

UFO

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WILLAPA HARBOR HERALD, Raymond-South Bend, WA - Sept. 14, 1988 CR: D. Johnson



Ernest Staricka sketches the UFO he spotted on Aug. 25 at the south fork of the Willapa River.

Fisherman reports seeing UFO hovering over river

BY THERESA WILLEFORD

Ernest Staricka had some visitors on his Aug. 22 fishing trip whom he thinks were out of this world.

Staricka, a retired iron worker, set off on a fishing trip at 8:30 a.m. with a friend that morning on the south fork of the Willapa River. The pair were looking for Searun Cutthroat Salmon.

"At about 11:20, we were 40 yards up from the old Koski Mill," Staricka said. "My companion was facing me. I looked up and suddenly saw an awful bright object coming at me at an angle from over the Willapa Hills, about 3,000 feet away."

The round, glowing object was moving at about 25 to 30 miles per hour, he said, and as it came closer he saw that it appeared to have wavy lines of light flowing across the middle.

"It was about 50 to 60 feet across," he said. "When I first saw it, I was really frightened. I didn't know what it was and I thought 'Oh boy, we've had it.' I thought might as well jump overboard."

"Then when it got closer I saw it had points at each side. I thought at first it was an airplane and the wings had broken off, but I saw it did not have jagged edges. There were also outlines on the points, shaped like doors. I can't say they were doors, but that's what they looked like."

"That's when I knew it was a UFO and I wasn't frightened anymore, because I know they don't hurt you. They've never hurt anyone else who has seen them."

Staricka was wearing sunglasses at the time but the strong light from UFO still made him wince. He said his companion, who was not wearing any glasses could barely stand to look at the object and could not see the two points.

"It was beautiful," Staricka said. "It seemed to be spinning as it hovered about 300 feet up. There was no noise and no smoke."

The object floated from the right side of the golf course over the left and disappeared behind the trees. It apparently flew behind the trees and returned to its original position, because when Staricka traveled upstream he spotted it on the right side of the golf course again. It hovered silently there for 10 seconds, at approximately 150 yards from the ground before disappearing at a level height behind the brush toward the course.

Staricka said he noticed another fisherman on the South Fork when he started fishing that morning, but by the time he returned to the same area he was gone.

"I have read that 95 percent of the people who see UFOs don't report it," Staricka said by way of explaining why no one but himself reported the sighting. "Also, it hovered by the trees beyond the golf course, so golfers would not have seen it. And remember, there was no noise and no smoke."

Staricka reported his finding to the Raymond police as well as the State Patrol. He was told by officials at both departments that no one else reported seeing anything unusual.

Raymond Police Chief Tom Wilson said the Staricka incident is the only UFO sighting reported, "for a long, long time." He also said the police do not plan on doing anything about the sighting.

"He saw something, but what we don't know," Wilson said, noting that he knows Staricka and considers him a responsible person.

"This is getting pretty bad around here," Wilson laughed. "Burning stagecoaches, UFOs, what's next?"

Staricka, however, says he has spoken to several persons who have had similar experiences.

"I talked to this interesting lady who lives on the South Fork," he said. "She told me she saw a similar object about four years ago. Another guy also told me he spotted one on the South Fork, hovering over people's



"Well, I've seen a couple of them. I saw one one night. I didn't believe it myself. They've gotta be UFO's. I was sitting in my front room and there were four big lights and it was too big to be an airplane. They were heading south right out of town, at about 11 o'clock at night, right before I was going to bed. Those lights were at least 100 feet apart, and it was too big to be an airplane. I've done a lot of flying, and the lights were too far apart to be landing lights. If people don't believe in UFO's, well, I saw this with my own eyes. I couldn't believe it. They were going so fast. That was about six months ago."

Ray Allison
Raymond

Letters to the editor

We welcome letters to the editor on local topics. Brevity is appreciated, although not always required. The letters should be signed, and may be edited.

houses six or seven years ago.

While admitting that he has always read about UFOs and been interested in the subject, Staricka, 67, says that this is his first sighting and stresses that "I'm not the kind of guy to make something up just to get in the newspaper."

"It was so beautiful, so graceful, and there was such a feeling of goodwill, that I didn't want it to go away," he said. "The skies seemed so empty when it was gone. I wanted more of it."

Staricka says he does not know where the object came from, but knows he and his partner were seen by whatever or whomever was in the UFO.

When asked what he would have done if the object had landed and alien beings emerged, Staricka laughs and says he would have greeted them with an "old fisherman's line."

"I would have said, 'The fishing is lousy but you should have been here yesterday.'"

Question of the week:

Do you believe in UFO's?



"No. I never saw one before. If I saw one, I'd believe in it."

Erika Ekman
Raymond



"No. I just don't believe in them. (Sightings) may have something to do with the planets or something like that."

Janna Deskins
Raymond



"No, because I just don't believe in them."

Joy Snow
Raymond



"I have no idea, by my mom says she saw one."

Kim Carlson
Raymond

Mort's close encounter

NO WONDER TV loudmouth Morton Downey Jr. is so outrageous! On tomorrow's show (Ch. 9, 11:30 p.m.), he reveals while under hypnosis that he was once abducted by a UFO as he was driving along a highway in Connecticut. No kidding! Downey says he even has scars on his chest, which he attributes to the strange encounter.

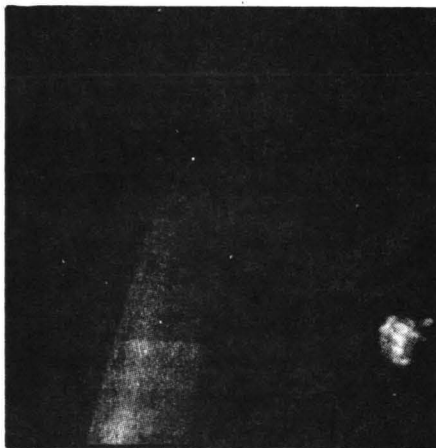
This is all according to Michael Luckman, director of the New York Center for UFO Research, who is a guest on the taped program, along with Jean Mundy, professor emeritus of psychology at Long Island University, whom Luckman says hypnotized Downey both before the show was taped and during the show itself.

"He (Downey) said he was surrounded by a gray fog and that his car was lifted off the highway during the incident. Then he said that he felt sharp pains in his stomach and over his heart. Downey said that he couldn't account for 43 minutes of missing time."

A Downey spokesman yesterday confirmed that such a show was taped and will air tomorrow. He said Downey doesn't know whether the incident in question was the result of a UFO or was a dream.

—George Maksian

DAILY NEWS, New York, NY
Sept. 29, 1988 CR: M. Luckman



Pictured here is a blue beam that Jim said was emitted outside the door of his house. Jim said he photographed the beam Feb. 7. The photo shows part of the door frame, left, and a person Jim declines to identify at right, running into the house.

Verdict out on Gulf Breeze aliens

Abductions by aliens/17A

Official sees light/17A

By Dave Richardson
News Journal

UFO photographs taken in Gulf Breeze may be a clever, complicated flimflam.

Or they may be visits and contacts by aliens — contacts that, if proven, would reshape the priorities of governments, assault religions and threaten the lofty human ego.

Some researchers see flaws in the photos and denounce the photographer's story. Others say there are no flaws and no inconsistencies.

So far, there is no hard evidence of a hoax.

Moreover, a Pensacola polygraph examiner says the photographer who took the dozens of shots believes what he says and believes his photos are

real.

For sure, there are claims of seeing unidentified flying objects, there are photos of craft in the sky, photos of blue beams, claims of terrorized citizens, claims that creatures spoke to a Gulf Breeze man and that a creature looked in his window and that five of them walked toward him down a road. He says a humming in his head heralds the arrival of UFOs.

EXPERTS AT ODDS: Gulf Breeze Mayor Ed Gray III is among many who say, flatly, that this is a hoax. But no one has decisively proved the contacts, or the photos, or statements of the man who first saw them, to be fakes.

In fact, Bruce Maccabee — an optical physicist who works for the Navy in Washington, a respected scientist with a quarter of a century of degrees and research credits — says of the Gulf Breeze UFO photos:

"I think there is a good chance it's the real thing."

Is Maccabee, despite his credentials, a kook?

Philip Klass is Maccabee's counterpart and his nemesis. Klass is the nation's, maybe the world's, chief debunker of UFOs.

He leads the assault on claims of UFO sightings from his training as an electrical engineer, his experience over 35 years as editor of *Aviation Week*, and as a founder 22 years ago of CSICOP, the Committee for the Study and Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Klass says Maccabee is "one of the most intelligent, one of the most technically competent, one of the most rigorous" scientists he has ever crossed swords with. Klass puts him among the top five scientists in the nation who study UFOs, maybe among the top three.

Amateurs have fired salvos both for and against the truth of the photos and sightings. But a clash of experts is at the center of the question: Are these UFO photos real?

Maccabee says, "good chance."

Klass, says, "no way," there is only a "one in a jillion chance" the photos taken by the Gulf Breeze businessman are authentic.

"I have not personally investigated (the Gulf Breeze sightings)," Klass says from his home in Washington, D.C. "I wouldn't waste the time. I only investigate those that might be genuinely impressive to the public."

Maccabee, for one, is genuinely impressed. He has written a single-spaced, 60-page report on the Gulf Breeze incidents. He will present the report to a UFO symposium in Lincoln, Neb., next month and he plans to keep its contents secret until then.

Maccabee's work includes having someone analyze the Gulf Breeze photos by computer, and this could take weeks or months. He declines to say who is doing the analysis, only that it will take place in Washington and Boston.

Meanwhile, the man who first saw the object in the late evening sky last Nov. 11, and took five Polaroid photos of it, knows the scientists will probably never say they have proof of a UFO.

But "Jim," the pseudonym he prefers so he can continue to shelter himself and his family, says that in Maccabee's report it "will be very clear that indeed there is, or was, something in the skies over Gulf Breeze. Then it's up to somebody else to show it was of a military nature, or extraterrestrial or something else."

Using dual, automatic Polaroid cameras attached to a bar so they could shoot at the same time and triangulate the object — cameras built by Jim to Maccabee's design — Jim photographed the object. In the photo from one camera, the image was clear. The photo from the other angle shows it partially hidden behind a tree.

Jim said Maccabee has said that if these photos were faked, they represent "... a bizarre level of capability."

Likewise with a night shot Jim took on Soundside Drive. It shows the craft just above the ground, lighting a part of the roadway. The craft, Maccabee calculated, is 13 feet in diameter. To light it and have it illuminate the ground, he says, would require a crane to hold it, plus 1,000, 100-watt light bulbs powered by a 100-kilowatt generator.

Even if Maccabee pronounced the photos real, that still would not prove the existence of UFOs. But to Jim it would help.

Help also could come from Dr. Robert Nathan, a scientist with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

Nathan has a one-and-a-half minute videotape taken by Jim that he plans to analyze, but Nathan won't say when he will get around to it. He has had the tape, Jim says, for three months.

Nathan also has seen the original still photos and Jim says, "he guaranteed that the photos were

(continued on page 3)

Gulf Breeze UFO Sighted Recently

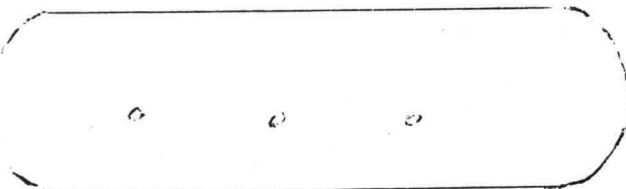
By JANICE FRYE

The Gulf Breeze UFO's—are they back?...or just passing through?

One *Sentinel* reader believes they're back, but whether they're back to stay for a while is anybody's guess. On her way home from work in Pensacola to Gulf Breeze on Monday, September 12, the viewer (who wishes to remain anonymous) states she saw not one, but two objects over Hardee's in downtown Gulf Breeze.

"It was 8:07 p.m. I made sure to notice the time. I first noticed an object over Hardee's, and thought maybe I was looking at an airplane, but it was moving so fast, I knew it wasn't a plane."

The viewer proceeded east on Hwy. 98 until she was in front of Food World, where she could see the crafts again. At this point, she states, "It looked like they were just over the trees in the woods behind the Sentinel office, heading toward the bay. I could only see the bottom of the first craft—it was humongous! Then, three red lights on it lit up and winked out, one right after the other—it was kind of like sliding your finger down a piano keyboard—just that fast. Then, as if on cue, the second craft lit up all at once. There were round portholes on the second one that I could see clearly, each one with two lights—one at the bottom and one at the top. They were, I believe, red and white lights, which pro-



9-12-88 8:07p.m.
UFO's drawn by sighter

duced an orange glow. The only thing was, the lights were glowing from inside the craft, not on the outside. And they weren't rotating."

The viewer described the first craft as being long and round, about four times the size of the second, which looked like a child's top with a flat bottom. The second craft was immediately behind the first. She added, "I got the impression, by watching them, that the second craft was being towed. Either that, or it was just following very close to the big one."

Having experienced car trouble recently, the viewer stated that her windows were down and the air conditioning and radio were turned off. "There was no noise what-

soever. At that distance I could easily have heard a plane, but all I could hear was the other traffic around me."

"I lost sight of them at that point, and drove home, a few miles out 98. I called my mother and told her what I had seen and she went out to look. She lives close to the bay. She didn't see the objects, but said there was an awful lot of jet activity in the area."

A high amount of aircraft activity after a sighting seemed commonplace during the earlier sightings in Gulf Breeze.

"I don't know what it was that I saw, but I do know I've never seen anything like it before!" the viewer stated.

N.J. HERALD, Newton, NJ - Aug. 18, 1988

Lights in sky called atmospheric disturbance

By MATTHEW GRECO
Staff Writer

BYRAM — What were those lights seen over Byram Monday night that one couple identified as a UFO?

WABC-TV Eyewitness News in New York City said Wednesday it received about 25 calls Monday night from callers in a wide radius of the city from Long Island to New Jersey asking about strange lights in the sky.

A check by meteorologist Sam Champion determined they were coming from a storm off the New Jersey coast — in a southeasterly direction from Sussex County, said Eyewitness News Associate Producer Larry Goodman.

Robert Pinsky of Lee Hill Road and his wife reported seeing lights in the sky to the east Monday night about 10 p.m. that he called UFOs. He described lights "like stars, but closer" that shot up and down and a stationary pink cloud with a pulsating white light within it.

GOODMAN SAID most callers described the lights as "static, staying in one place," similar to one of the phenomena Pinsky saw.

Goodman said the lights were the effect of an atmospheric disturbance from the storm.

National Weather Service meteorologist Walter Zamorski in Newark said clouds in storms can sometimes cause the light from lightning to reflect, causing it to "bounce" downwards.

Zamorski's description is also similar to Pinsky's claim that other lights he saw were moving up and down.

Byram Police Chief Eskil Danielson said the N.J. Forest Fire Service Budd Lake Fire Tower reported a large cell of thunder and lightning traveling to the south and east through Hunterdon County Monday night "despite the fact that it was crystal clear in Byram."

PRESS GAZETTE, Milton, FL - May 19, 1988

Film company rep expresses interest in UFO 'sightings'

By RAY MURPHY
Staff Writer

A caller who said he represented 20th Century Fox films in Los Angeles, Ca., spoke by telephone with Santa Rosa Press Gazette and Free Press Publisher Jim Hill Tuesday about reported UFO sightings in Santa Rosa County.

THE FILM REP expressed an interest in the "sighting" reports, saying his look at the photographs published in connection with the events are "obvious fakes."

He appeared most interested in speaking with Gulf Breeze Mayor Ed Gray, III, who was on vacation and out of Gulf Breeze until late Tuesday evening.

The film company representative expressed an interest in the photographer with whom Gray had been in consultation regarding the authenticity of the photographs.

GRAY DECLINED to identify the photographer with whom he had spoken, saying theirs is a confidential relationship and will remain so until the photographer himself releases Gray from the pledge of confidentiality.

Thus far, no one from the Press Gazette or Free Press have been favored with an approach from any flying objects other than an occasional mosquito, but any such approach will be reported—with interviews—if and when they occur.

not superimposed. Other than that, he's staying in the corner of the skeptics."

Jim says Nathan has told him that if he can show the photos or the videotape to be fakes, he will blast Jim publicly with that information.

'PHOTOS ARE PHONY': One physicist who flatly calls them fakes is Willy Smith, co-founder of UNICAT, an international UFO information-gathering group.

Smith claims he can see a support under the UFO in one photo, and the sizes and spacing of the windows is suspect, indicating that the object is a model that was painted.

"I am absolutely convinced the photos are phony," Smith says.

Jim claims the support is an emulsion streak on the film and has pointed out that Smith made some wrong assumptions in reaching his conclusions.

Jim sticks to his guns, but he is concerned about debunkers who refuse even to consider his claims and his photos.

"Debunkers are not going to accept," Jim says.

He also is concerned about the government. Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Nathan's employer, is a huge laboratory within the U.S. space program.

"I hope the government is on our side. I hope the government doesn't come in here and squash me like a bug," he says.

OTHER SIGHTINGS: Maccabee plays down the photos and plays up sightings by others. He claims more than 100 witnesses have reported 60 sightings in and around Gulf Breeze within the last six months.

"This isn't just all based on (Jim)" Maccabee says of the UFO interest.

But it started with Jim the evening of Nov. 11, 1987, when he took the five photographs from his front yard. He also claims he photographed the object 32 more times over the next months, videotaped it, and watched it land on Soundside Drive.

