends and their hunting dogs fought whitecaps cresting in the ocean while they headed toward Old Island.

The uninhabited island is noted for a heavy deer population, but thick clumps of stiffer vines and underbrush keep most hunters away.

Poucher, a former executive secretary of the Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce, didn't put much stock in the stories he had been told by members of a sportsmen's club from the Marine Corps Air Station at Beaufort, for whom he had arranged a hunting trip to the island several years before.

They told him there were "hell-lashus" tracks on the island. They said their dogs refused to hunt there. They thanked him and said they wouldn't be going back.

When they landed on the island, Poucher and his friends marveled at the deer tracks that covered the beach. And they laughed at the hunting dogs who were huddled in the back of the boat and refused to get out.

But Poucher felt an eerie sense of being watched as he climbed a ridge and saw footprints that swallowed

his own size 11 boot.

"I got to the south end. It was low tide, and as I was looking at a mass of dead marsh grass, there were footprints mashed down with water in them."

"I looked out to my left, and in that mud it looked like a tank had come through there. That grass was mashed down, and something had come out and gone into that ridge," he recalled.

"I don't care what you call him, I think I know what it is," said Poucher, who is following the saga of Lee County's red-eyed "Lizard Man" of Scape Ore Swamp with a sense of deja vu.

The 17-inch prints he saw and descriptions offered by other Lowcountry residents who claim to have seen a large hairy creature lead him to conclude some type of "Bigfoot" animal or creature stalks virtually uninhabited areas of the world.

Stories of unusual, unexplained sightings of creatures and footprints have crossed South Carolina from its upper region to the Lowcountry. But those who study the unexplained sightings say South Carolina historically has relatively few documented sightings of tracks and even fewer recorded sightings of the creatures that might have made them.

(continued on page 18)

Chris Davis, a 17-year-old Lee County resident, told authorities that he was chased by a tall greenish-brown creature with red eyes after he changed a tire on a lonely stretch of rural road in late June or early July.

Three-toed footprints later discovered on a nearby dirt road piqued worldwide attention to Davis' story. Masses containing both skeptics and believers have flocked to Scape Ore Swamp in search of the Lizard Man.

Public reaction was similar when Harold Berry of Saluda County and Leonard Gromoske of Fort Mill found footprints on their properties within a week of each other in February 1977.

The two men, who don't know each other, both went through weeks of public scrutiny as people flocked to see the large barefoot prints.

Berry said he wants to believe his Saluda County family was the victim of a prankster when hundreds of big footprints were discovered on the family's farmland.

The 14-inch long, 7-foot wide prints traveled a mile over farmland, around a pond and into woods in the Hollywood community near Saluda.

The prints were found after years of reports of an "inhuman" shriek from deep in the woods reportedly heard in the community "years and years before this happened," said Ralph Shealy, an editor of the *Saluda Sentinel*.

"Everybody here assumed it was a hoax," said Shealy, a longtime Saluda resident. But Jim Kibler, a Bigfoot researcher who was living in Greenwood at the time, "seemed to think it was real," Shealy said.

"We had our doubts. We figured it was a prankster," said Berry, a construction worker.

About six months ago, he said, some friends were discussing the tracks over drinks and laughingly told him they knew who the prankster was who carved a foot from a cedar tree with wood grains resembling hair.

"I want to believe they faked it," Berry said. "I don't know how they could have made those noises, though."

George Hopkins doesn't believe the prints were planted. Hopkins, a former police officer, accompanied Kibler on treks into Saluda County woods in search of hair or other evidence of a Bigfoot. They never found anything.

"I don't see how a human could have made those prints," said Hopkins, a service station owner. "They were about 4-foot strides, and there was nothing else that would indicate any other human was there."

Thick kudzu-covered woodlands runs from the edge of Gromoske's backyard in Fort Mill to the Old Charlotte Highway.

Along the edge of a ditch in his backyard lies a vegetable patch, where Gromoske found a 12-by-5-

inch footprint one day among his frozen tomato vines.

"It was too perfect to be planted," said the 70-year-old retired mill worker. "It looked like a bear's paw, an ape or a monkey track. But a monkey track would not be that long or wide."

The four-toed right footprint also resembled a man's foot, but Gromoske said the side had no curve. The big toe was about 3 or 4 inches long, and the smallest toe was barely discernible.