It was on Soundside that he says he watched it deposit five aliens on the road. Jim says he stopped, dived under his truck, then, as the aliens approached, he got back in

and drove off.

But he photographed a hovering object that illuminated the road with a bright circle of light.

He claims to have been startled by an alien face peering through a window of his home. He says the aliens have communicated to him, at times in Spanish, and that their craft has shot down a blue beam.

Once, Jim says, the blue beam immobilized him and lifted him three feet off the ground. Another time, he says he photographed the beam outside his back door.

UFOLOGISTS AT ODDS: The sightings have provided a field day for ufologists — those who study reports of UFOs, abductions, missing time, car engines mysteriously shutting off, weird electrical interruptions and the like.

But the two major U.S. groups of ufologists are at odds over whether to believe Jim and his photos.

Robert Boyd, an investigator in Mobile for one of the groups, CUFOS, the Center for UFO Studies, says the photos are "most probably a hoax."

CUFOS has not said how the photos were fabricated. They, too, say the windows on the space craft aren't spaced evenly, implying that an alien would probably space the windows evenly.

In an April CUFOS bulletin, Boyd and Mark Rodeghier, scientific director for the group, question other imperfections in the photos — a waviness in the photos suggesting they were taken near, or reflected off, water; "the obvious non-symmetrical shape of the UFO and the flaw in its bottom rim. . . ." CUFOS also says the other UFO group bungled the investigation.

The other group, the Mutual UFO Network has not pronounced the photos real or fake.

Walter Andrus, international director of MUFON, says, "The case, as far as we're concerned, is still wide open."

He calls the case either the best they have worked on, or the best orchestrated hoax. He adds that the case is holding up well under scrutiny.

LIE DETECTOR TEST: Jim says he is speaking out, and originally delivered the first five

photos to the Gulf Breeze Sentinel. . . to tell my community, 'Look at the skies. There's something out there.'"

Since then he has lost work, faced devastating ridicule, read out-of-town journalists' "selectively remember" facts, and been called crazy.

In February, he voluntarily took a polygraph test in Pensacola that lasted nearly six hours over two days. He paid \$450 for it out of his own pocket, up front.

"The polygraph," he says, "was complete hell."

The chair he sat in resembled an electric chair, the operator was a total skeptic, Jim was "totally intimidated."

"I knew I was telling the truth," he said, "but you don't know that machine knows you're telling the truth."

Among the questions asked by polygraph operator Harvey McLaughlin, Jr. were:

1. "Did you lie or falsify the information you have furnished me concerning the UFOs you have seen?"

2. Did you in any way falsify or lie about the photographs you have presented concerning these UFOs?"

3. "Did you in any way falsify or lie about the humanoid beings that you saw or any other physical evidence that you have presented?"

McLaughlin's opinion:

"With the information that is available to this examiner at this time, it is felt that (Jim) truly believes that the photographs and personal sightings he has described are true and factual to the best of his ability."

WHY HE SPEAKS OUT: Debunkers anger Jim. He is adamant. He says, "I know what is true" so he keeps talking.

But Boyd, Rodeghier and Smith also are adamant.

Jim counters: "When you know the truth, how do you ignore it?"

Still, he really doubts that anyone will "prove" there are UFOs or even that his claims are not crazy. Without some kind of proof, he has no idea what will happen next.

Councilwoman among witnesses

By Michael Burke
News Journal

GULF BREEZE — A city councilwoman is among scores of Gulf Breeze residents who say they have seen a brightly lighted UFO cruising low over the city.

Council member Brenda Pollak said that March 17, she was crossing the Pensacola Bay bridge when she saw a strange orange light pulsating over Gulf Breeze. Pollak said the object was moving just above the tree tops and it was larger and brighter than any aircraft light she had ever seen.

Pollak lost sight of the object as she got off the bridge, but she saw it again as she drove along Shoreline Drive. She said she pulled over and watched the object for three or four seconds before it suddenly disappeared.

Upon returning home, she found a note from her husband, Buddy, saying he had gone to Shoreline Park. When she got to the park, she said, she found her husband and several others examining photographs under the headlights of a truck.

She was told that "Jim," the Gulf Breeze businessman who says he has taken 37 photographs of UFOs over the past six months, had just snapped two simultaneous photographs.

Jim, who has asked to remain anonymous, said he photographed a UFO about the same time Mrs. Pollak observed the object over Gulf Breeze. He said he joined Buddy Pollak and several other people that evening at Shoreline Park to look for the UFO.

In an interview with the News Journal, Jim said others he joined at the park told him they were leaving to get hot chocolate.

Less than a minute after they left the area where Jim had set up

a double camera, he heard a hum he claims to have heard before previous sightings. Three or four minutes later, Jim reported, the craft blinked in and he took the photographs.

The flashes of the cameras brought the others, still in the park, running back. Jim said he took the Polaroids to his truck and watched them develop in front of the truck's headlights. He said those photographs were sent to Dr. Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist in Maryland who is analyzing Jim's photographs.

Buddy Pollak said the double camera took two Polaroids simultaneously. The images that appeared on two photographs appeared to be oblong saucer objects, he said.

Carlos E. Hill Jr., 55, a mechanical engineer from Gulf Breeze, also said he went to Shoreline Park that night to look for UFOs. He was in his car when he saw two flashes go off.

When Hill learned from Buddy Pollak that Jim had taken a photograph, he ran down and saw Jim looking at Polaroids in the lights of the truck.

"I saw the film develop in front of my eyes," Hill said. The two photographs of the object showed the same UFO shown in other photos taken by Jim, Hill said.

Brenda Pollak said she has known Jim, whose photographs began the UFO controversy, for four or five years.

She said she does not believe he is perpetrating a hoax. "He's not the type of individual to do that," she said. "I have no doubt about his veracity."

The Gulf Breeze Sentinel, a weekly newspaper, has published dozens of descriptions from residents of all ages, some of them anonymous, who say they saw a

silent object moving in the sky.

The object has most often been described as having an orange glow. Some objects were described as circular, spinning craft. Others said the object they saw was an oval craft or an oblong-shaped light.

Reports of sightings have continued since the Sentinel published photographs of a hovering space-ship submitted by Jim in November 1987.

Donald Ware of Fort Walton Beach, state director of the Mutual UFO Network, (MUFON), said his research group has reports of 68 sightings of unidentified objects in the Gulf Breeze area. Ware said the reports, made to MUFON and the Sentinel, involved 135 witnesses.

Three witnesses from the Gulf Breeze area — Jim, Mrs. Joseph Zammit and Truman Holcomb — have told UFO investigators that they saw a blue beam of light that came down from the UFO.

Investigators for Mutual UFO Network, a private group that researches UFO sightings, said that Holcomb, 57, saw the blue beam on the night of April 28.

He told investigators the beam came from a circular object with a bright orange light on the bottom.

Jim claims he was immobilized briefly by a blue beam Nov. 11 and again on Dec. 2, 1987.

According to the UFO group, Zammit told group investigators from Pensacola she also saw the blue beam Nov. 11.

She was awakened about 2 a.m. by her dog. She said she walked a few feet on her back lawn when she saw a round object with a yellow to orange color emitting a pathway of blue light down to her dock. She became afraid and took her dog back into the house, the UFO group reported.

Gulf Breeze UFO

The often-photographed Gulf Breeze craft emits a beam in this photograph taken by the anonymous Gulf Breeze businessman known as "Jim." Several people have reported seeing the beam. This photo, a copy of the original, was reportedly taken in December.



Author suspects UFO abduction in Gulf Breeze

By Dave Richardson
News Journal

Budd Hopkins is an artist, sculptor and author of "Missing Time" and the best-selling "Intruders," books about people who have been temporarily abducted by aliens.

He has talked at length to "Jim," the anonymous Gulf Breeze man who claims to have seen and photographed UFOs.

Jim also wonders whether he has been abducted and said he will agree to hypnosis to find out.

Hopkins, 56, based his books on interviews with 180 persons who have told him they were abducted, examined, perhaps followed by the aliens since childhood.

Hopkins claims some of these people are left with scars on their

legs, cuts or scooped-out areas where tissue samples were removed. He said there was no pain, no bleeding, no scabbing, and little or no conscious memory of this exploratory surgery.

But under hypnosis, victims can recall the events, Hopkins said.

Hopkins believes Jim and believes he is not unique in Gulf Breeze.

"I'm convinced that a number of the other sightings are genuine sightings."

"I don't understand this because it is quite different from what we usually get, almost as if the phenomenon, whatever it is out there, has sort of decided to reveal itself more."

"I don't pretend to be an expert on this case, but after 13 years of UFO investigations, I think I'm a

pretty good judge of witnesses.

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

"I'm the first one to admit that anything could be a hoax, anything," Hopkins says, but still, he can't fathom why Jim would concoct such a deception.

A man's reputation is at stake. His family is at stake. If this were ever shown to be a hoax, his career is finished. His life here is finished. The family would leave. I can't imagine the family ever holding together after a thing like this, if it were in fact a hoax."

Hopkins advised Jim to reject a "six-figure offer" to write a book and to search for a different publisher. He also advised Jim to take a lie detector test. Jim rejected the book offer and passed

the polygraph, Hopkins says.

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

"He would never have said, 'I will agree to wait until I take a lie detector test.' Until the photographs, until the originals are handed off to a very tough-minded photo analyst (Bruce Maccabee, a physicist for the Navy). I mean it's ridiculous. I can't imagine anybody who had anything to hide doing that. It would be totally self-defeating."

But Hopkins suspects more has been happening in Gulf Breeze than just sightings and visits by strange craft.

Recently, sitting in a Pensacola

restaurant, Hopkins said he sus-

pects there was an abduction in Gulf Breeze, perhaps more than one. Not only Jim, or members of his family may have been abducted but others from Gulf Breeze or the area.

Jim said he remembers three times in his life when time was missing — meaning there was time he could not remember or account for. Once was during a canoe trip when he blamed heat stroke; another time was during his youth that he passed off as lack of sleep or a nightmare. A third time is much more vivid.

This time he remembers driving home through a lighted area some time after midnight. There were lighted street lamps and businesses along the road, but he could see no lights in his car's mirrors. He

remembers adjusting the mirror and still not seeing the lights.

Jim said he stopped along the road and got out. There was a strong light coming toward him, bright, like the headlights of a motorcycle, he says. Jim got back in his car and the light lifted off the road in front of him. He says the whole inside of his car lit up.

Five or six hours later — time that is missing — he realized that morning traffic was passing him.

Jim said that until he talked with Hopkins, he just dismissed the three instances when time was missing from his life.

Now, he hopes a clinical hypnotist can find out just what happened, then and perhaps in Gulf Breeze.

Author Predicts 'Next Wave' Will Summon UFOs

The man who first proposed Harmonic Convergence says another global New Age event is needed on Dec. 31, 1989, to push the planet into the next step — contact with super-intelligent space beings.

Jose Arguelles of Boulder, Colo., said in a news release that human beings must show up at 144 key sites around the world on that date and link their thoughts in a "harmonic grid" to signal a welcome to UFOs hovering invisibly in space.

"This is the only form of welcome that the UFOs will accept," he said. "Anything less than this would be tainted by individual, national or sectarian group interest and have no effect whatsoever."

"Properly done, the synchronized human harmonic

grid, in and of itself an unprecedented achievement, will signal the UFOs that an equally unprecedented global communication from them is welcome and needed."

Arguelles predicted the UFOs would respond in some magnificent way the next day, Jan. 1, 1990. That, he said, "would mark the beginning of a collective human mind-shift. This mind-shift, leading to a transformation of attitude, and consequently to a total transformation in our way of life, would prepare us by 1992-93 for the first official landings of galactic interdimensional technical assistance teams."

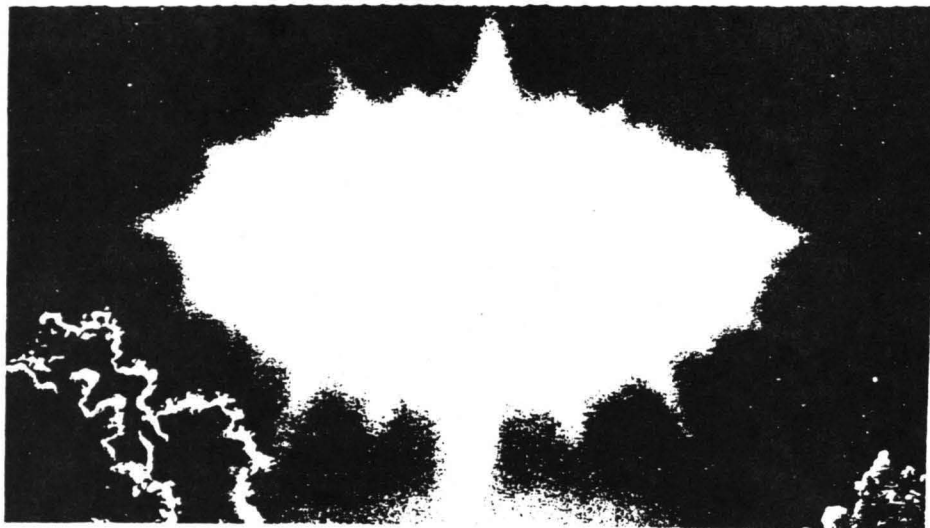
Contact with UFOs will ready the planet for what

Arguelles calls "the Next Wave." The purpose of that wave, he said, "is the restoration of human and natural harmony by A.D. 2012, when a cosmically conscious humanity will enter its next evolutionary stage."

Arguelles, who believes ancient Mayans were aliens who left behind instructions for contact with interstellar helpmates, said contact with the UFOs "is the 'Manhattan Project' of the human imagination. At this point, what do we have to lose by trying?"

The news release from Arguelles' publisher, Bear & Co. of Santa Fe, said the author describes the philosophy of the Next Wave in his new book — "Surfers of the Zuvuya: Tales of Interdimensional Travel."

BERKSHIRE EAGLE, Pittsfield, MA - June 19, 1988 CR: B. Greenwood



Those Flying Objects Are Still With Us

UFOs over Beartown Mountain?

By Derek Gentile

A few weeks ago, on May 5, Richard Wells of Pleasant Street in Lee was out for a walk, enjoying a fairly warm spring evening. Around 8:30, he noticed a flickering light to the southwest. Wells at first thought it was a star.

"But it was changing colors, green, blue, red," he said, "so I thought it was probably an airplane."

But if it was an airplane, it was a strange one, because it wasn't moving. Wells, who later confessed it had never entered his mind that the light in the sky might be something other than terrestrial, figured it was a hovering helicopter, although he knew helicopters do not hover in such a rigid pattern. Wells watched the light for what he estimates was 45 minutes. Around 9:15 p.m., the light moved away and vanished.

Wells was curious but not scared. He called the Pittsfield Airport, and the person there confirmed that no airplanes or helicopters were due in or out of the area that night. He also called a local radio station and *The Eagle*.

Wells then called the state police, who suggested he call the Mutual UFO Network, a loosely linked group of spotters who coordinate UFO, or Unidentified Flying Object, sightings from all over the country and collate them at a main office located in Texas.

Figuring a call couldn't hurt, Wells phoned the agency, which has offices in Boston and Columbia County. The agent for MUFON, Gary Levine of Kingston, N.Y., took Wells's statement. Levine, a professor of social sciences at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, N.Y., has been cataloging local sightings for several years. He told Wells to take a picture of the object if he saw it again.

Wells remembered. The next night, as he was sitting on his porch, the object appeared again. He snapped a few fuzzy shots with his small 110-millimeter camera.

A few days before that, Egremont Police Chief Michael Balcom received a telephone call from a woman who said she had seen a UFO over North Egremont. Balcom said the woman saw the object, which had bright lights, hovering over Boice Road.

Balcom and Levine examined the Boice Road area and came upon an interesting discovery — three patches of grass in a field off the road were

singed. The patches were triangular and equidistant. Levine said an examination of the ground at the site is still going on.

Balcom, who has been a police officer for 12 years and is acknowledged by his fellow officers as level-headed, conscientious and fair, admitted he had never seen anything like it.

"It's funny, because I never read science fiction or was even interested in it before this," Balcom admitted. "But in my opinion, something happened up there. I don't know how to explain it, but something was there."

Wells agreed.

"I don't know what to make of it," he said. "But I saw something, and it wasn't a plane."

By now, anyone who hasn't at least heard of Unidentified Flying Objects has probably been living on Mars. The term does not necessarily refer to extraterrestrial aircraft with alien beings piloting them. "UFO" is actually a military term that refers to any flying object detected by electronic or visual means that cannot be immediately explained. In its 20-year study of the phenomenon in the '40s, '50s and '60s, the U.S. Air Force charted tens of thousands of sightings and usually found a way to explain them — a flock of geese, unusual weather conditions,

weather balloons or some other ordinary interpretation.

There have been some sightings, however, that do not check out. These unexplained UFOs are not recent, either. They have been seen over most of the world for at least 25 centuries. In the Old Testament of the Bible, the Hebrew prophet Ezekiel (1:4, 10:10) describes the sighting of "a whirlwind [from] out of the north, a great cloud, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber."

Since Ezekiel's time, descriptions of these unexplained flying objects have changed considerably, but the aura of mystery has not. The United States became interested in the phenomenon on June 24, 1947, when a private pilot sighted nine brightly colored objects he described as "flying saucers" floating over Mount Rainier in Washington.

Later that year, the Air Force began the investigation eventually known as Project Blue Book, in which tens of thousands of sightings and eyewitness descriptions of flying objects between 1947 and 1969 were examined. According to the findings in Project Blue Book, which was only recently released for public consumption, only 646 of those sightings are still classified as unknown.

(continued on page 5)

The Air Force abandoned its study, according to public relations officer Frank Faulkner, "because the unidentified sightings were trailing off. In 1968 there were three sightings and in 1969 there was one. That's in the world."

Faulkner said the country's integrated radar system makes unexplained UFOs a rarity in the United States.

"Our radar systems overlap now," he said. "So they don't miss anything. Plus it's all on digital tape. If you call to report a sighting last Thursday at 6 p.m., we go to the tape and we can tell you it's a helicopter over Beartown Mountain, or a plane or Venus or whatever."

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Boston said, "The hue and cry over UFOs has pretty much died down. I'll give you an example: I get more calls from reporters wanting to know about UFOs than I get from people who report UFOs."

According to the findings in Project Blue Book, the official government stance is that few UFOs remain unexplained and those that are unexplained are not a threat to national security. But critics of the Air Force investigation note that its classification system during Project Blue Book was unscientific. The classification categories included, for example, "possible balloon, probable balloon, definite balloon," and "possible aircraft, probable aircraft, definite aircraft." As soon as an investigating officer could fit the incident into one of those slots, the investigation of that particular account would be officially terminated and listed as explainable.

French scientist Jacques Vallee, in his book "Challenge to Science," said, "With a classification system such as that, is it any wonder the Air Force has only a few sightings it cannot account for?"

But if the government's interest in UFOs is seemingly on the wane, the same cannot be said for the public. Books on UFOs still proliferate and a recent book by writer Whitley Strieber, "Communion," has been on *The New York Times*'s best-seller list for several months. The book is Strieber's personal account of what he says are meetings with alien beings.

"The [UFO] phenomena is real, believe me," said Levine, who has been an investigator for many years and has seen UFOs himself. "I think what has to happen is that more people with an academic background become involved. The media have a responsibility too. The government will react if enough people read about it in a newspaper."

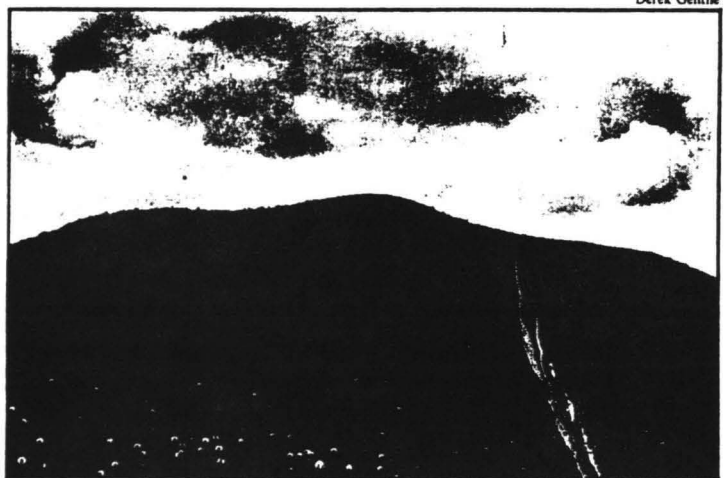
Levine pointed out that since the government discontinued its efforts, many UFO researchers are private citizens who are touched by the phenomenon themselves, like Strieber, who is a writer, not a scientist. One of the leading UFO researchers in the world is Budd Hopkins, a Cape Cod artist who became involved when a friend allegedly encountered a UFO.

For its part, the scientific community



Richard Wells

On May 5, Richard Wells of Lee noticed a flickering light of changing colors that hovered for about 45 minutes and disappeared. The next night the object returned, and Wells snapped the above photo. The unidentified flying object was spotted behind Beartown Mountain in Great Barrington, below.



Derek Gentile

is divided into camps who insist the sightings are all natural phenomena and a second group who believe there is something to the eyewitness accounts. Further muddying the waters are semi-religious, pseudo-scientific "saucer cults" — groups that believe aliens from Mars and Venus are now walking among us, usually on a messianic mission.

"It's a gray area," admitted Levine. "But the challenge is to evaluate the evidence that is presented and come up with an explanation that fits. Our network is also working on coordinating the sightings better."

Like the Air Force, MUFON is primarily interested in tabulating and explaining UFO sightings. The organization does not investigate every report with an on-site investigation, according to MUFON'S Massachusetts President Steve Firmani. Reports are assessed and about 95 percent of them are explainable immediately, he said. If the report

cannot be explained as a natural happening, a MUFON investigator will contact the individuals involved and conduct a face-to-face interview and collect any physical evidence they may have. If the second interview merits consideration, the investigator will file a full report with the regional office in Seguin, Texas, Firmani said.

In Berkshire County, sightings, or at least reports of sightings, have been scarce. In the past 30 years, only about 20 have surfaced in newspaper accounts. Sightings have been reported in Lee, Lenox, Pittsfield, Lanesboro, Cheshire and Canaan, Conn. This is an interesting point, because the Berkshires are in New England, one of the key corridors of UFO activity. It was in New Hampshire, for example, that the most famous UFO encounter to date occurred — the so-called "interrupted journey" of Betty and Barney Hill, a couple who were allegedly abducted in Exeter and taken aboard a spaceship.

The reason for so few reports may not be a lack of sightings, according to Levine, but a lack of coordination between government and private organizations. Reports funneled to local police, newspapers or radio stations are not automatically checked out, he said.

Firmani added that reluctance to report "flying saucers" is still a problem as well. Even though UFO sightings do not trigger fears of a communist invasion any longer (as they did in the '50s and '60s), many people are still reluctant to talk about them.

"There's still a reticence," Firmani said. "Witnesses fear ridicule. But our point is, if people see something that's so important that it bothers them, they should call or write us."

"I was pretty excited after the first sighting," admitted Wells, "but when I told a few friends, it got to be kind of a joke with them, you know, 'Hey, how's your flying saucer?' so I kind of let it ride after a while."

"Some people don't like to let you think they're involved with this kind of thing," Balcom said.

"I was a non-believer," said Harold I. Munson of Dalton. "I used to pooh-pooh all those people who said they saw things."

That was until 1973, when Munson, a former compositor for *The Eagle*, was involved in one of the more frightening UFO encounters. He was driving on Route 7 in Stockbridge at about 9 p.m. that night when he noticed his car was being paced by a luminous light. He sped up. The light sped up. He slowed down. The light slowed down.

"It kept coming closer and closer, so I got the car up to about 60 and it stayed right with me," Munson recalled.

As Munson's car topped Mellon's Hill, he could see the headlights from several cars coming toward him. Suddenly, his mysterious pursuer shot away into the night.

"I mean that thing took off like you wouldn't believe," said Munson. "It wasn't a matter of a couple of seconds; it was like one second and it was just gone."

Munson said he thinks the automobiles coming the other way "startled" the UFO.

"That hill is pretty steep," he recalled. "And that darn thing was so low, I don't think it could see the lights until we topped the hill."

Munson described the object as "a kind of cylindrical-shaped thing; the only way I can describe it is like two dinner plates put together."

Munson said that at first it did not dawn on him that he was being pursued by a "real" UFO.

"I thought those kinds of things were the product of somebody's imagination," he said. "Not any more, though. I'm a believer." □

Derek Gentile reports on South County for *The Eagle*.

An Interview.....

Dr. Bruce Maccabee

Chairman of the Fund for UFO Research

Sentinel: As the first--and probably the most recognized--scientist who has studied our UFO cases, have the events in Gulf Breeze had any effect on your life and your attitude toward the UFO subject?

Maccabee: There has been a time impact on my life as a result of all the investigation and analysis I have done. I have spent at least several weeks investigating the case. My attitude toward UFOs was pretty well formed beforehand--mainly, that there has been something unusual flying around for about 40 years. The information which I've obtained from the investigation of Ed's sightings in particular has, I believe, increased our knowledge of "them." I think that

"they" made some mistakes in trying to abduct Ed--but they kept on trying, as it were. Such a thing seems to be unprecedented in UFO history. Of course, the pictures provide the most obvious evidence from his sightings, and they appear to show details of some sort of craft. The photographs will be studied by numerous people from now on.

Sentinel: Has your involvement in investigating UFOS had any impact on your employment as a civilian in a military agency?

Maccabee: No. I work for the Navy, but I have never received either condemnation or compliments from Navy officials.

Sentinel: I know from your

research that you can't say definitely that the objects sighted in Gulf Breeze are extraterrestrial spacecraft. Can you say unequivocally that the objects sighted are not a hoax?

Maccabee: I think you could put a probability of 99.9 percent that it is not a hoax. This leaves a margin for some incredible revelation and perhaps is consistent with the fact that nothing on earth is certain anyway.

Sentinel: As the editor of the *Sentinel*, I'm satisfied that the Gulf Breeze UFOs are not the product of a hoax, but there remains the slim possibility that they are some kind of secret experimental craft our government hasn't told us about.

What do you think of that possibility?

Maccabee: I think that it's not a secret government craft. If it were, it wouldn't be tested over civilian areas. Furthermore, if we have craft like this, which can perform all sorts of maneuvers, including apparently nearly instantaneous disappearance, then why spend billions of dollars on stealth aircraft which anybody can see? If these are government craft, then the test pilots they are using are midgets with big eyes, which I doubt.

Sentinel: How do you feel about the NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" program (if you have seen it), its completeness and accuracy?

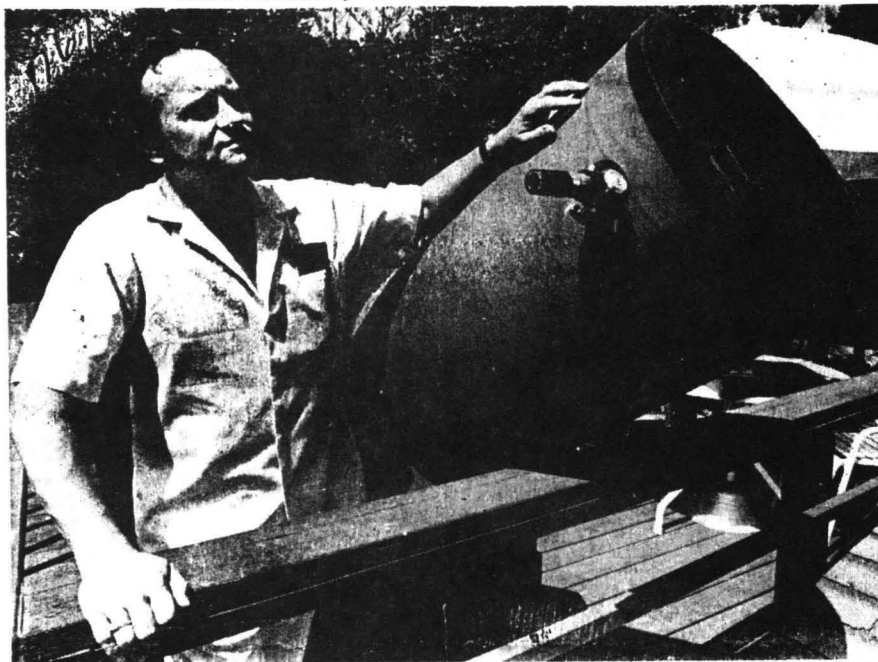
Maccabee: I haven't seen it, so

I really can't answer that. I'm looking forward to seeing it.

Sentinel: Are you involved in the October 14th program which will mention the Gulf Breeze sightings but which will focus on the alleged government coverup of UFO information? Do you think their suggestions of an international government coverup are valid?

Maccabee: I will be one of the people discussing the Gulf Breeze sightings on the program. Whether it is a de facto coverup or an orchestrated coverup, I can't be sure.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL
Oct. 6, 1988 CR: R. Reid



Fred Steckling says his observations of the moon prove there are objects there.

Vista telescope buff says he sees objects on the moon

By Joe Tash
Times-Advocate Staff Writer

VISTA — As Fred Steckling, his wife and son were leaving a Washington, D.C., department store one afternoon in 1963, they looked up and saw it hovering silently above the busy street.

"I noticed a strange object looking like a bell or a (dinner) plate cover" hovering about 1,500 feet above the ground, said Steckling. "It was clearly visible and quite distinctive."

A newspaper — the *Washington Daily News* — wrote a story about the object, which several people reported seeing, said Steckling. But inquiries to authorities came up dry and left him thirsting for knowledge about such occurrences.

Thus began Steckling's obsession with unidentified flying objects, or UFOs. The 52-year-old Vista resident has since traveled around the world to share or gain knowledge on the subject. He started a publishing company and has written a book about outer-space aliens on the moon.

Called "We Discovered Alien Bases On The Moon," Steckling's book was published in 1981. Some 4,000 copies have been printed, and Steckling is working on a new chapter to be added to the next edition.

Steckling said his search for information led him to a friendship with George Adamski, a North County resident who wrote, lectured and theorized about extra-terrestrial visitors. Adamski, who died in 1965, had established homesteads with his followers in both Valley Center and on Palomar Mountain.

Both Steckling and his wife, Ingrid, are German natives who came to the United States in 1957. The couple has two children and moved to Vista in 1972. Steckling works as a food service supervisor in a hotel, and flies small planes for relaxation.

On his living room wall is a wood-framed, back-lighted photograph of the Milky Way, which Steckling said he uses to demonstrate how vast the universe is and how likely it is there are other civilizations in it.

Outside, through a lushly landscaped back yard and up a flight of stairs to a roof-top deck, is the focal point of Steckling's passion: a 6-foot-tall telescope with a 17½-inch-diameter reflecting mirror.

Steckling got his first telescope in 1969, and his fascination with the moon began a year later when he and his son, 29-year-old Glenn, saw three "cigar-shaped" objects on the floor of the moon's Archimedes Crater. Based on the crater's size, he said, the objects were 20 miles long.

Glenn is also a pilot, who works as a flight instructor and charter pilot for a company based at Palomar Airport.

Glenn said he has sighted UFOs on a number of occasions, and has talked with pilots who saw things they couldn't explain. While scientists and aviators will discuss UFOs among themselves, they usually are reluctant to do so in public, he said.

"Occasionally, you'll find a few (scientists) that are very vocal and very supportive," he said. The general public is even more supportive, he said, noting a recent national magazine poll in which 70 percent of those responding said they believe intelligent life exists on planets other than Earth.

In photographs ordered from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Steckling said he found bridges and other structures on the moon, and discovered something about the satellite's nature.

"From my analysis," said Steckling, "I have discovered the moon is not a dead world as we've been told." Evidence exists that clouds, water, an atmosphere and even vegetation can be found there, he said.

But such information about the moon has been held back by government officials, NASA members and astronauts, said Steckling.

"They (astronauts) are high commissioned officers of the U.S. military that are trained in national security matters," said Steckling. "They are for that reason keeping silent about extra-terrestrial activity on the moon."

Steckling's observations about the moon were dismissed as "nonsense" by Jim Pesavento, an astronomy teacher at Palomar College for the past 13 years. In addition to teaching, Pesavento is director of the college planetarium.

"It's pretty much a very sterile, dry object," said Pesavento of the moon. Steckling's theories of a moon with water and vegetation are "definitely not based on any scientific investigation at all."

Although Steckling produced a 1971 *Los Angeles Times* article that reports two Texas scientists found water vapor on the moon, Pesavento said it may be that they found only isolated pockets. He said the scientific community in general does not believe the moon has an atmosphere or water.

As for UFOs, Pesavento said, people find it "uncomfortable" to think they are alone in a vast universe.

"The majority of people would like to believe there are extra-terrestrials, and they would like to believe we have been visited by extra-terrestrials," said Pesavento. But there is no scientific evidence to show other intelligent life exists, he said.

Scientists have not ruled out the possibility, he said, and are using advanced equipment to monitor more radio frequencies than ever before to try to find extra-terrestrials.

"We're certainly looking and listening," he said, "but we haven't heard anything yet."

The Stecklings disagreed.

"There's so much evidence of the fact that there are UFOs and extra-terrestrial visitations," Glenn said.

Steckling said publicity from his book has brought him thousands of letters, the vast majority supportive. He said he was invited to England in 1984 by a member of the House of Lords, where he spoke to 13 members of the parliamentary body in a private room.

His book was even forwarded by one of the members to Britain's Prince Phillip. Steckling proudly showed a visitor a brief, signed acknowledgment from the prince in an envelope postmarked "Buckingham Palace."

Only one letter, he said, has been negative. The writer, a man from the East Coast, was incensed that Steckling would accuse the government of holding back such important information.

In general, he said, the letters have praised him for doing a thorough job in his research.

"So far," said Steckling, "I have been fortunate that my book was sold to those interested in the subject."

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - June 23, 1988 CR: R. Reid

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR:

I was interested to see, in the May 21st issue, of the Pensacola News Journal, that noted UFO debunker Philip Klass has "solved" the mystery surrounding Mr. Ed's photos, a mystery that has "stumped the scholars," according to the article. And this he has done with exceedingly great certainty, assuming that "jillion" is a huge number. (When asked "Are these photos real," Mr. Klass answered "no way" and only "one in a jillion chance" that they are authentic.) Mr. Klass has attained this level of certainty without so much as one word with Ed or any of the other witnesses (Klass: I have not personally investigated...). Perhaps he is psychic! Since many other Gulf Breeze residents have reported similar events (including some other photos!), Klass has, by implication, said that there are numerous hoaxers in Gulf Breeze.