"I could not say what it was. I don't think anyone put it there," Gromoske said.

He saw no other signs of a trail having been made through the brush nor any other footprints.

A plaster mold of the big foot was made and displayed in the natural science area of the York Museum for a while and has since been lost.

"It wasn't a verifiable artifact, but it was a curiosity," said Charles Hall, former museum director. "Children use to ask what it was, and I would say, 'What do you think?'"

Beaufort County's Poucher said reports 10 to 20 years ago of a Lowcountry creature fit a more traditional picture of a hairy black Bigfoot. He said residents of Port Royal and Frapp Island have told him of seeing unusual hairy creatures. Harrier and F-4 pilots stationed at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station have reported seeing large gorillas on uninhabited islands that lie in the flight path to

the runway.

"The first few pilots got passes for R and R (rest and relaxation), then it became a regular part of debriefing and an accepted thing 20 years ago," said Poucher, who now publishes a Lowcountry fishing guide.

A state trooper and sheriff's deputy who found three-toed tracks in Lee County July 24 say they're not so sure a prankster could have pulled off the 14-by-7-inch prints found along Bramlett Road.

They say the prints, which traveled 150 to 400 yards before trailing off into semi-thick brambles, were too consistent in their stride and weight distribution.

One Bigfoot tracker in California, who reviewed pictures of two plaster molds made by the sheriff's department, is convinced the tracks were made by a "Skunk ape."

"The toes appear to be flexible. One appears to be bent," said Erik Beckjord, a freelance cameraman who has studied Bigfoot and Loch Ness monster sightings for 10 years.

"If someone had made a fake steel thing, they would have had to make two, and that costs a lot of money. They would have had to pound them in with a hammer. It's just too difficult to fake it," he said.

Davis' description of the red-eyed greenish monster that chased his car down Browntown Road "bothers" one Canadian Bigfoot researcher. The green of its skin and the red-

glowing eyes are two colors that should not be discernible to the eye at night, counters John Green, a former newspaper owner and author of *Sasquatch: The Apes Among Us*.

"Running after the ear, hitting it and jumping on it, none of those surprise me," said Green, who has studied creature sightings for some 30 years.

"I'm convinced there is an unknown variety of primates or certainly something that makes tracks. But when you get into green fingers, you're not dealing with an ordinary animal," said Green.

Others say Davis is the victim of a prank, an overactive imagination or was simply seeking attention.

"It's just silly. There's no evidence. No one ever brings in a body. And it's so easy to trick people. Magicians do it all the time. And at night — we all see things at night," says Clemson University history professor Richard Golden.

"The closest analogy I can get to it that's rooted in heritage is the firm belief in metamorphosis in classical times, when people changed into pigs, wolves, cats and back into humans. I looked it up, and there are no lizards there," said Golden, who teaches courses on 16th and 17th century religious and social history.

"He probably didn't know how far he could go," Golden said.

"It is interesting to me he hasn't tried to remain anonymous," Golden said. "But the burden of proof is on this guy."

No one bothers to quake when 'noises' rattle Moodus

By Peggy McCarthy
Special to the Globe

MOODUS, Conn. — Listening to stories about "the noises" is part of growing up in Moodus.

The residents who actually hear them say they sound like thunder, a jet plane, construction workers blasting or a furnace blowing up.

Shirley Dill said she was hanging out clothes one day last fall, "and all of a sudden I heard this noise." She said she was startled at first.

"Then, I realized what it was — those noises again," said Dill, a convenience store clerk who has lived in Moodus for 42 years. The noises are actually small earthquakes that have been occurring here for centuries. In fact, the name, Moodus, means place of noises and was given to the area by Indians.

Last fall, there were more than 100 earthquakes in Moodus, said Dr. John E. Ebel, assistant director of Boston College's Weston Observatory, which has been tracking the Moodus earthquakes since 1979.

Moodus is a rural section of East Haddam, a town on the Connecticut River and the site of the Connecticut Yankee nuclear power plant. The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission is funding the observatory's work here to determine if the earthquakes pose a threat to the power plant, according to Ebel. He said the plant has been designed to withstand earthquakes, but studies are being conducted to determine if any additional engineering is needed.