I, on the other hand, who have spent well over 100 hours studying the photos and various aspects of Ed's sightings and the sightings by others, would not be so bold as to claim that I have solved the mystery. I am certainly giving careful consideration to all the possibilities, including the possibility that Ed and the others have been lying. I have been quoted in the papers as saying that Ed's sightings are "impressive" and I have also said that if these photos are fakes then "they are elaborate, excellent fakes." That's not to say that they aren't fakes. In the New Journal article I was quoted as saying that there is a "good chance" they are real. This is not the same as saying that they are real, or that the probability of a hoax is "one chance in a jillion" (the counterpart of Klass' "one chance in a jillion" that they are).

In other words, after spending many hours of investigating and contemplating all the aspects of these sightings I have not yet reached a firm conclusion. It may not be possible for me to arrive at a firm conclusion: I don't know yet. However, I can find numerous aspects of these sightings which suggest they are real, just as I can find some aspects which point toward a hoax. Mr. Klass, on the other hand, evidently has, without so much as one hour of investigating, reached a firm conclusion. Perhaps he should now turn his talents to other pressing questions and provide for us equally positive answers (e.g., are black holes real? Will we find a cure for AIDS...or the common cold? Are the Russians ahead of us in space weaponry?).

Scientists generally proceed from a skeptical point of view whenever they are confronted with something that is not consistent with what is already known. This is scientific skepticism, which is skeptical of both claims and counter-claims. Mr. Klass is a member of a national group of people who claim to be scientific skeptics, but he is not a scientist (as his claim of certainty in the present situation indicates). His great degree of certainty indicates that, instead, Mr. Klass is a man of great faith. Mr. Klass believes that, in spite of over 50 reports of sightings in the Gulf Breeze area in the last five months other than Ed's sightings, and in spite of tens of thousands of reports of sightings from all over the world over the last forty years, there is no chance that UFOs are truly unidentifiable (e.g., are alien craft). (According to Mr. Klass all reports are misidentifications or hoaxes).

Mr. Klass and other UFO debunkers often refer to people who investigate UFO sightings as "believers." I guess we know who the "true believer" is now!

Dr. Bruce Maccabee

'Lights' reported in Byram skies

By MATTHEW GRECO
Staff Writer

BYRAM — Did anyone see those lights "like stars, shooting up" Monday night?

That's the question a township man is asking after he reported a UFO sighting from his Lee Hill Road home.

"They looked like stars, large stars but closer. There were eight to 10 lights and they were in formation coming from right to left. Then they shot up in formation. They did it five or six times. They kept doing it until they finally disappeared," said Robert Pinsky.

"I've never seen anything so fast," said Pinsky, 49, a New York City union sheet metal worker.

IN ADDITION to the lights, which were toward the east in the direction of Sparta Mountain, Pinsky reported seeing toward the north a pinkish cloud that had a white pulsating light inside it.

The episode lasted about 10 minutes and occurred about 10 p.m., said Pinsky. It happened so quickly he was unable to focus a picture-taking telescope he owns on the phenomenon.

Byram Police Sgt. John Gutwerk said police received Pinsky's call and filed a report, but "there's not much we really can do."

Gutwerk said there were no other reports of a similar nature. Once in a great while police do receive reports of UFOs, he said.

Pinsky said the sky Monday was exceptionally clear and the National Weather Service in Newark backed up that observation. Meteorologist Walter Zamorski said the sky was "mostly clear" Monday night, and "the weather" was favorable for watching UFOs...

AN EMPLOYEE at Morristown Airport said there were no reports of UFOs there Monday night, although the airport does occasionally get such reports.

Pinsky said the lights came in the general direction of Picatinny Arsenal, but they were moving much too fast for even a jet. A spokesman at the arsenal said the N.J. National Guard sometimes flies helicopters out of the arsenal at night, but he could not confirm if any flew out Monday.

Pinsky acknowledged some interest in UFOs and said he does believe in them, but he added, "I have an imagination, but I know the difference between fantasy and reality."

And he said his wife also saw the lights.

Down the road a bit in another part of the township, resident Bob Jones, founder and president of Vestigia, an organization devoted to bringing the mystery of unexplained phenomenon down to earth, said he doesn't deny the possibility that Pinsky saw what he says he did.

"It's interesting," Jones said of Pinsky's report, saying the sighting of the cloud is similar to other reported UFO sightings, although "the cloud is not usually pink." But he said there is little that can be done in terms of an investigation.

It would be better if there were several sightings so all the viewings could be investigated independently, said Jones. But even at that, if everyone agreed on what they saw Vestigia might come to a standstill with another unexplained sighting.

N.J. HERALD, Newton, NJ - Aug. 17, 1988



UFOs: Fact or fiction?

Hob Wilson, a longtime resident of Elmwood, Wis., recalls many UFO sightings by residents over the last 20 years — including two of his own. (Gazette photo by Dawn M. Aerts.)



By RICK MURRAY

Is that thing a UFO, or the USAF?

On the night of Aug. 21, this observer saw his first UFO. It probably would have been an impressive sight, if only the thing had hung around long enough.

But as it was, the UFO moved in and out of view so rapidly, the mind hardly had a chance to fight off the imagination. Sometimes, as we all know, slivers of reality can be particularly elusive if they come at us too hard, fast and weird.

Your reporter's best recollection is that it was a metallic dart of an object. It was riding high enough to where your eyes could only track it if the curve of your skull was braced hard against the back of your collar.

There was a steady light in the front — can't remember what color — and you could tell something intelligent was directing the object because it didn't arc and fade in the haphazard way of a shooting star or meteorite.

At one point, the UFO released a big puff of exhaust that either glowed on its own or did so after getting caught in a wider-than-usual moon beam. Its line of travel was straight and horizontal and deliberate, cutting through a world's worth of sky in a fraction of a second.

A colleague here at the paper says the UFO was probably the Concorde. Sounds good, except that Federal Aviation Administration officials report that nothing unusual showed up on their local radar that night. Not a Concorde. Not a wayward piece of NASA hardware. Nothing.

There's a network of UFO buffs whose spokesman claims to have received plenty of calls on this latest sighting from as far north as Vermont and as far south as Maryland. The callers all describe the phenomenon much the same way.

Most likely, nobody's ever going to know for sure what that thing was, but for the benefit of those who care, here's some food for thought:

It comes compliments of a quiet, sober gentleman of advanced middle-age, who never hurt anybody, and, so far as anybody knows, never told a lie. He's my dad.

This was maybe 20 years ago and he was on his way home to Camden from Toms River. The moon was full and his route of travel, Route 70, was and remains surrounded by dense pine forest. For most of the way, the highway was empty of any other traffic but dad's old Ford Falcon.

Don't remember where he was coming from that night, but wherever it was, there'd been no hard liquor and no funny business.

"Suddenly, there it was," he recalls even to this day. "A flying saucer. It was hovering just above the treeline. I could even make out heads through the saucer's portals."

He screeched to a halt, and after a few minutes, another passing car did the same.

"This other driver was hysterical when he saw it," he says.

(continued on page 8)

While most sightings are unfounded, others remain a mystery

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the conclusion of a three-part series on the phenomena of unidentified flying objects and how UFOs have affected the town of Elmwood, Wis.)

By DAWN M. AERTS
Staff Writer

Since 1947, reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have become increasingly prominent in the United States and most other parts of the world.

Though UFO reports differ in many details, there are a number of similarities that recur in such features as shape, maneuverability, appearance, disappearance, sound and color. Professionals involved with research and investigation into UFO sightings explain that there are several basic observational categories into which sightings may be classified.

According to studies conducted by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) based in Evanston, Ill., the majority of sightings are reported to the agency by a broad spectrum of the public, sometimes through law enforcement agencies. In fact, police and military personnel are often witnesses themselves.

Studies show that a majority of sightings generally prove to be a misinterpretation of natural phenomena: meteors, planets and stars, odd cloud formations or man-made satellites. These are referred to as identified flying objects or IFOs.

However, in any given number of UFO reports, about five to 10 percent are truly puzzling — not only to the witnesses, but also to those investigating the reports and studying the data. There are several basic observational categories into which sightings are classified: distant sightings (more than 200 feet away) or relatively close sightings and encounters (within 200 feet).

In distant sightings, the largest group of UFO reports involves the observation of well-defined lights in the night sky, whose appearance and/or motion are not explainable in terms of conventional light — the lights appear most often as red, blue, orange or white.

Other distant-sighting categories are the daylight discs — generally oval or disc-shaped, and metallic in appearance. They can appear high in the sky or close to the ground. These are often reported to hover and can seem to disappear with astounding speed.

Of special significance are unidentified "blips" on the radar screens that occasionally coincide with and confirm simultaneous visual sightings by the same or other witnesses.

In relatively close sightings, the categories range from Close Encounters of the First Kind (CEI) — where witness observes a UFO nearby, but there is no interaction with either the witness or the environment — to Close Encounters of the Second Kind (CEII) — where details are provided about the interaction between the UFO and the environment which may vary from interference with car ignition systems and electronic gear to imprints or burns on the ground.

The last category, Close Encounters of the Third Kind (CEIII), involves sighting the occupants of a UFO. According to documented reports, there is usually no direct contact or communication, but in recent years, reports of incidents involving very close contact, even detainment of witnesses, have increased.

Much of the continued investigation into

UFO reports is conducted by the Center for UFO Studies. The organization, founded in 1973 by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a one-time scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force and an authority on UFO phenomena, established the center to examine and analyze reported sightings and to serve as a clearinghouse for UFO information.

Hynek was the first speaker to present testimony at the 1968 hearing on UFOs held by the House Committee on Science and Astronautics; he later appeared before the United Nations to support the proposed establishment of an international agency to conduct and coordinate research into UFOs and related phenomena.

According to Donald Schmitt, co-director and spokesperson for the Center for UFO Studies, Hynek, an astronomer, was an early investigator with the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book. The Air Force was involved in screening and investigating UFO sightings up until 1966, when the government contracted a study called Project Blue Book from the University of Colorado.

Schmitt explains that the bottom line of the report was that UFOs did not originate from other civilizations — that there were explanations for all of these sightings.

Schmitt, who has conducted more than 200 on-site investigations of UFO reports, believes that about 90 percent of all reports can be explained, but he is convinced that the remainder defy logical explanation.

And according to data obtained through the federal Freedom of Information Act, Schmitt says the Air Force continues to "seriously" investigate UFO phenomena.

In his investigations, Schmitt has found that the most reliable proof is physical evidence where individuals have either had a close encounter with a UFO or have reported an abduction. Physical effects of close encounters have included burns, conjunctivitis, radiation sickness, nausea and temporary blindness.

According to Schmitt, abductions have been recurrently reported in Wisconsin: six cases have been investigated, and 10 more are pending. There are more than 50,000 cases of UFO sightings and experiences on file at the Center for UFO Studies — and between 30 and 50 UFO reports have come from a little town situated along the southwestern fringe of Wisconsin, called Elmwood.

* * * *

Not since the Steven Spielberg movies *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *E.T.* were released has so much attention been given to the possibility of extraterrestrials and UFOs.

But some Elmwood, Wis., residents have decided to go on the record with their reports of UFOs.

It's estimated that over the last two decades, the townspeople have seen anywhere from 30 to 50 strange-looking objects in the sky, and they've decided to speak out about it. Through the years, a series of "flaps" have taken place within Pierce County, and reports have continued to filter through, from Plum City and Ellsworth in the south to Elmwood and Spring Valley to the north.

When you enter the village of Elmwood, it looks like any other small rural town you might run across in the Midwest — a few blocks of business district with a sprinkling of hole-in-the-wall taverns. It won't take long to find your way around in Elmwood.

Hob Wilson says he has lived here since

1914. His only time away from Elmwood came during 44 months of active-duty Army life during World War I. He says that he was glad to come back home. When you drive into Elmwood on Wisconsin Highway 128 from the west, you'll recognize Hob's place — it's the one across the street from the biggest gas station in town and a stone's throw from the grocery store on the corner.

Proud of his garden and his ability to grow some of the largest turnips this side of the border, Hob spends much of his time weeding and planting these days. Today, he's picked a fresh bunch of rhubarb and cleans it in the water bucket kept out front.

He says the town hasn't grown much at all over the years. But he's noticed a lot more activity in town since news was released about the UFO sightings and how the town may be the site for a proposed UFO landing strip. He talks about Elmwood's UFO Days held last year and says he shudders to think about how much traffic will come in this year.

From underneath his worn straw hat and the big oak tree in his front yard, Hob recalls all of the comings and goings last year. He estimates that about 4,000 people showed up for the event, which kept him busy picking up hamburger wrappers and pop cans for days.

There have been a lot of out-of-town visitors showing up lately, too. A few weeks ago, three men dressed in business suits approached him while he was cleaning those huge turnips, and one introduced himself as Dan Rather from CBS News. Hob says the crew, which arrived by helicopter, spent about three days taping and talking to Elmwood residents. He admits that it caused a bit of a stir in town.

Other than a handful of media people who stop in town to chat with locals, Hob says he hasn't seen so much excitement since his own UFO sighting in about 1972-74.

"Nobody paid much attention to UFOs back then," said Hob of the sightings. "They'd think you're crazy if you talked about something like that. But it's not that way anymore. I think more and more people are coming out about it."

According to Hob, he, too, has a UFO story to tell. He says he used to work at the nearby Spring Valley dam. When it was first built, it was Hob who greased the machinery and kept things running. He saw two UFOs in the same night and says he was less than 200 feet away from them.

"Nobody paid much attention to those sightings back then," said Hob. "I didn't want to call in about it, so I more or less kept it to myself."

Hob says he expects the worst during UFO Days this year, so many people are interested in the UFO sightings. He's heard that rooms are already filled up in neighboring towns like Menomonie.

"It gives you an eerie feeling when you see something like that," says Hob as he continues to rinse and clean a handful of rhubarb. "There's something going on out there... and more people are willing to talk about it."

(continued from page 7 -
PRESS, Atlantic City, NJ
- Aug. 29, 1988)

"Then, out of nowhere, these Air Force guys came in jeeps. There was a bunch of 'em. The guy was babbling by this time, but I just played it cool."

The Air Force officers told my father that what he'd seen was a figment of his imagination.

Dad sized them up. He saw the guns, the official posturing, and now, instead of a UFO, he was seeing handwriting on a wall. And this handwriting was telling him that, sure enough, he hadn't seen a damn thing. The smart move, he knew, was to shrug sheepishly and just slink out of there. Which is what he did.

"The other guy, he just kept screaming," he says, shaking his head. "They put him in a jeep and took him away."

Before you write this off as just another crank's yarn, understand that the heads my father saw through the portals were human. And along the craft's fuselage, in bold print, were the letters USAF.

GAZETTE PACKET,

Alexandria, VA - Sept.
16, 1988 CR: L. Bryant

Whistling on UFOs

Word has reached the UFO-research community that a special TV documentary program will air, "live," in nationally syndicated form on Oct. 14, from 8 to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Will this be just another superficial rehash of the available literature and personalities surrounding the UFO problem, or will the show's producers insist on asking the right questions of the right people?

What may help them take the latter approach consists of certain "leaked" evidence of the government's behind-the-scenes UFO activity. That evidence, which most researchers view as the tip of the iceberg, has been slow in coming — partly because of the traditionally taboo nature of UFO research in the eyes of the news media, orthodox science, and Congress.

Now, thanks to the persistence and productive results of researchers world-wide, the taboo is yielding to a new sense of awareness and inquisitiveness among the general public. And the media, especially those in radio and television, are trying to catch up. Their eyes and ears are opening to the prospect that the government has been less than completely truthful as regards its vast storehouse of UFO-related information and artifacts.

Of course, arriving at the full truth will take more than one or two TV documentary stabs-in-the-dark.

Assuming the show's producers are prepared to shield the whistle-blowers' identities with the electronic voice-and-face disguises customary in such cases, here's the chance of a lifetime for the whistle-blowers to unburden themselves publicly. In so doing, they not only will have assuaged their collective conscience; they also will have escalated an awesome political secret to the level of national priority for resolution — right at the height of our presidential election process.

— Larry W. Bryant

SUNDAY EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio, TX - Sept. 25, 1988 CR: A. Huron

If you liked 'Communion,' get set for *real* adventure

Transformation

By Whitley Strieber
Beech Tree/Morrow, \$18.95
Reviewed by Ed Conroy

Whitley Strieber is a changed man, "transformed," if you will.

In "Communion," his best-selling non-fiction account of a series of extraordinary experiences and childhood memories, the author of "The Wolfen" and "Warday" wondered whether he had been abducted by entities from UFOs.

With the release of "Transformation: The Breakthrough," his sequel to that long query, Strieber reaches a striking conclusion: He must deal with his "visitors" as if they were real, and overcome his fears of them.

Real nightmares

As he puts it, "They took me into the red terror of death; they made me face even my most suppressed dread . . . Whatever sin was hidden, it ended up wet and wriggling in my hands. Whatever dread was suppressed, it came snarling forth demanding to be confronted."

Strieber also sets down a chronicle of the process he has undergone since the publication of "Communion," investigating his past for signs of previous non-human contact, clarifying mistakes he believes he made in the interpretations he gave some events, confronting the claim from UFO researcher Bill Moore that the U.S. government has long held at least one crashed disc and four "alien" bodies in storage (from what is known as "the Roswell incident").

Fear hits home

There is a very human dimension here, too, in that Strieber describes the apparent "abduction" of his own son by the "visitors" with a degree of detail and terror that makes it sound convincingly real.

"Transformation" is the story of a journey into a strange land, indeed. Clearly, it is a story that will provoke much the same spectrum of response as "Communion": from fascination to horror, outright acceptance to outraged denial — and perhaps some intelligent, balanced inquiry.

That range is certainly understandable. Strieber's story strongly challenges most of our fondest suppositions about the nature of reality and the world in which we live — and we tend to respond to such challenges by attacking the credibility of the messenger who bears us news we would prefer not to hear, or distorting his message as we tell it to others.



"They took me into the red terror of death; they made me face even my most suppressed dread. Whatever sin was hidden, it ended up wet and wriggling in my hands. Whatever dread was suppressed, it came snarling forth demanding to be confronted."

— Whitley Strieber

Strieber's story might remind us that some of history's most remarkable visionaries (e.g., Joan of Arc) have been condemned to burn at the stake.

Selling the unknown

While a significant segment of the educated reading public may indeed feel outraged that a story of the sort usually reserved for the tabloid press is being told by an educated man of Strieber's national stature, the fact remains that the general reading public is hungry for this story. "Communion" sold over 230,000 copies in hardback, and "Transformation" has already climbed to seventh place on the New York Times Book Review's best-seller list, only one month after its release. What's going on?

My own response to "Communion" is chronicled in "Transformation." As a result of an interview I conducted with Strieber in April of last year, I embarked on an extensive investigation of the man and his work.

Having obtained what appear to be some remarkable, independent confirmations of Strieber's stories of childhood "visitor experiences," I gave portions of that information to Strieber for his own use. They point to a very unusual childhood in Terrell Hills.

San Antonio readers may be particularly intrigued by Strieber's account in "Transformation" of his recurring "dark neighborhood" dream, a sequence in which he as a boy "flies" on his bicycle down Elizabeth Road, across Broadway and deep

into the night in Olmos Basin for a rendezvous with — something.

There is clearly a poetic quality to Strieber's writing here that instantly evokes a sense of exhilaration and mystery. It is not the sort of style, however, which would convince persons desiring more documentation and facts to fully accept his claims.

Yet Strieber does deliver some very specific and extraordinary anecdotes from others who were in the neighborhood at that time, people who may be regarded as very credible witnesses.

"Transformation," however, is not a book intended to convince the skeptics, but rather a work which purports to offer some guidance to people trying to understand the confusing morass of public information (and perhaps "disinformation") about UFOs and their "occupants."

It's all subjective

Does it succeed in doing so? It does, in the sense that Strieber's personal account of contacts with "visitors" appears to be striking a resonating chord among people who say they have had the same experiences, but long felt too afraid to discuss them in public.

Yet for the general reader who has never had a "visitor experience," the book offers an intelligent introduction to the panoply of psychological and physical phenomena, historical anecdotes and speculation associated with UFOs.

There is material in the book at which historical or linguistic experts may scoff, such as Strieber's interpretations of the strange events associated with the "Blessed Virgin Mary" which occurred at Fatima, Portugal, or his observation that some aspects of language employed by the "visitors" bear striking similarities to Gaelic.

Then, too, there are Strieber's account of his "out-of-body experience," and his vision of "the golden city," a kind of heaven, "a place," to quote Strieber, "where the truth is known." As with so much in the book, either one has a personal basis for relating to these experiences, or one does not. Perhaps part of the book's appeal lies in its implication that if these things happened to Strieber, then they may happen to anyone, indeed to everyone.

He'll take the heat

Still, it is clear from his tone that Strieber is aware that while some will think he has gone off the deep end, he is willing to take that risk. He may take the reader by surprise, in fact, by suggesting that the "visitors" and UFO phenomena are directly linked not so much to our life as human personalities, but to our spiritual life as souls.

Strieber's odyssey through fears that the "visitors" were somehow predatory could well be considered a modern account of a "dark night of the soul," as we understand it from the poems of St. John of the Cross.

It could also be compared to the "Relation" of Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, the would-be Spanish conquistador who, shipwrecked on the Texas coast, survived encounters with hostile Indians to trek across the continent until he reached a Spanish settlement in Mexico. His "incredible" account of his journey, full of such "paranormal" events as faith healing, made a sensation in 16th century Spain.

Cabeza de Vaca's story of new peoples, new lands and untold wealth spurred Spanish exploration of Texas — with results we are all in a position to appreciate. Will Strieber's stories of his visits to a "golden city" and encounters with extraordinary beings inspire similarly profitable adventures into other, as-yet unexplored worlds?

Only time will tell.

Ed Conroy is an arts critic and columnist for the Express-News whose book, "Report on Communion: An Independent Investigation of Whitley Strieber's 'Visitor Experiences,'" will be published in the spring of 1989 by Morrow.

N.J. HERALD, Newton, NJ - Aug. 22, 1988

More lights reported in sky

Moving lights in the sky were reported for the second time in a week by several Sussex County residents Sunday night.

Yellow lights zigzagged across the sky at dusk, said a woman who had observed the phenomena from a home in Lafayette.

"They were zigzagging, then they became stationary in a yellow circle of light following a trail of sparks," said Stella Taylor, adding that the entire spectacle was about the size of the moon.

"The fascinating thing was that there was a rain of light from the left side, like a ball with fireworks coming from it," Taylor said. "Then it became stationary for a while and then the lights gradually faded and vanished."

Taylor, a freelance journalist from England who was visiting cousins in the township, said the lights had been moving very quickly and were extremely high in the sky.

"After the lights faded, a plane

passed by and the lights had been a good deal higher than the plane," she said.

TAYLOR SAID SHE watched the lights for a few minutes with about eight of her relatives, including Geoffrey Robbins, who she was staying with on Slate Quarry Road.

The lights looked like they could have been an explosion in the sky, like a satellite exploding, and moved from west to east, Taylor said. She said the sky was greenish at the time.

Three residents, from Sparta, Lafayette and Queens, N.Y., reported moving lights in the sky to CBS-TV News in New York City Sunday night, a CBS employee said.

Hardyston police said they had received a report from a resident who had seen moving lights in the sky. However, details were unavailable.

Later Sunday night, at about 11:45 p.m., a Newton resident had called Newton police to report moving lights that had been in the sky for about an hour.

Other police departments said they had no calls of similar observations.

WEATHER WATCHERS also had no information on the lights and said there were no storms reported anywhere in the area. Storms, even distant ones, can sometimes create certain light patterns.

John Bowen, president of the North Jersey Weather Observers, said he had no information on lights in the sky Sunday night.

However, he said, there are at least thousands of satellites in the sky that do sometimes come down.

"They come down and break up and as that happens, you can get all kinds of displays," he said, ad-

dumming the satellites could look like numerous meteorites.

Bowen, who lives in Rivervale in Bergen County, is president of an organization that consists of weather watchers in the northern section of the state.

About 25 residents in the New Jersey-New York area reported to media last Monday night that they had seen moving lights in the sky.

Weather officials said the lights were caused by an atmospheric disturbance from a storm off the New Jersey coast moving in a southeast direction from the coast.

Some observers said the light was static, with others reporting it moving up and down, like lightning moving from the ground to the sky.

National Weather Service meteorologist Walter Zamorski in Newark said clouds in storms can sometimes cause the light from lightning to reflect, causing it to "bounce" downward.

Aug. 8, 1988

UFO expert: Object sightings not just flights of fancy

By ELLEN BARRETT
News-Press Staff Writer

The UFO phenomena circulated around Southwest Florida Sunday, gathering facts and followers at the Lee County Nature Center.

Everett Walter, assistant state director for Mutual UFO Network Inc., told about 100 people that about 1 million sightings have been reported since 1947. Eighty percent can be explained and identified.

"What about the unexplained 20 percent?"

"They don't have answers. They defy

explanation by experts of the evidence left behind," Walter said.

Skeptics would be wasting their time trying to convince Walter that he's seeing things. "We're not arguing whether they exist or not. That's ancient history. There are UFOs, and they do exist. ... If you want to make fun of the subject, I'm not interested in talking to you," he said Sunday.

The evidence, say the believers, includes radar or sonar detection, photographs, broken trees, scorched grass and radioactive remains.

The ruckus about objects in the sky began

with the first sighting 42 years ago in Roswell, N.M. Walter showed a 15-minute film, produced by Home Box Office, about the first sighting.

Debris was discovered on a ranch, and the owner was sworn to secrecy by the U.S. Air Force. Investigators said the burn-like remains couldn't be cut, didn't burn and were weightless. But the UFO probe was squashed when Uncle Sam said the remains were those of a weather balloon.

Candy Burgess of Fort Myers brought her two small children to hear about the unexplained subject.

"I definitely think there's been secrecy by the government and Air Force. However, a lot of this stuff (in the film) was dated and nothing was current," she said.

Even though the federal government was light-lipped about the Roswell incident, speculation about the unidentified flying objects opened wide.

Recently, in Fort Walton Beach, 46 witnesses observed three interesting objects.

"It's the biggest thing to hit the UFO phenomena, or the greatest hoax. We don't know yet, we're still investigating," Walter said.

quoted in newspaper reports, while other experts jumped to conclusions before they had all the evidence in hand.

One expert, Dr. Robert Nathan, a good friend of Maccabee's, despite newspaper reports to the contrary, "did not conclusively state that the pictures are a hoax," according to Maccabee.

Maccabee wrote that an expert told him he was "terribly" misquoted in a Northwest Florida (Playground Daily News) story about a "dispute" over the authenticity of the photos between the expert and Maccabee.

Maccabee notes in his conclusion that Ed subjected himself to a lie detector test and wonders what the same skeptics that wrote the lie detector off as unimportant would say if "Ed" failed the test.

UFOlogist Ray Stanford, quoted in the News Journal as saying he believed the photos were a hoax, "and if I'm wrong, I will completely resign from the field," later admitted bad information led him to call the photo sightings a hoax, Maccabee wrote.

Even GB Mayor Ed Gray III was mentioned in the report.

Maccabee wrote that Gray, who told Channel 3 and the News Journal the UFO pictures were a hoax, later called "Ed" and told him he made the statement because he wanted to end the UFO sightings, which he thought were giving Gulf Breeze a bad name and decreasing the tourist trade.

Another skeptic told Maccabee that "Ed" would never send photos taken with a dual camera set up to measure distance because he couldn't fake the pictures.

When "Ed" did send the photos, "the investigator argued that Ed had figured out how to make a nearby model seem distant. This he said without any proof that Ed had the slightest idea of how to defeat the camera," according to Maccabee.

"If hard evidence of a hoax turns up, it will be reported by MUFON and the Fund (for UFO Research)," Maccabee concludes. "Lacking that, one should keep his mind open about the Gulf Breeze flap because as yet there is no conclusion."

Walter Andrus, the international director for MUFON and a strong supporter of "Ed's" sightings from the beginning, also considers the investigation ongoing.

In a letter accompanying Maccabee's report, he wrote, "it is conceivable that you may have participated in one of the most important UFO cases in the past 40 years. Time and continued investigation and research will decide the validity of this prediction."

horses acted "spooky" around midnight, and were still acting odd the next morning.

Another neighbor further west reported that his dogs "...threw a fit, like they were scared to death. They will bark and howl when they hear coyotes, but they were carrying on so much that it woke me up about 11:15."

Another resident approximately two miles southeast of the location reported seeing a glowing object crossing the sky around midnight, but when she awakened her husband, the object was gone and he thought she had been dreaming.

The lawman also reported strange behavior in wild animals near the scene of the sighting.

"I saw several skunks and owls, and many more rabbits in the road than you usually see at night," he said.

"None of them would run back in the brush when I approached them. One small pack of coyotes ran a few yards when I 'shooed' them, but they stopped and wouldn't leave the road."

A city official stated that his daughter, who lives in the Dallas area, heard radio reports that Dallas police units were chasing "lights in the sky" in the predawn hours Monday.

UFO expert finds no evidence that photos a hoax

BY FRAN THOMPSON

UFO expert Dr. Bruce Maccabee wrote that there was a record setting chill in the Capital air on Wednesday, November 11, 1987, the day the first set of the now famous Gulf Breeze UFO pictures was taken.

Many people wished they could leave D.C. for Florida where it was warmer. And nowhere in Florida was it warmer, UFOwise, than Gulf Breeze, he continued.

So begins a paper Maccabee will present at the Mutual UFO Network International UFO Symposium at the University of Nebraska Saturday.

Copies of the paper were sent to the Sentinel, the News Journal and Channel 3 earlier this week. But highlights from it will not be released to the national media until tomorrow.

It is 90 pages long, this paper. It's more like a book.

The first 85 pages are basically a chronological summary of the

sightings, followed by comments and, when appropriate, technical analysis of the UFO photographs from Gulf Breeze.

In the final five pages, Maccabee gives his conclusion.

His conclusion: A conclusion can not yet be reached in the case.

"As of the time of this writing there is no proof that 'Ed's' sightings are a hoax," Maccabee writes. "Furthermore, there is always the possibility that 'Ed' may produce some correlated photographic and video data that are irrefutable, since he is still trying to get hard evidence."

Maccabee is a Washington based research physicist and one of this country's most respected UFO consultants. His specialty is photographic UFO cases, the first of which he worked in 1950.

"Ed," of course, is the Gulf Breeze businessman who had 23 UFO sightings, most of which he documented with pictures, during a six month period beginning November 11.

Maccabee worked closely with "Ed," as well as local MUFON researchers, before writing his report. He mentions just about every one of the citizens, there were 55 other reported sightings between November and May, who called or wrote the Sentinel with UFO sightings of their own.

Maccabee could not find flaws in any of the photos, despite the often tedious attention given to every minor detail.

But although he clearly takes aim at "the highly conclusive statements by some UFOlogists that the photos clearly constitute a hoax," he also does not conclude that the objects in the 39 pictures he analyzed are UFOs.

In his final remarks, Maccabee notes that it is possible the publicity from "Ed's" initial sightings caused the 52 other sightings reported between November 11 and April 15.

But he also notes that many of the sightings were witnessed by more than one person, and several of "Ed's" photo days were also days when there were numerous other sightings, including November 11, when there were seven other sightings reported.

Maccabee writes that "Ed" is a busy man and wonders if he would have the time to perpetrate such a complex hoax.

He notes that Ed, unlike other hoaxers, "has not produced numerous pithy statements from the 'space brothers', nor has he attempted to become a UFO guru."

Maccabee also notes that Ed turned down money to write a book about his experiences.

Surprisingly, Maccabee is quite impressed that "Ed" would turn down the opportunity to support his claim by rejecting as evidence the perfectly round area of dead grass found behind GBHS in April. "Ed" said he never saw a UFO above that spot.

Maccabee writes that several UFOlogists told him they were mis-

ATOKA CO. TIMES, Atoka, OK - Sept. 7, 1988

'It Wasn't an Aircraft,' Says Local Lawman

Reports of strange, glowing objects moving across the sky appear in news stories occasionally, even in Atoka County.

Most are explained as weather phenomenon, aircraft, or meteorites, with some dismissed out-of-hand as figments of overactive imaginations.

Occasionally a report will surface from a source considered totally reliable.

Such a report, with documentation and some supporting evidence, came to the attention of The Times Labor Day.

A local lawman, who prefers to remain anonymous due to a potential "embarrassment factor," reports seeing, and attempting to photograph, an object late Sunday night which he states "was definitely not an aircraft."

At approximately 11 p.m. Sunday, the lawman reported receiving a telephone call from a woman near Blackjack, who indicated to him that she saw what appeared to be a helicopter in a pasture, possibly loading or unloading people.

Since she thought it possibly involved an illegal drug operation, she refused to give her name, according to the lawman.

"I was headed down the road expecting to find a drug task force helicopter, or possibly an aircraft in distress," said the lawman.

"When I got close to the area the lady described, I thought I saw a fire, and figured I had a downed aircraft in trouble."

The area of the sighting was a cleared acreage on the west side of

the Bentley Road, approximately one mile north of Blackjack.

The lawman stated that he turned west up a crossroad, stopped his vehicle, and took a close look.

He reported an orange, circular object that appeared to be flaming around its outside edge.

He could not estimate its size.

"I thought possibly it was something set up in the field, maybe military. Then I realized I could see stars underneath it, and I knew it was airborne and wasn't an aircraft. I have been around a long time and seen a lot of things, but I never saw anything like this."

He radioed in at 11:09 p.m. that he was in the area north of Blackjack.

He called in again at 11:23, stating that "This is not a helicopter, not an aircraft... I'm taking a picture."

He reports that he lost radio contact shortly after that, and that the dispatcher could hear him "key" his microphone but could not hear his voice.

He stated that in his excitement to get a picture with his Polaroid camera, he accidentally took one picture of the ground as he left his vehicle.

"As I tried to get across the ditch and to the fence, I stumbled over a skunk, but it didn't even spray me," he said.

He reported taking one picture of the object, but as soon as he snapped his picture, it left the ground and headed south at a high rate of speed. The lawman took two

more pictures with the object airborne, and stated that one picture partially showed the object in an upper corner.

He later refused to display the photos, stating that he had taken all the laughter and jokes from fellow lawmen that he could stand.

He radioed in at 11:33 that he was back on duty.