Ebel said no one has uncovered the cause of the Moodus earthquakes nor whether the community really has more earthquakes than other parts of New England. He said that people feel and hear them in Moodus because they are only a mile from the earth's surface — a short distance by earthquake standards.

He said that Moodus experiences "persistent swarms of microearthquakes," but he added that there are small earthquakes about once a month all around New England.

"At this point, there is no evidence to lead us to believe that the very small earthquakes at Moodus mean that a larger earthquake is going to happen at that locality," said the scientist, who is an associate professor of geophysics at BC.

"On the other hand, since we don't know what causes earth-

quakes at Moodus or the rest of the northeastern United States, we can't rule out that a larger earthquake couldn't happen," he said.

People in Moodus say they are not worried about the earthquakes nor do they fear a major one. They are just part of life in their community.

"I've lived here all my life. You don't pay much attention," said Margaret Maus as she sat in a liquor store's rocking chair listening to the police radio. "It's just a noise. Windows might rattle, but it's never been serious."

Gertrude Sikorski has lived in town for 60 years. "Somebody'll say there's the noises again. I don't pay attention to them. I'm so used to them over the years."

Some local residents take an active interest in them, however. From time to time, there have been lectures about the Moodus noises. Some of the lectures approached the noises from a scientific angle; others centered on legends.

Anne Pach, an owner of Cave Hill Camp, a rustic family resort, has attended the lectures and has read books and articles on the phenomena — although she said she only heard the noises once, about a dozen years ago.

She related a legend about an Englishman who in the 1900s reportedly dug in caves here at night until he found a pearl. He said that when he removed the pearl from the community there would be no more noises. The story goes that on his way back to England, his ship exploded, destroying everything on it. And, of course, the noises continued.

Catherine Wilson said she has become known as the earthquake lady in Moodus. Ebel has placed a black box with electronic equipment in her garage to detect earthquakes in the area.

She said the noises are particularly prevalent near her home and that she has kept records on them for about seven years.

She likened the sensation to thunder, except that it is at one's feet as opposed to overhead. She said she does not fear a major earthquake because there hasn't been one yet. She pointed out that the front section of her house is 100 years old and survived years of small earthquakes.

SUN HERALD, Gulfport, MS — Aug. 13, 1988 CR: B. Clendenon



HAROLD GATER SUN HERALD ARTIST
Artists' conception of Jeremy DeCoito's description

Lizardman has Coast connection

By PATRICK PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

■ An orange-eyed, green-skinned, three-toed, 7-foot-tall Lizardman, who recently scared the wits out of a South Carolina boy, flashed his toothy grin in Pass Christian five years ago.

Or so says Jeremy DeCoito.

"I was laying down and had a fan blowing on me and I was looking at all the pictures on Grandma's wall," said 10-year-old Jeremy, who lives in Gulfport. "I heard a tapping on the window and there it was."

It was the Lizardman — seven feet of green scales, big teeth, fiery eyes and just plain ugliness.

"It looked at me for a minute and ran around to the side of the house, and it shook on the back door."

Yikes!

Spending a night with his grandparents, Jeremy was only 5 when the thing peeked in the house, which is at the end of a road near a swamp.

"Jeremy just went nuts," his grandmother, Dee King, said. "He screamed to the point where, when he jumped in the bed with us, it made my husband a little perturbed."

Two weeks ago, DeCoito spotted a drawing of the South Carolina Lizardman in a Houston newspaper. "That's him! That's him!" the boy screamed.

"It has not left Jeremy's memory," Mrs. King said. "Now, he has me convinced. It is UGH-Lee. It's horrible. It is not a fantasy."

A young man from Bishopville, S.C., said the Lizardman jumped on top of his car June 29 and left weird scratches on it. Several other people claim they saw the creature, though it has not been photographed or captured.

Officials believe Bishopville's Lizardman is either a reptilian bigfoot, a misidentified bear or a hoax.

But if the beast exists, is it possible that the Pass Christian Lizardman has migrated to South Carolina? Or is the monster still lurking in the swamps of the Coast, while his nasty relatives terrorize other areas?

No one has reported seeing a local Lizardman, said Pass Christian police. But Mrs. King feels her home near the swamp sits in the middle of a perfect habitat for the humanoid.