"I don't care what these guys say, I know what I saw and it was definitely not an aircraft," he said Monday.

He reported that he could not sleep, and returned to the area early Monday morning to look for scorch marks or any sign that the object had touched the ground.

"I found what might have been a scorched area, but the pastures out there are so burned up from the drought that I couldn't tell," he said.

The acreage where the alleged sighting took place is owned by Phillip Allen.

Allen and his sister, Martha Yates, drove across the property Tuesday afternoon.

She reported a circular scorched area in the center of the 160 acres approximately four to six feet in diameter.

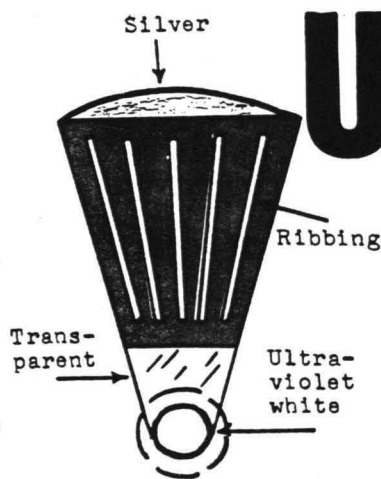
"There were tall weeds all over the area, but the weeds in the circle were burnt black," she said.

Neighbors reported odd behavior in their animals at approximately the same time the lawman was attempting to take pictures.

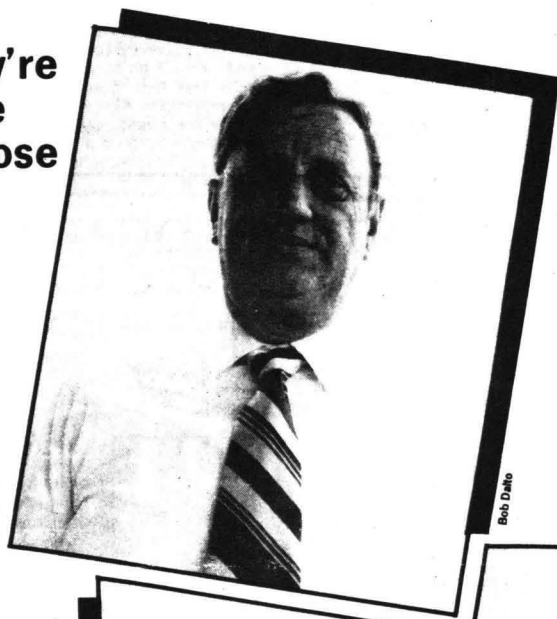
One neighbor one-half mile west of the location reported that her



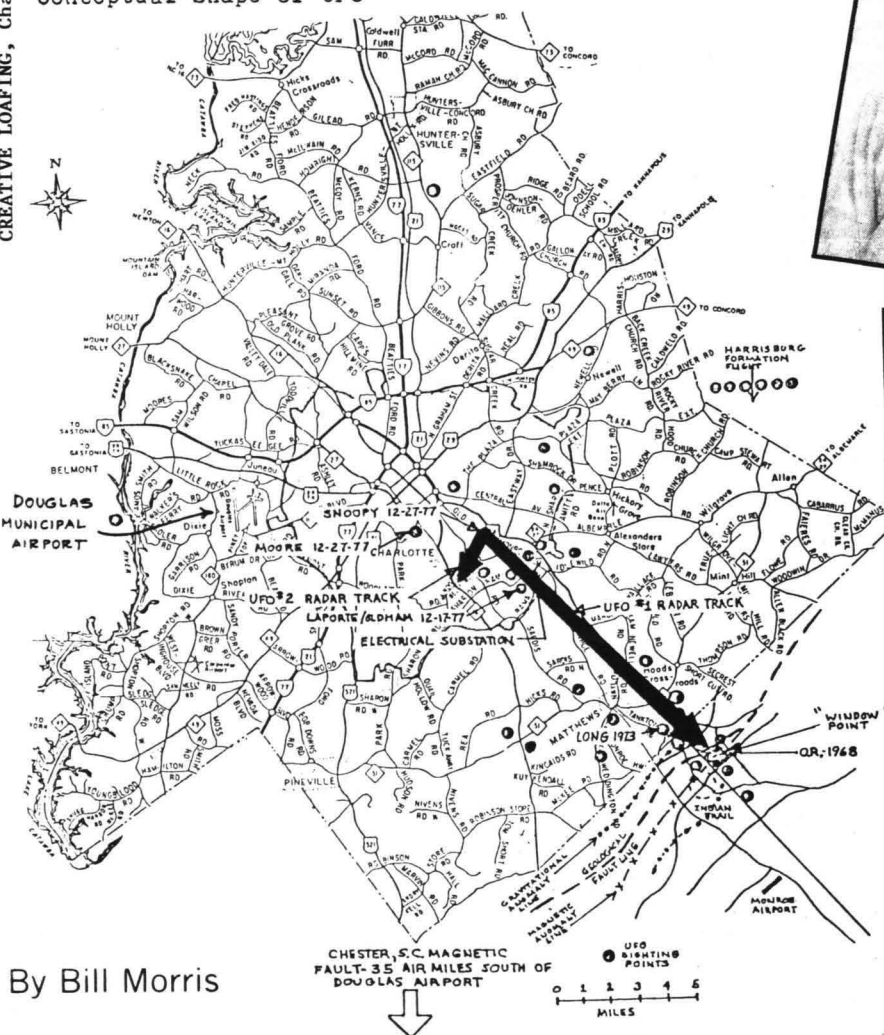
UFO MEMORIES



Ten years later, they're still haunted by the memory of their close encounter



Bob Datto



By Bill Morris

POLICE HELICOPTER IN HARROWING RADAR-TRACKED UFO ENCOUNTER. The headline sent waves of disbelief through Charlotte.

Howard Dellinger and Ron Arey, the two Charlotte Police officers who saw the UFOs, and Charlotte Douglas International Airport air traffic controller Ray Bader (who tracked the objects on radar), still aren't sure just what was flying over the city that winter night 10 years ago.

"What I saw was like nothing I had knowledge of before or since," says Dellinger. "It may have been of this world, but in the 10 years since, I have not seen or heard about any aircraft shaped like them or with the unique abilities of the two crafts we saw on Dec. 27, 1977.

"Prior to this experience, I had always dismissed UFO sightings as explainable or as hoaxes; now I just don't know. I do know, though, that I always watch the skies hoping to see something similar again."

Arey and Dellinger were on a routine mission the night of the sighting. Arey, a veteran pilot, was at the controls of Snoopy II, the police department helicopter. The time was approximately 11 p.m. and the helicopter was flying near the intersection of Davidson and 11th.

Glancing to the northwest, Dellinger noticed two rapidly approaching lights. They were heading right toward Snoopy II. The first assumption the officers say they made was that the lights were the landing lights of a couple of military helicopters flying toward Fort Bragg. "That's standard military procedure — to fly with landing lights on until you reach a certain altitude," Arey said.

As the lights passed approximately 200 feet above Snoopy II, Arey became uneasy. Familiar with the characteristics of night-flying aircraft, he was unable to detect rotating beacons, strobe lights or even navigational lights on the strange craft.

Wanting to get a better look, Arey turned Snoopy back toward the objects. "They were coming right at us, just like their pilot wanted to get a better look, too," Dellinger

says.

Arey adds, "I told Dellinger to turn on Snoopy's spotlight. I had my hands full flying the chopper. By this time we weren't sure just what we were seeing, but Dellinger wouldn't turn on the light. He said, 'There are just some things you don't mess with.' He had such a funny sound to his voice. Neither of us could believe what we both apparently were thinking. All I know is the things were flying in some sort of formation, they were shiny metallic crafts and someone or something was at the controls."

Arey quickly contacted the airport to ask what was showing up on radar. Ray Bader, a four-year veteran with the Federal Aviation Administration in Charlotte, reported he had four "targets" on his screen — an Eastern Airlines plane on approach to Douglas, the helicopter and two "unknowns."

Arey says, "Snoopy had a transponder aboard that squawked codes periodically so the tower knew where we were at all times. At one point we were so close to one of the objects that Bader said we were tracking as one. We were about 100 feet away."

As the objects came closer, Arey banked his chopper sharply to the left and to his amazement, one of the "approaches" shot straight up, stopping at about 3500 feet.

The movement was accomplished in less than three seconds. Arey knew he could not follow the ascending object, so he turned his attention to the UFO closest to the chopper.

As Arey attempted to fly closer, he found himself outmaneuvered at every turn. The UFO stayed behind Snoopy, no matter what turns were made. "That craft must have been commanded by some kind of 'intelligence,'" he says.

Suddenly, as if tiring of the game, the object turned eastward, dropping a fiery ball as it sped away. Snoopy II gave chase, stretching its capabilities to 140 miles an



Bob Datto

MEMORABLE NIGHT: Ron Arey (top) and Howard Dellinger look back on the events of Dec. 27, 1977, which are mapped at left.

hour. The UFO, still being tracked on radar from Douglas, was estimated to be flying at 230 mph by controller Bader. The object faded from the radar screen near Monroe Airport.

"There was no way we could follow the one tracking towards Monroe," says Arey. "It was going too fast. So I turned back toward downtown and tried to sight the one that had gone up so fast. I called the tower and the controller told me the other one was near Southpark. Just as we sighted it again, it simply disappeared. At that moment the tower reported it had vanished from the screen."

Later, the two police officers described the objects as globular white lights (toward the ultraviolet end of the spectrum) with a surrounding glow. A silver, parachute-like object with ribs was attached above the light source with a transparent section between.

The police officers were and are still sure they encountered a UFO. "People still want to hear the story. Some will just nod and accept, but others will ask how much money I made for making up such a tale. I still get ribbed about my UFOs," says Dellinger.

The Charlotte incident attracted nationwide attention. Three of the largest UFO-studying organizations, Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), sent top investigators to check on details of the bizarre encounter.

More than 100 hours alone were spent by the North Carolina director of MUFON, George D. Fawcett, and other MUFON field investigators, trying to find a logical explanation for the sightings. Laundry bag balloons sometimes used in UFO hoaxes, air inversion conditions and reflections from the ground were all discounted by investigators as possible explanations for the sightings.

"Laundry bags don't fly at 230 mph, shoot up to 3500 feet or track on radar," says Arey.

(continued on page 11)

"When the UFO investigators came to Charlotte to talk to us," Dellinger adds, "they put a briefcase obviously full of documents on a nearby desk. 'We'll show you something after we've talked,' one said. When we finished our descriptions of the encounter, the briefcase was opened and we were shown other documented sightings of UFOs similar to the ones we had seen."

Ten years have passed, and the mystery of Charlotte's most famous UFO sighting — and one of the nation's best documented ones — remains unsolved. Dellinger is still haunted by the fear he felt when the objects were coming towards the helicopter and he got a good view of them. He has scores of letters sent from all over the nation by people who have had UFO experiences. Dellinger also has a tape of the conversations between Snoopy II, the airport tower and the Eastern plane approaching the airport.

"I can almost hear Eastern questioning over and over again, 'What's going on down there?' We never replied because we were too busy." □

LEADER-TELEGRAM, Eau Claire, WI - Aug. 28, 1988

Abductee relates his frightening story of alien examination

By Matthew Soergel
Scripps Howard News Service

Aliens last visited Christopher Young one night in July 1976, when he was 21 and living in a cabin in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

As Young tells the story, he was lying awake on a thin foam pad in the cabin's bedroom. Suddenly he knew something was in the room.

"You're going to be taken," it told him.

Young felt overwhelming pressure on one side of his body as he was pushed against the foam pad. A long, rasping exhale next to his ear cut through the silence. He was terrified, sure he would die.

Above him were four aliens, with slender arms and necks and large, hairless heads. Their eyes were huge and black.

Three were about 4½ feet tall and bubbled with insincere happiness, as if overjoyed at Young's luck in being "taken." The fourth, apparently the leader, was taller, emotionless, all business.

The creatures told Young telepathically there would be no trouble. It was not reassurance; it was an order.

They carried him out the back door. Then he felt himself floating toward a bright light and into a spaceship. He was taken through several large chambers — some sterile and empty, some full of growing things — to a room where an examining table waited.

Christopher Young believes aliens abducted him five times. He is convinced they performed medical tests on him — tests so horrible he shudders as he thinks of them.

Young came from his San Francisco home to Laramie for the ninth Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation. He wants to talk about his experiences, but is wary of being taken for a freak.

"There are a lot of people who are into this cosmic, New Age stuff, especially where I live," he says. "Last week they were channeling an Egyptian pharaoh. This week it's a UFO."

He shifts his weight impatiently as he stands in the sunlight, a stocky man with close-cut brown hair, dungarees and flannel shirt. There is an edge of exasperation in his voice.

"That's interesting," he says of New Age cultists, "but it has nothing to do with my life."

In his early 30s, Young is a professional harpsichord and lute player. He has just spent the better part of two days listening to alien-abduction stories and UFO theories. Some of what he has heard bothers him.

"It's kind of like the pot calling the kettle black, but I don't believe a lot of the stories. My story, on

"It's kind of like the pot calling the kettle black, but I don't believe a lot of the stories. My story, on the face of it, is outrageous. If I hadn't had the experience, I probably wouldn't believe it."

— Christopher Young

the face of it, is outrageous. If I hadn't had the experience, I probably wouldn't believe it. I don't see why anyone should believe it.

"It's not important to me that other people believe it. What is important is finding other people with these experiences, to validate myself."

For years, Young was tortured by sudden panic attacks and half-remembered nightmares. He wondered what had caused the strange scars on his body.

He worried for his sanity until he uncovered what he believes is the truth while undergoing hypnotic regression sessions. Then, he says, he found that he had been abducted five times, the first when he was only 4.

He doesn't want to tell too much publicly about what happened aboard the spaceship. Otherwise, how can he be sure, when he talks with others claiming similar experiences, that they aren't just stealing from his story? How can he tell if they are charlatans, insane or unwitting participants in this otherworldly mystery, as he believes he is?

Many believers spin stories similar to Young's, but it is the details that someone couldn't make up — unless this really had happened to them — that tell Young whose tales are genuine, he says.

Unlike many so-called abductees, who seem to delight in being among those singled out for alien attention, Young is frightened, resentful.

"The way they talk to me is real patronizing," he says of the aliens. "They're scaring the (bleep) out of you."

Young is bewildered by his experiences.

"I don't know why. They never told me," he says, his voice growing dark. "They never bothered to introduce themselves to me."

'What's fried chicken?'

by Bill Morris

As you enter the foyer of the home of John Manning (a pseudonym — he did not want us to use his real name for fear of ridicule) your eyes are drawn first to an eerie painting of a UFO and then to the industrial engineering diploma hanging beside the sketch. The name on both is the same.

Manning is a pleasant-looking, intelligent man who has been interested in the strange and unusual ever since his teen-age years. His occupation is a job at a local engineering firm; his preoccupation is UFO study. Manning describes himself as a "semi-retired field investigator for UFO sightings and other phenomena" with MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network).

He also has worked closely with the area law enforcement agencies that receive most reports of unusual and bizarre occurrences. His most highly publicized case was the Dec. 27, 1977, sighting of two UFOs over Charlotte by two police officers who were flying in a police helicopter.

But the strange case of the Snoopy II police helicopter, though the most infamous one Manning has been involved in, may not rank as the most bizarre. According to his records, there have been dozens of strange sightings officially classified as unexplainable in Mecklenburg and Union Counties alone over the years. A broad spectrum of the population, from police officers to pilots to reporters to ministers, has reported UFO sightings here. Many UFOs have been spotted in the Stallings/Indian Trail area, especially along Highway 74 East — an area that is geologically significant because it lies along a fault line.

Eighty-five percent of the 60,000 UFO sightings that have been reported in the United States have occurred along geological fault lines, Manning says. Dr. Michael A. Pershinger, a professor at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, formulated the most widely accepted theory to explain this curious fact; he believes the crafts are drawn to fault lines because of the high concentrations of magnetic energy found there.

In addition to the UFOs, there also have been several unidentified walking objects reported in the past dozen or so years here. A man-sized furry creature with a humanoid face has been seen as close as 20 feet away on several occasions in Matthews. During the night of August 9, 1977, eight people, including two Matthews policemen, tried to capture the creature, but it eluded them. The first report of the furry creature was made to the Matthews Police Department by Harold Jones, who led the policemen to where the chase was made.

Perhaps the strangest occurrence locally seems on the surface to be the most normal. Traveling in pairs, men dressed all in black have appeared at numerous homes where people who have reported UFO sightings live. The men in black (MBs) question the occupants about what they saw; according to the people who have been questioned by the MBs, the men appear to be government officials, but they speak with strange accents and do not seem to be familiar with customs. One report filed with Manning stated that a local couple took two such visitors out to dinner with them. They reported the MBs were puzzled by the menus, holding them upside down and even asking, "What is fried chicken?" The earliest report of such an incident occurred in July of 1972, and the reports have continued. The people making those reports have asked that their names not be used.

Manning says he still receives UFO reports, but believes the "visitors" are making themselves less visible because of human hostility toward them. □

NEW MEXICAN, Santa Fe, NM - Sept. 11, 1988 CR: J. Moseley

ETs living in NM?

Not likely, investigators say

By KAY BIRD
and STEVE TERRELL
The New Mexican Staff

This past week, supermarket shoppers across the nation and in Santa Fe have been confronted by



The tabloid

a tabloid headline screaming "UFO Base Found in New Mexico."