"I'm getting a little afraid to be down here, if these things are around," she said.

"I'm not bonkers. I don't believe in flying space ships. But last night I didn't sleep well."

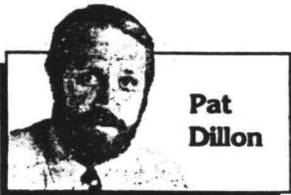
But wait, this can't be possible

DON MANCUSO knows the secrets of the universe, which he will gladly convey to just about anyone. But not everyone.

"I have a gift. I see things within things. You could dream your wildest dream and I can make it work," he said last week, while preparing to demonstrate a technological breakthrough so advanced it could nudge civilization up 150 years or ruin it in a flash.

It is an offshoot of Mancuso's greater dream, which is to build a

MERCURY NEWS, San Jose, CA - March 20, 1988 CR: K. Swanson/COUD-I



Pat Dillon

55-story space craft, powered by magnets that could carry a crew of 500 out beyond Pluto.

Apparently, all this makes some people nervous because he's having trouble gaining credibility.

"If you gave an unfriendly country 12 months building time with this technology, they could take over this country in three days," he said. "Obviously, I would like our own government to have it."

To understand this technology,

you have to understand something about atoms and magnetic forces. And you must be able to imagine the sun as a burning ice ball surrounded by an 18-inch deep proton belt.

IAM NOT embarrassed to confess having trouble with all the above concepts.

This shortcoming, he said, put me in the company of all the others who have unanimously dismissed his theories out of their own ignorance or rejected him as a nut.

"I have been rejected by 130 separate government offices, including the Pentagon, the CIA and the FBI, 26 major corporations, five foreign governments," he said.

So here he was in my office, where homeless ideas often come to roost.

What Mancuso, a 38-year-old San Jose maintenance man and father of three, is offering is the idea that a single wire can carry any number of sources of electricity and keep them all separate.

"People tend to say immediately: 'That's impossi-

ble!' No one wants to look," he said.

"It is impossible," Mercury News Science & Medicine Editor David Ansley said, reflecting the conventional wisdom of the scientific establishment. I invited him to watch the demonstration in my office.

Mancuso placed a board on the floor. Attached to this board was a light bulb in its socket which was connected to a wire and an A.C. 110-volt wall plug. Also attached to the wire was a DC-powered tape recorder, a tiny, D.C. 9-volt electric motor, a battery pack containing 4 D.C. 6-volt batteries and a D.C. 9-volt battery terminal.

Each component was connected to a grounding bar. "Impossible," Ansley muttered, again.

Mancuso plugged in the wire and screwed the bulb in until it glowed. "We have the 110-volt A.C. circuit," he said.

He then connected the 6-volt D.C. battery pack. Immediately, the brassy theme from "Flashdance" blared from the recorder.

"We have completed a second circuit," he announced, beaming. "If the A.C. and D.C. current had been mixed together, the song would have been interrupted."

Finally, he plugged in a 9-volt D.C. battery, setting off the tiny motor.

We had a hell of a high-tech hootenanny going there for awhile with lights flashing, "Flashdance" blaring, the motor whirring and Mancuso happily orchestrating various electrical combinations thereof.

I looked at Ansley. "How'd he do that?"

"How'd you do that?" the editor asked.

"That's what I would like to tell the government,

he said.

The applications are limitless, he said, "Everything we own, everything we do, is connected by wire. Your home, the CIA, the Pentagon, all of Washington."

"Imagine being able to run a second current through your computer or 10 separate currents at the same time," he said. "Instead of solving one problem, hundreds could be solved simultaneously. Suddenly the same old chip could be 100 times faster. You could turn your PC into a supercomputer."

The down side, he said, is that someone could penetrate your computer or the CIA's computer without detection.

We considered the sinister side of his concept for a while and then, sensing our attention headed where he didn't want it to go, he began rattling off more upbeat applications: household appliances, travel, lasers, Star Wars, space travel.

"But how'd you do it?" the newspaper's science & medicine editor asked again.

"What do you know about the sun?" he responded in a wizardly tone.

That initiated a debate about whether the sun was hotter or colder in the center and whether it was actually burning or melting. From there they moved to concepts of pushing electrons and spinning protons and repelling forces and magnetic warp lines.

I sort of tuned out.

I thought back to a discussion the day before. It had been with the public relations person for the proposed Technology Center of Silicon Valley, which I have mildly trashed for not getting off the ground.

The public relations person had been chiding me for my unforward thinking.

Among the programs, the future high-tech center will administer, she had pointed out, will be an institute of brainstorming, bringing innovators together for a kind of street bazaar of ideas.

"Interaction is the goal," she had said.

Later, hearing Don Mancuso narrate his theories like an unblinking prophet, I thought to myself, there are probably hundreds of undiscovered geniuses like him all over Silicon Valley, guys we really do not understand, guys we think of as nuts.

In a way, they're kind of like the homeless.

A newspaper is the last place geniuses should come for help. But a technology center, a place to mingle with their own, where someone speaks their language.

It could be the perfect shelter.



Mary Neinst - Mercury News

Don Mancuso and his breakthrough

LEE CO. OBSERVER, Bishopville, SC - Aug. 17, 1988

Lizard Man Update

Within the past week, there have been three reported sightings of the Lizard Man, according to Lee County Sheriff's Department reports.

On Aug. 12, a Lee County man told law enforcement officials that he had seen something "not human" running across a field off of S.C. 527 in Elliott.

By the time deputies arrived on the scene, however, there was nothing to be found.

The following day, the sheriff's office received a report from a Florence man who said he saw a lizard woman.

The most recent sighting was on Aug. 15 along Cedar Creek Road. At about 7:30 p.m., a Lee County woman informed officials that she had seen the Lizard Man standing in front of her door since the previous morning.

A Sheriff's Department report indicated that there was no evidence of the seven foot, red-eyed, three-toed creature in the vicinity.

Swamp creature once sighted locally

By WENDY EDEN
Gazette staff writer

In the Lowcountry, where marshlands are home to strange wildlife and vegetation, creature stories rise like the primordial mist.

While Lee County has only recently been stalked by a red-eyed, green Lizard Man, Beaufort County has been menaced by tales of hairy marsh monsters for years.

"Over the years, people have seen tracks and heard sounds," said Dean Poucher, a Beaufort County resident who is intently following the saga of the Lee County Lizard Man, sighted by a teenager in July.

In 1970, Poucher, the former executive director of the Greater Beaufort Chamber of Commerce, found himself standing in tracks similar to the 14-inch ones found in Lee County.

"They were a lot larger and a lot wider than my boot," Poucher said of the 17-inch tracks he found on Old Island 18 years ago.

Poucher, and a group of hunters and their dogs had boated to uninhabited Old Island, a narrow slice of land island located in Trenchards Inlet, to hunt for deer.

It was a typical December day for hunting, Poucher said, "the island was small and we figured we could cover it in no time."

But Poucher's two hunting dogs refused to move out of the boat that had carried them to the small piece of land.

After maneuvering through the island's thick underbrush, without the aid of the dogs, Poucher came upon the tracks — not made by the deer they had come to hunt.

The prints the hunter found were "mashed down with water in them" in an area that looked as if a "tank had come through there," he said. "We couldn't imagine what had made them. It was the first and last time I ever went on that island."

Today, Poucher said he still does not "have the slightest idea what made those tracks."

Over the years Port Royal and Frapp Island residents have told tales of large hairy creatures, and pilots stationed at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort have reported seeing large gorillas on islands in the flight path of the runways, he said.

But "if there is anything out there I'm positive it's not there now" because of increased development, he said.

"In everyone there is a need to believe in some kind of Boogie Man — and this thing really answers that need," Poucher said.



by John Steele

PUNTERS can live in hope, bookies William Hill can heave a sigh of relief and the yeti, if it exists, can remain in peace.

The much-heralded yeti-seeking expedition to the Himalayas led by British mountaineer Chris Bonington has failed so far to produce conclusive evidence of the mythical creature's existence.

William Hill will hang on to the £1m payout it faced on about 500 bets worth £25,000 on the yeti existing.

But the punters' potential windfall still hangs over its head in the shape of two goat skins, some unidentified animal droppings, photographs of animal tracks and a reported sighting.

Mr Iain Bishop, head of the mammals section at the Natural History Museum, appointed by William Hill to judge the evidence, announced his preliminary verdict yesterday.