The headline summarizes the main story of the Sept. 20 issue of the *Weekly World News*, a publication that shares facilities with the *National Enquirer*.

The story gets to the point quickly: "Diabolical invaders from another solar system have set up a secret underground base in the rugged mountains of northern New Mexico — so they can shanghai human guinea pigs for bizarre genetic experiments."

"And, shockingly, the U.S. and a host of other nations are involved in a colossal coverup of the horrifying story — because they were hoodwinked into okaying the loathsome tests during a series of incredible face-to-face meetings with the extraterrestrial fiends."

The story goes on to say that "the evil spacemen" operate "on or near an Apache Indian reservation near Dulce, N. Mex."

Should a smart supermarket shopper waiting in the checkout line believe that?

■ No, said an investigator who once was paid by the state to investigate unidentified flying objects and cattle mutilations in northern New Mexico.

■ No, said the "top UFO expert" who is quoted throughout the tabloid's story. He said he was never interviewed by the tabloid and knows nothing of the Dulce space base, although he said such reports are common among flying saucer buffs.

John Blackburn, whose byline appears on the story, could not be reached for comment at *Weekly World News*' Lantana, Fla., office.

The doubting investigator, Kenneth Rommel, an FBI agent for 28 years, conducted an official investigation in the 1970s into reports that cattle in 16 states were being mutilated by extraterrestrial beings. Rommel's 297-page report concluded the cattle claim was "a bunch of garbage," he said in an interview last week.

And the current UFO story? "I don't think there's a secret alien base anywhere in New Mexico, but that's just my opinion," he said.

Rommel, who was appointed warden of the Los Lunas Correctional Center last week, said many alien reports have come from the area but he does not believe any of them. He said, however, that he has not investigated all such reports personally, adding: "I'm not going to take on the UFO world. They're a breed of nuts all to themselves."

One report Rommel did investi-

gate was a claim that an alien vehicle hovered over Taos and sprinkled powder on the city. The powder was what remained when the aliens finished cleaning ovens that had been used in the rumored cattle mutilations, it was claimed.

The powder later was identified by the FBI as latex house paint, he said.

Rommel was less surprised about the Dulce UFO story than Leonard Stringfield, the "veteran UFO researcher" whose supposed quotes were the basis for the story.

"I never read such a distortion of facts in my life," said Stringfield in a telephone interview from his Cincinnati, Ohio, home. "I was never interviewed by that paper, and I have no first-hand knowledge of any underground UFO base," he said.

Stringfield, who said he has studied UFOs for 10 years, said he gave a talk at an Ohio library last year that was covered by the local press. At that talk he mentioned the Dulce space base — as an example of hysteria and misinformation.

He theorized that *The Weekly World News* got a copy of the news story about his talk. "They misquoted me and took some of my quotes out of context," said Stringfield. "It's conceivable there are secret bases in your state. There have always been rumors. But I have no knowledge about them."

Anyway, underground bases are not Stringfield's specialty, he explained. His field is UFO crashes. He said he has talked to "reliable informants" who say the U.S. government keeps alien space craft — and bodies — found at the sites of UFO accidents.

DAILY JOURNAL, Elizabeth, NJ - Sept. 17, 1988

Linden residents report UFOs

By KATHLEEN HOPKINS
Staff Writer

LINDEN — They weren't birds. They weren't planes. The callers swore they were UFOs.

So, after police received three calls that unidentified flying objects were hovering over Garfield Avenue, Officer George Senkus was sent to investigate.

One of the callers described them as halo-shaped, with red, blinking lights, said Officer Gary Stanicki.

In our opinion

UFOs? Only questions exist

By 1st Lt. Tim Cothrel

SPECIAL TO THE SKYWRIGHTER

People love a good mystery. From ghost stories around the camp fire to newspaper stories about gigantic alligators in city sewers, tales of fear and fascination provide entertainment as well as anxiety.

Sometimes, a story sparks enough interest to take on a life of its own. And, as it is told again and again, its fictional origins become obscured, until some people refuse to stop believing it, no matter how scant the evidence may be.

Several would-be sleuths and scientists have linked Wright-Patterson to such a story — one that began 40 years ago in the New Mexico desert, or, some believe, in a galaxy far, far away.

In any case, according to this story, an alien spaceship crashed on our planet near an Army outpost in Roswell, N.M. The decomposing corpses of its crew — four small, humanoid extraterrestrials — lay nearby. The wreckage and remains were crated and shipped to what was then Wright Field.

Wright Field has since grown to become Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where, behind windowless walls in Bldg. 18, Area B (the Avionics Laboratory), saucer and beings remain today, hidden from the

world to prevent public hysteria.

So the story goes. And, four decades later, it is definitely going strong. Our base public affairs office receives as many as five queries a week on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects, and the majority of those at least mention "The Roswell Incident." Reporters, students and faithful UFO believers want to know: "Do you have little green men frozen there?"

As the designated UFO information officer, I have the dubious honor of telling them no. Some sound disappointed, but I think most of them expect the answer they get. A few even sound embarrassed or apologetic for wasting my time with a story that sounds like it belongs on the back of a cereal box.

I feel a bit sorry for people when they learn their quest for creatures from beyond the stars has less chance of succeeding than a program for thinner thighs in three hours advertised on a matchbook cover. Maybe it's because I've been where they are. I did my share of arguing with my sixth-grade science teacher over whether strange lights in the sky were signs of alien visitors or merely mall openings. I read countless books about sightings and abductions and things that do much more than go bump in the night. I even entertained private

notions of a government smoke-screen on the entire UFO situation.

Things change. My skepticism increased along with my age. Now, if I am to believe alien beings are visiting my planet, I must have proof, or at least some evidence beyond accounts of short guys in foil suits promising peace on earth and an end to male pattern baldness if we stop polluting outer space with satellite transmissions of music videos.

If they do exist, why don't these alien guys show us skeptics once and for all that they are real? Why don't they give their earthly contacts some kind of high-tech gizmo, like X-ray goggles or a nuclear fusion-powered toaster oven? Or, better yet, why don't they just land on the White House lawn or at Riverfront Stadium or any place where more than two people will see them? Apparently, if the earth is being visited, it is by a race of big teasers.

Since there is no proof that aliens are buzzing us in their interplanetary vessels, it should be easy to convince everyone that no wreckage or bodies are locked away here, right?

Well, proving alien visitors exist may be difficult, but it's a walk in the park compared to proving they don't. If the Air Force wanted to

hide one small spaceship and four tiny aliens here, we certainly have enough buildings, basements and vaults to do the job. To show the public what *wasn't* here, we would have to open every square inch of the base to them for inspection.

If this sounds feasible to you and you are not Geraldo Rivera, report to your security manager immediately for severe counseling on the need for security on a defense installation. And please — stay well away from the Foreign Technology Division.

Since no one can prove the Wright-Patterson aliens don't exist, and believing they do is far more exciting than believing they don't, this story could be around for a long, long time. People will go on calling, and I'll go on telling them we have no aliens here — not green, blue nor plaid; not frozen, pickled nor on a stick. While questions about our unearthly friends often disrupt an already hectic day, I'd miss them if they stopped completely. Though they may exist only in people's imaginations, I'm starting to like the little guys.

Editor's note: The Air Force can prove Lieutenant Cothrel exists, but not at Wright-Patterson. Formerly of the Base Public Affairs Office here, he now is an Air Force Law Education Program student at the University of California, Davis.

ADVOCATE, Provincetown, MA - Sept. 22, 1988

Filming for TV show

UFO abductee returns to Dutra's

By Marilyn Miller

Twenty years ago, a young black man, newly recruited by the Air Force, got off a bus in front of Dutra's Market in North Truro.

The young man, Bob Matthews, went to the pay phone outside of Dutra's, called the North Truro Air Force Station and asked for someone to pick him up.

The station sent someone to get Matthews, but he could not be found at Dutra's, so the driver returned to the station without him.

Matthews called the base again, frightened after seeing a bright object hovering in the sky near Dutra's, and asked that they pick him up right away.

He was told, "We went to get you two hours ago, but you weren't there."

Matthews apparently lost two hours of his life, and believes that he was abducted by aliens who took him aboard an unidentified flying object that stopped in North Truro that October night 20 years ago.

His story will be aired on national television on Wednesday, Nov. 9, as a 20-minute segment of "Unsolved Mysteries," an ABC series hosted by Robert Stack. The hour-long program will include interviews with others across the nation who have undergone similar experiences.

A television crew arrived in North Truro Monday night and started filming

the segment. The filming resumed at 5 p.m. Tuesday, and continued on to 3 a.m. Wednesday, in an attempt to recreate the night that Matthews has never forgotten.

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, a truck pulled up with one of the props, an Air Force jeep, similar to the one that was dispatched by the station to pick up Matthews that night.

Mary Benjamin, field producer in charge of filming the show for Cosgrove/Meurer Productions of Los Angeles, told The Advocate that she has met nine individuals, including Matthews, who have experienced "abductions" by aliens.

One of the leading authorities on this phenomena is artist Budd Hopkins, a UFO investigator and author of the books "Missing Time" and "Intruders." Hopkins, a New Yorker, summers in Wellfleet, and was filmed at his home there Tuesday as part of the show.

Matthews, after reading one of Hopkins's books, sought him out for help in dealing with problems he has had in coping with his experience.

"It was an awful nice feeling to pick up a book and see that this was not something that was just happening to me, but to other people, too," he said. "It was an awful nice feeling to know that what happened to me was not contagious to Cape Cod," but has been experienced by others all over the country.

Benjamin said Hopkins told her he has interviewed some 200 individuals who have been abducted by aliens, but of this great number, "there are only 10 who have been willing to go public" about their experiences.

After meeting and interviewing nine of these people Benjamin said, "My feeling is that most of the people who have been abducted feel traumatized by the experience. When people hear about UFO abductions, they say, Oh, real far out," she said. They tend to dismiss the experience and the individuals reporting it as crackpots, she said.

In view of this response, "It's very courageous of Bob Matthews to come forward," she said, adding that Matthews did not seek publicity. He went to Hopkins for help in dealing with a problem, and he arranged for the producers to make contact with the individuals he knew who experienced abductions and were willing to discuss them with others.

Matthews, while reluctant to discuss his experience with a reporter Tuesday, said he preferred having people watch the show and form their own opinions.

"These people are trying their best to protect my kids" from unwanted publicity, he said. Indicating the bystanders at Dutra's, he said, "This is too much. I didn't count on any of this. I went to seek help on a problem I was having, and this is what happened."

A former Provincetown fisherman,

Matthews had been living in the Plymouth area, but recently moved back to Truro. He has lived within 60 miles of Truro for the past 22 years, he said.

Robert Dutra, former owner of the market, said he was asked by Ron Friesse, the present owner, if he recalled any talk of a UFO sighting at Dutra's 20 years ago.

"Ron told me these people in Los Angeles were in contact with him about this, and asked what I knew about it, but I said I didn't know what he was talking about it."

Dutra said he would have been in the store when the sighting took place, "and I would certainly have heard about it if it was common conversation then. When I first heard about it, I thought, God, is it possible I'm getting old and senile, so I called my son David, who would have been a teenager when this happened, and told him about this. He said, 'Are you serious?', and I said, 'Yes, I am.'" Dutra said.

Friesse said he checked with local folks but came up with no one who recalled hearing of the UFO sighting. The police have no record of Matthews ever reporting it either, he said.



TRUTH, Dunedin, New Zealand - June 14, 1988 CR: R. Collyns



By John Wilson

A FLEET of war-damaged spacecraft that may have exploded over Otago hundreds of years ago, could be the cause of the mysterious Tapanui 'flu epidemic.

This is the belief of an Otago University senior lecturer Dr Jan Pajak who has just completed an in-depth investigation into the weird "Tapanui Crater".

Polish-born Pajak, 42, believes the mysterious crater was caused by a giant explosion which caused huge bushfires over the South Island and probably helped wipe out the moa.

And he thinks the early Maoris not only saw the space ships explode but also named several local places after the horrendous happening.

Pajak believes the massive explosion began when a fleet of magnetically powered spacecraft got into trouble and tried to make an emergency landing on Earth.

Atmosphere

They came through the Earth's atmosphere somewhere over Stewart Island.

Then, in an apparent attempt for a soft crash-down, they started to skim inland.

Over Tapanui something went drastically wrong.

The top ship in a layer of four suddenly exploded — and triggered off a catastrophic devastation in the three travelling — and possibly supporting it — underneath.

The ensuing explosion created the "Tapanui Crater" — a triangular-shaped dish which covers about 350kms.

Triangle

In the centre of the triangle today are three towns — Waipahi, Mataura and Tapanui.

Pajak, who holds a Master of Engineering degree and lectures in computer-assisted design, researched the Maori names and found all three referred to the spaceship catastrophe.

Tapanui is "big explosion". Mataura refers to "a glowing spacecraft". Waipahi is "the place of the exploding fire".

Pajak says the "Tapanui Crater" shows all the signs of a magnetic spaceship explosion. It is very different from a meteor strike and is similar to only one other explosion in the world — the famous Siberian strike.

The explosion over Tapanui was about 1200 times more powerful than the atomic bomb which exploded over Hiroshima in World War II, he says.

And unlike a meteorite strike it had no crater, which he says confirms it was an above-ground explosion.

"Because of the configuration of free space all heavenly bodies approach the Earth along the vertical plane directed east-west," he told Truth.

"There are no impact craters from a south-to-north direction which in the year 1178 was occupied by the magnetic north.

SPACE SHIP CRASH

Explosion caused the Tapanui Crater says university lecturer

"The object that exploded over Tapanui was witnessed by Maoris living in the area," claims Pajak, "they recorded it in numerous legends.

"The Tapanui Crater was formed by a sequence of detonations — not by a single explosion."

Objects

He says evidence shows about four cigar-shaped objects detonated in sequence.

"The explosions were ignited from the top spacecraft and then spread down along the cigar-shaped stack of vehicles," says Pajak.

He says that strange "China-stones" which are found in the area also support this theory.

"Over half the South Island was totally devastated by the effects of the Tapanui explosion," he says.

Pajak claims that even today pilots have compass trouble in the area and hand-held compasses often "go crazy" in the Tapanui Crater.

Storms

Strange storms also still

Dr Pajak also blames the explosion for the Tapanui 'flu which he believes is caused by exposure to the high levels of radioactivity that can still be found in some pockets in the Crater.

The "China-stones" contain remains of plants, animals and people, like those found in Pompei after the Vesuvius eruption, says Pajak.

Unusual metallic splinters from the long-gone spacecraft can also be found locally, he says.

One local Maori legend which Dr Pajak uncovered in Mataura refers to the explosion.

The legend says a horn-shaped object which "glowed like the Moon" split apart.

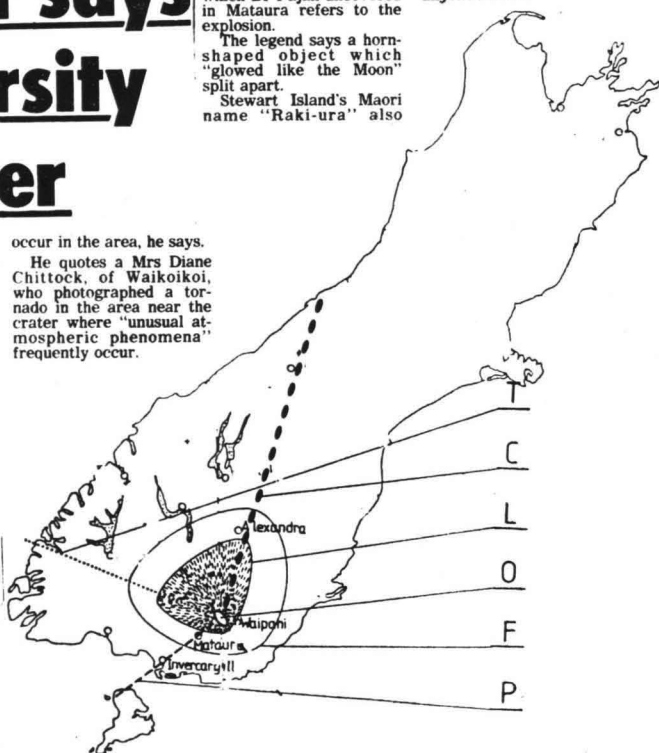
Stewart Island's Maori name "Raki-ura" also

means "the glowing sky", says Pajak. The Tapanui Crater's potential for tourism is huge, adds Pajak. "The Tapanui Crater has an enormous significance to New Zealand and our entire planet.

Blast site

"So far only two such places exist on Earth — here and the Tunguska blast site in Central Siberia.

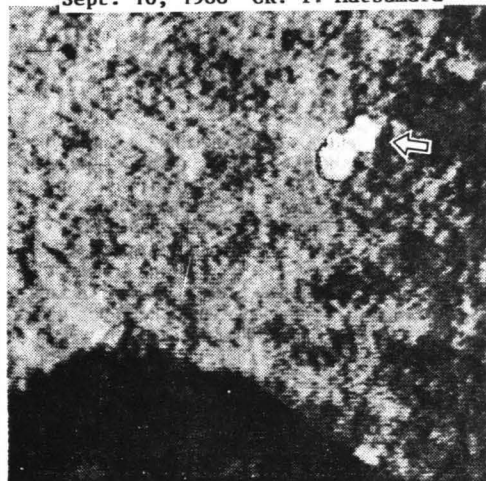
"It seems that we have a treasure here in New Zealand of which hardly anyone knows."