Mr Bishop said in a statement: "We have seen no pieces of yeti nor any pieces claimed to be yeti."

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The skins appear to have been removed cleanly from the goat and are being tested by Mr Bishop.

The team hopes the droppings will provide enough evidence for Mr Bishop to establish which animal left them.

Footprints about 12in long, 3-4in wide and 5-6in deep were found at about 18,000ft.

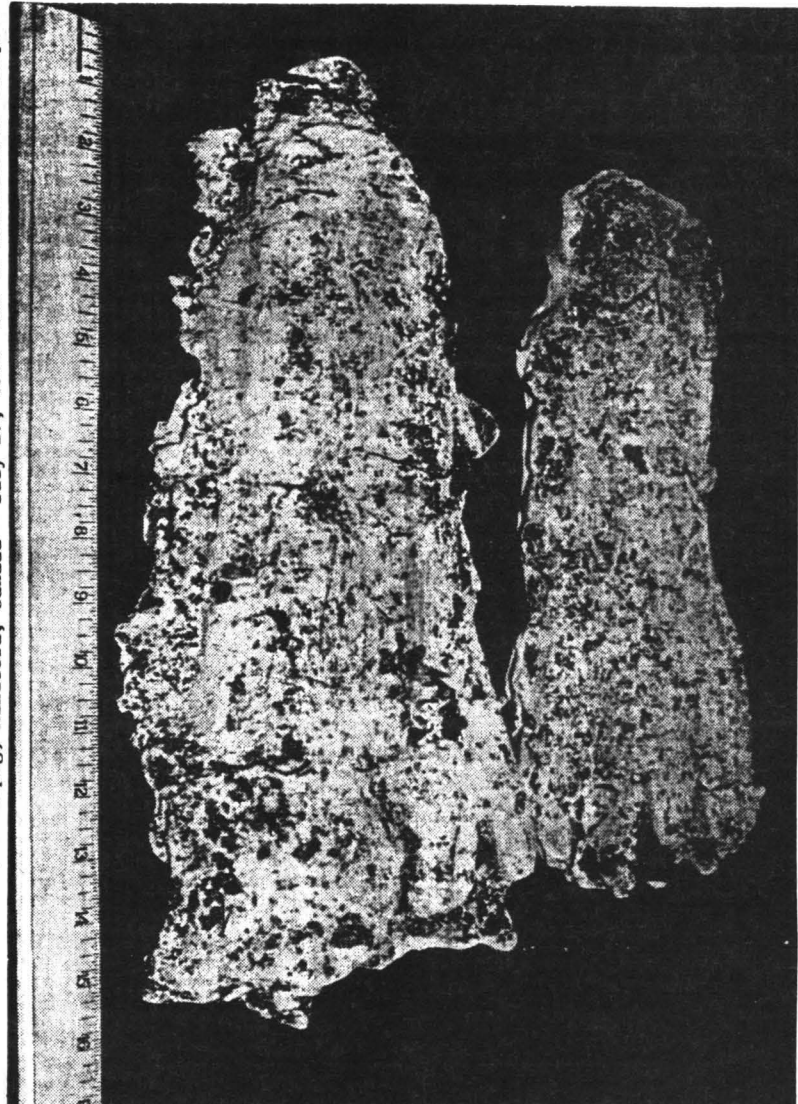
Fresh snow had recently fallen and the prints do not have four toes like the famous prints of the alleged Abominable Snowman taken by mountaineer Eric Shipton in the 1950s. Mr Bishop has been provided with photographs.

John Paul Davidson, a BBC film producer accompanying the expedition, saw a dark figure at about 1,000ft which he believed to be an animal watching him.

Graham Sharpe of William Hill said the bets, the most recent of which was placed yesterday, would remain open for a year. If any evidence convinced Mr Bishop, then they would pay out.



Chris Bonington



These plaster casts of what may be foot prints measure nearly 18 centimetres (seven inches) wide and 40 centimetres (16 inches) long.

CAN IT BE BIGFOOT?

By NAOMI LAKRITZ
Sun Staff Writer

Something hairy with big feet left muddy tracks near Poplar River, but folks up there are taking it all in stride.

John Larson, manager of the Bay store in the isolated settlement 200 miles north of Winnipeg, was fishing when he found 14-inch long footprints on a nearby hill two months ago.

"It had rained the night before and the prints were sunk a good inch into the mud. They were seven inches wide," Larson said yesterday.

"They're still there. The RCMP took casts." He and local Indian band constable Gerald Valiquette followed the prints for almost a mile into the bush.

"Then it got too dark and scary for me. But this thing had to weigh about 600 pounds. My 270-pound store trainee jumped up and down next to the prints and made an indentation only a fraction as deep," Larson said.

And Valiquette, who claims to have been chased by a Sasquatch once while at the dump, said he thinks the tracks are real.

"We found some hair. There have been quite a few sightings up here," Valiquette said.

Casts of the prints were taken by RCMP Const. Patrick Madden of the Lac du Bonnet detachment.

"But there's nothing in RCMP policy about investigating Sasquatch. If it's a UFO, then there are certain things we investigate."

Both Madden and Dr. Chris Meiklejohn, a University of Winnipeg professor who examined the casts, agree the 14-foot stride means the creature would have to be 25 to 30 feet tall — and that's highly unlikely.

"Balderdash. I'll be quite blunt," Meiklejohn

said. "It would be taller than three-fourths of the trees in the area. It's a Jack and the Beanstalk story."

The other discrepancy is that the Poplar River prints have four toes and all primates have five.

No one quite agrees on what happened to the hair sample. Larson says he lost it. Madden says hair samples were taken a few years ago from another site, and Meiklejohn says the RCMP sent it out for analysis.

"They were analyzed as not belonging to any known animal. But when you start asking questions, there are so many discrepancies."

"Why is there no evidence about where they live, what they eat, what they do in winter? No primate hibernates. Why are there no bones, no corpses?" Meiklejohn asked.

He figures the chances are one in 100,000 that "something is out there."

Ron Banman, who operates the Mishetone Trading Co. in Poplar River, said he has grave doubts about the incident.

"I'll probably go look at the prints. John seems to be fairly convinced about this, but I'd have to see it with my own eyes. I don't adhere to it," Banman said.

Madden said the RCMP frequently get reports of sightings in the area and around the Bloodvein Reserve, but he's not making any conjectures.

"There are a lot of things we haven't seen. But I'm not going to start tramping in the bush after a creature like that," he said.

Even Meiklejohn won't absolutely rule out the possibility.

"I'm unwilling to say they don't exist. That's asking to be proven wrong," he said.

OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - Aug. 12, 1988 CR: G. Earley

Big Foot hunt grounded

TACOMA — Big Foot can relax for now; Grover Krantz has been grounded.

The Washington State University anthropology professor doubts he'll be able to get his ultralight helicopter running in time to search for the fabled sasquatch before he has to return to the classroom.

Last spring, Krantz announced plans to use the helicopter and infrared heat-seeking devices to search for the hairy, humanlike beast in the Blue Mountains east of Walla Walla.

But he's been unable to figure out how to get the throttle of the helicopter he built from a kit to operate properly.

Because the fall term is approaching and he has to get back to the classroom, Krantz said it probably would be spring before the search could begin in earnest. But spring is a better time to search for the sasquatch, anyway, he said.

Krantz conducts the search for Big Foot on his own time and without any university financial support.

BULLETIN, Latrobe, PA - July 14, 1988 CR: S. Gordon

Air Date Set For 'Bigfoot' Show

By KIM OPATKA
Bulletin Staff Writer

Filming has been completed and an air date set for a PM Magazine segment on Bigfoot sightings in the area.

Host Jim Dever and a film crew visited a number of sites where the creature encounters were reported during the past months of taping and conducted interviews with persons claiming to have seen it.

Among those interviewed for the show were Samuel Sherry Sr. of Ligonier Township, who reported a sighting along the Loyalhanna Creek recently; Robert France of Vandergrift, who allegedly saw Bigfoot near Bear Cave in Derry Township; and a Derry Township man who had a sighting along the railroad tracks between Gray Station and Torrance.

The Derry Township man, who did not want his identity revealed, will have his appearance and voice altered during the segment. He made the request to avoid publicity and ridicule.

All three men, who spend a good deal of time in the outdoors, have told their stories in The Bulletin. The first man, who saw it Dec. 13, 1986, was interviewed in March of 1987 with France's story appearing May 15, 1987.

Sherry had the most recent sighting of the three, May 17, 1988, along the creek where he had gone to fly-fish.

Stan Gordon of Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained was interviewed at

his Greensburg-based PASU office.

The show, which is broadcast by WJAC-TV, Channel 6, Johnstown, airs at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 20. Gordon also reported that another sighting occurred several weeks ago at a rural residence along Route 217 in Derry Township.

He said a family returned home to discover unusual footprints, the animals acting strangely, and floodlights (which were six feet off the ground) and part of a fence broken. Casts of the footprint were 16 by 10 inches.

Three days later, at 7:30 a.m. June 29, he said members of the family were awakened by a sound, looked out the window and saw a grayish brown creature with long stringy or matted fur walking along the woods line.

It was described as having no waist or neck and was seven or eight feet tall. The family became concerned when it headed toward an area where horses were kept, and noticed that as it moved, the horses tried to get into the barn.

The animal didn't approach the horses further, but turned to go into the woods.

Photos of the creature taken by the family did not turn out, a disappointed Gordon added, due to a problem with the camera.

Gordon said he has been receiving a number of calls on sightings in the last several months.

Those who have had sightings are asked to call Gordon at his PASU office at 838-7768 or write to 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg.

FREE PRESS, Detroit, MI - Aug. 10, 1988

Scientists seek Chinese lake monster

BEIJING — (UPI) — Chinese scientists are flying Hovercrafts over a remote lake in northwestern China in the latest effort to solve the mystery of a horse-eating water creature known as China's Loch Ness Monster, a news report said Tuesday.

"For years, domestic animals have mysteriously disappeared in the lake," the official Xinhua News Agency said. "Locals believe there may be monsters in the lake."

The survey team from the Nanjing Geography Department and the Heilongjiang Aquatic Products Institute are using Hovercrafts, boats and fishing nets "in the hope of catching

something" in remote Lake Karnaci in China's far west Xinjiang Autonomous Region, it said.

Numerous local legends are associated with the fabled monsters. It seemed the legend had been put to rest in 1985, when a group of students and teachers from the biology department of Xinjiang University spotted a number of "big red fish," estimated to be more than 33 feet long, the agency said. The fish were identified as a species of large salmon.

But the agency said the students and teachers have yet to catch a fish or a monster as long as those sited.

Dead livestock may be cases of insurance fraud

By Patrick Seltz
Staff writer

The public usually has two explanations when livestock are found slaughtered in rural areas: satanic cults or UFOs.

Bob Fletcher, Illinois State Police public information officer, said there is another possibility — insurance fraud.

Prize livestock used for breeding or cows that are enormous milk producers can be as "valuable as race horses" and worth many thousands of dollars, Mr. Fletcher said.

"We've found that a lot of it (livestock mutilation) tends to be done by farmers to collect insurance," he said.

"The law enforcement community is divided into two camps," he said. "There are those who actually search for satanic cults, and there are others in law enforcement who think this is largely the invention of pulp media."

"I'm enormously skeptical of it," Mr. Fletcher said. But he admitted that good arguments could be made

on both sides for why farm animals occasionally are found mutilated.

Mr. Fletcher cited one case where lightning killed a prize farm animal and the insurance company wouldn't have covered the loss. So the rancher made the accident look like a satanic ritual killing.

Bureau County Sheriff Jack Narzewski said voters in his county made cattle mutilations a campaign issue in 1982 during the election of his predecessor.

"They were accusing the sheriff at the time of not doing enough to stop the Satan worshippers," he said.

Mercer County Sheriff Marvin Thirtacre said his department has investigated about three cattle mutilations in the past few years, with the last one occurring in the summer of 1986.

In each case, the cattle's throats were cut with a sharp instrument and certain organs were removed, he said.

Mr. Thirtacre said his department didn't find anything that made him believe a satanic cult committed the slayings.

"We didn't put much weight on it" at the time, he said. "Then we got to thinking about it."

Reports of animal slayings fluctuate the same as sightings of UFOs and flying saucers, Mr. Fletcher said.

DISPATCH, Moline, IL - Feb. 12, 1988 CR: L. Whitehurst