YOUR GUIDE TO THE SPACE-CRAFT EXPLOSION... T: The major line of "trinitite" deposits. C: The major line of heavy "china stones" deposits. L: The area of trees felled by the shockwaves of the explosion. O: The Tapanui Crater where the explosion occurred. F: The range of bush fires ignited by the fireball of the explosion. P: The

path followed by the vehicle prior to the explosion, as it is recorded in Maori legends. This path is contradictory to the orientation of the central axis of the explosion. This again certifies that the destruction could not be caused by a heavenly body (eg a meteorite) impacting with Earth.

ASAHI EVENING NEWS, Tokyo, Japan
Sept. 10, 1988 CR: Y. Matsumura



Mysterious Ball of Fire

A gigantic ball of fire, shown with an arrow, caused a flood of phone calls at police stations and astronomical observatories in a wide area of northern and eastern Honshu by making a sudden brief passage over Japanese skies Friday night.

The fireball, yet to be identified, was seen flying from west to east in a wide area stretching from Aomori to the north to Chiba to the south around 6:20 p.m.

According to witnesses, the unidentified flying object measured several times the size of the full moon and was flying with a tail at a speed comparable to that of a jet plane.

The accounts were split among the observers over the duration of the flight and the color of the object. The flight is said to have lasted from several seconds to 40 seconds while the color was argued as "pale white," "orange" and "gold."

Since there has been no report of air accidents and the fireball in question left no image on radar screens, aviation experts suspect that the object was a huge meteor.

NEW ZEALAND HERALD, Auckland, New Zealand - Sept. 13, 1988 CR: R. Collyns

UFO With Flames Buzzes Auckland

Aviation authorities were mystified by reported sightings of a bright, yellow-orange, triangular object flying around Auckland's sky last night.

Mr Philip Gilmer saw the object flying over Pt Chevalier at 9.15 pm. It was

flying slower than a micro-light aircraft at a level of about 1000m, and had flames coming out the back of it.

A woman who wished to remain anonymous saw the object when she was driving out of the city down Sandringham Rd, at about 10 pm.

Air traffic control at Auckland Airport and staff at Whenuapai Air Base said a number of people had rung inquiring about the object.

Most described the object as a bright, yellow-orange triangle.

Sky sighting sparks town UFO 'flap'

Experts at a UFO studies centre are investigating a big increase in sightings in the Shrewsbury and Whitchurch areas.

Shropshire's "UFO Flap" began about three weeks ago and the studies centre in Crewe is still receiving calls from people who claim to have seen Unidentified Flying Objects.

"The sightings have been mainly over the Shrewsbury area but there have also been some around Whitchurch," said centre chairman Mr Eric Morris.

"We have sent about a dozen forms out to people asking them to give details of what they have seen."

"We have had reports of UFOs which were cylindrical in shape and very bright and very low in the sky. There have also been reports of global objects."

Mr Morris said he himself had been investigating an incident near Hodnet in which four people in a car claimed that a UFO had appeared above them. Underneath the UFO were four bright lights which were shining down on the vehicle.

"I have spoken to the witnesses and they are all reliable," said Mr Morris.

All members of the Crewe centre are hand-picked and are highly qualified ufologists. They are regional investigation co-ordinators for the British UFO Research Association and Mr Morris is a member of the national investigations committee.

The centre, which can be contacted on 0270 582378 wants to introduce a 24 hour on-call rota system so that sightings can be investigated quickly.

CR: T. Good

Is it a man from Mars?.... No, it's the man from the Pru



Jack strides out on his round of farmhouses



Jack... 'It's me!' Pictures: JEFF ROSS



The photo of an "alien creature" as seen in Monday's Star

ILKLEY Moor's creature from outer space was identified last night... as the Man from the Pru!

UFO experts produced a photograph of a "four-and-a-half-foot tall alien with long arms trailing on the ground."

They said it had goggling eyes, big ears, no nose and smooth green skin.

But insurance salesman Jack McHale told The Star: "Is it 'eck a creature from outer space. It's me!"

Sober

Father-of-five Jack, 5ft 5in tall and 10½ stone, insisted the photograph was him wearing a sober blue jacket and grey slacks.

According to a Metropolitan police officer who took the picture, the "thing" waved its arms, then clambered aboard a

By TONY BROOKS

40ft diameter spaceship and hummed off into the clouds.

Jack says it wasn't like that at all. He just got back on his bike and pedalled off to complete his round.

Every Thursday morning, Jack, from Horsforth, Leeds, strides off on foot across Ilkley Moor on a two-mile hike to visit remote farms.

"There's no doubt it's me," he said. "I recognised myself immediately."

But last night UFO expert Steve Balon was adamant the photograph showed an alien.

PLANE STRANGE

FIVE EUCLA (WA) motorists, convinced that a strangely-lit plane was limping in to land, helpfully shone their headlights on the local landing strip.

But to their amazement, the "plane" — flashing red and white beacons — suddenly stood still in the sky, before soaring away at astonishing speed.

The Eucla UFO was one of dozens of eerie objects sighted over Australian rural towns.

"I saw the thing about 9pm, when I was driving home," recalls Stan Mosseveld, barman at the Amber Hotel.

"It was like a huge lightbulb shining in the dark — it was certainly no plane. It hovered for several minutes before winking out, just like a light being switched off."

● Coincidentally, a second UFO was invited to land several days later.

Flight controllers at Colombia's Jose Maria Cordova airport saw what they believed to be a small plane descending, illegally, onto the runway.

"They gave the craft emergency landing instructions," reports the newspaper *El Colombiano*. "But then they realised it was disc-shaped, with flashing coloured lights."

Several pilots also saw the UFO. The nation's aeronautical board silenced them by imposing a news blackout.

CR: R. Collins

PAGNELL CITIZEN, Newport, England
July 28, 1988 CR: T. Good

Saucer riddle

FLYING SAUCER experts are still baffled by unique video shots of a dazzling light.

One week after amateur photographer Jerry Twaites snapped the mysterious visitors apparently hovering in a silver ship over the city centre, inves-

tigators from the British UFO Association are no nearer explaining what he saw.

"They want a copy so they can get it analysed," said Jerry from Great Holm.

And more bashful eye witnesses have come forward.

"It looked like a silver egg that tapered at one end," said Cheryl Bowen of Emerson Valley.

And Richard Davy of Downs Barn commented: "It didn't look like any normal phenomenon."

Bewildering dossier of UFO

ABDUCTION: OVER 200 DOCUMENTED UFO KIDNAPPINGS INVESTIGATED, by Jenny Randles - Robert Hale, £10.95.

DURING the first three months of 1988, more than 300 stories appeared in the national press concerning UFOs. Every day sees new claims of alien contact, many with evidence of people being interfered with (amazingly, to me, in both senses of the expression) or abducted for a short time.

What is behind all this activity and why has Britain gone UFO crazy?

In this disturbing and sometimes scary book, internationally renowned UFO researcher Jenny Randles has compiled a bewildering dossier of documented UFO abductions. Many of the cases have never been published before while some of the well-established accounts are investigated with a fresh and objective insight, frequently offering startling new information.

Among those which have been rigorously checked and studied by medical and scientific researchers are: a Yorkshire policeman who

abductions

says that he was examined by creatures aboard a UFO; a couple from South Wales who watched in horror as their four-year-old daughter communed with aliens; and a woman and her three sons whose truck was sucked into the air on the Australian Nullabor Plain.

The author has interviewed hundreds of witnesses from all walks of life — doctors and milkmen, airline pilots and plumbers, clergymen and farmers. But she suspects that there are thousands more who have encountered something inexplicable and, for a variety of reasons, are too scared to talk.

This phenomenon is perhaps the greatest modern mystery, and it is not confined to Britain and the United States.

Are we alone in the cosmos or do these abductions result from extra-terrestrial interference in human affairs?

Does the answer lie not in tall, blond beings offering reassurance at the time but a warning to the world for

the future (reported time after time by abductees) but in a deeply hidden psychological trauma affecting thousands of people?

In other words, is it all in the mind? Regression hypnosis has been tried repeatedly, but contrary to popular belief, not all that emerges from a hypnotised subject is necessarily true.

Or is there another, perhaps even more disturbing resolution to this problem? Jenny Randles offers some persuasive conclusions in this ultimate survey of a mystery that is as baffling as it is shocking.

I sit on the fence, quite bewildered. After carefully reading her every word and digesting the theories, the suggestions, the possibilities, Jenny has left me better informed but considerably more confused.

P.M.W.

Man spots 'flying saucer'

A GLOWING red flying saucer has been spotted near Oldham — for the second time in a week.

Coach-driver Mr. Paul Hartley noticed the unidentified flying object as he drove through Strinesdale on Thursday evening.

"It was exactly 10 p.m. I looked up and saw a red-orange-coloured glow, which glided very quickly across the sky", he said.

"Three passengers also noticed it — it was really strange".

Helicopter

Mr. Hartley, of Florida Street, Oldham, saw the object for only 15 seconds.

"It could not have been a plane or helicopter, because it was so big."

Earlier last week, Mr. Thomas Mundy, saw a glowing object from his flat in Montrose House, Crete Street Estate.

CR: T. Good

JUSTIN'S PICTURE HAS UFO SPOT-ON

ANOTHER UFO sighting has been reported in Oldham.

The glowing red object was snapped by Justin Grundy (13) over the Limeside Road area of Hollinwood.

But Justin, of near-by Durban Street, did not even know of its presence until he had the film developed.

He said: "I was trying to take a picture of my friend, Ian Jones, but it did not come out because it was too dark. When I got the film back, I saw the red spot above the houses, and tried to work out what it was."

Probe

Then Justin read the flying saucer story in last night's Evening Chronicle, and realised it might be the same thing.

But the Kaskenmoor School pupil does not expect to see little green men running along Chamber Road.

He said: "It could be a space probe — something like the spacecraft that we sent to Mars."

CR: T. Good

Eerie UFO 'fogs' Auckland man's film

A MYSTERY object sighted flying over suburban Auckland defied an attempt to capture it on film. Mt Albert superette owner Rashid Hussain thought he had successfully photographed the diamond-shaped craft the night he saw it. But when the film was developed shots either side of the craft came out perfectly but all frames of the flying object were blank.

By John Wilson

ured it must be a plane or a helicopter," Hussain said. "But when I saw it I was amazed. It was just hovering there making absolutely no noise. "So I grabbed my camera. "It was at about 500 feet. And it wasn't making a sound, just hanging there. "I started shooting some film and that's when it began to move away."

"It started to move away and finally vanished over Henderson way."

"It was an eerie feeling."

"I've never believed in flying saucers and I've certainly never seen one before - till now."

Mr Hussain said the craft was diamond-shaped, orange-yellow in colour with what looked like a large headlight suspended below it.

Fog

"It was as if it was able to fog the film" he said. Hussain said his son Zamir saw the craft first. "I thought he was putting my leg. I fig-

Vanished

The craft appeared first over Balmoral and was visible for about 15 minutes. "All the family and several of the neighbours saw it," Mr Hussain said.

Phoned

Mr Hussain said he phoned the meteorological bureau, the RNZAF and Air New Zealand. "None of them had any explanation," he said.



RASHID HUSSAIN... pointing to where he sighted the UFO.

ASAHI EVENING NEWS, Tokyo, Japan - June 23, 1988 CR: Y. Matsumura

Dial-a-UFO

In Hakui City, Ishikawa Prefecture, the sound of an unidentified flying object (UFO) can be heard by anyone who picks up a phone.

But it is not because extraterrestrial life forms are on the other side of the line. It is because a local branch of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. assigned a number - (0767) 22-1940 - to a recording of the sound of a flying saucer.

The sound, reportedly recorded by a Swiss farmer in 1975, has been analyzed by scientists as one which is genuinely "not found on earth," according to the NTT branch that launched the tape service last week.

The telephone service joined scores of other UFO-related merchandise sold in the city which is promoting itself as the UFO capital of Japan.

Huge UFO sighted by hill walkers

A GIANT UFO, 'the size of Wembley Stadium,' was sighted hovering over Mary Tavy on Thursday by a terrified group of hill walkers from Dorset.

Several of the walkers say that they felt they were under surveillance by the mystery object which consisted of fast moving green and white flashing lights.

By Adrian Ruck

across the sky-it couldn't have been a helicopter or an aeroplane," said 17-year-old Cormac Elmes.

Almost an hour later and about four miles away two members of the youth club returning from a night hike saw similar lights.

"It seemed to be observing us, and it was massive-the size of Wembley Stadium," said 18-year-old Brendan King. Stuart Tucker, 22, the assistant leader of the club, and a member of the Territorial Army was terrified when he saw the huge lurking object.

It was no aircraft or natural phenomenon, I'm

sure it was a UFO. I was very frightened-I've never seen anything like it before, the lights were moving back and forward like an oscilloscope," he said.

UFO watcher Mrs Joan Amos, who lives at Peter Tavy believes that the Plymouth and Exeter areas are particularly prone to extra-terrestrial invasions.

On July 1, a huge craft, similar to the one spotted at Mary Tavy was seen hovering over Exeter.

"I received more than 30 calls about this visitation, it sounds very similar to the spotting last week," said Mrs Amos, the South West organiser of the national UFO club.

Sludge

Mrs Amos believes that aliens are interested in the nuclear and defence establishments in Plymouth.

"A couple of years ago a triangular craft was seen hovering over Tamerton creek in Plymouth, pumping up sludge from the river bed, they could have been checking the mud for its radioactivity," she said.

Over the years, particularly in August, several 'excellent' sightings of UFOs have been recorded in Tavistock and area.

"A Mary Tavy policeman once saw a huge green fire ball come out of the clouds, hover, and then return at high speed," she said.

NEWSLETTER, Stafford, England - July 8, 1988 CR: T. Good

Carole's spaced out by her close encounter of the artistic kind

CAROLE Goodwin could hardly believe her eyes when she saw a sketch of the UFO seen in the skies above Stafford in last week's Newsletter.

Because the sketch, drawn by someone who had seen the mystery object, was virtually identical to one she made seven years ago of what she believed was a UFO.

"It was a big surprise when I saw the sketch in the Newsletter. I made one, almost the same as that, after I saw something in the sky in Brocton in the spring of 1981," said Carole.

of Weeping Cross in Stafford.

"I stopped the car and got out and saw this thing which had flashing blue and red lights in the sky. It wasn't moving so I sketched it and then it just disappeared. It didn't fade or move away - one second it was there the next it was gone," added Carole, who was at Art College at the time.

She was not a believer in UFOs but that changed after the experience on the road between Stafford and Cannock.

"I was not really interested in UFOs and tended to scoff at

people who were. But I did see something and then it literally disappeared. It was very strange," said Carole.

There have been a number of sightings in past weeks by independent witnesses in the Stafford area and MP Bill Cash is to pass on the reports to Defence Minister Roger Freeman for official investigation.

Reports of the sightings have not convinced the British UFO Research Association who maintain the mystery objects are the American top secret radar proof F-19 Stealth fighters.

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, Leeds, England - July 9, 1988 CR: T. Good

'Alien abduction' in the park

A FORMER special constable's story of how he was abducted by aliens in a purple light at Roundhay Park, Leeds, could remain one of the world's great mysteries, say UFO experts.

The British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Committee has launched a team investigation into the night-time phenomena, reported to have occurred on June 30.

They say it could take months to find out if the experience, witnessed by several independent callers to the YEP, can be put down to freak weather conditions.

If it cannot, it will become one of the five per cent of unexplained anomalies in the world.

At 10.30 pm on the Thursday in question, 21-year-old Mr Martin Cohen, of Clarendon Road, Headingley, Leeds, was walking through Roundhay Park to meet a friend for a drink at the

Mansion House. Mr Cohen, a former special constable at Chapeltown police station, said: "Suddenly I saw a purple glow. The next thing I knew I was lifted up and carried off the ground. My body went numb and my eyes felt dizzy."

"I then saw some figures of what looked to be women. They were like humans except they were furry. Then I just blacked out with the shock."

Later several anonymous people telephoned the YEP newsdesk to say they had seen a purple light in the park with a man in the centre of it.

On Friday, July 1, Leeds rock band member Mr Michael Cotran, 23, of Woodlands Drive, Rawdon, was jogging in Roundhay Park at 6.30 am when he says he saw a purple glow 30 yards in front of him on

the pathway near the Mansion House.

"At first I thought I was seeing things and then I noticed the body of a man in a grey suit lying on the ground. There was no body on the ground before the light appeared."

"My first impression was that it was a dead body. I was quite frightened and in a state of shock. When the man, who I now know to be Martin, woke up, he was very weak, in a cold sweat and was rambling on, saying, 'I have had this weird experience. I have been somewhere else.'"

He added: "I don't blame anyone for not taking us seriously. Neither of us has believed in UFOs before, either. But we are not mad and we do know what we saw. Something happened in Roundhay Park which is very frightening and I think people should be told about it."



Martin Cohen

Missing pilot's cash for parents

By SUSAN BAMBER
THE parents of missing Melbourne pilot Frederick Valentich will finally get control of their son's bank account — 10 years after he disappeared over Bass Strait.

Valentich's father, Guido, of Avondale Heights, has been trying for several years to get access to his son's account, which holds \$3500.

But, according to the Commonwealth Bank, where Frederick's account was held, Mr Valentich could not claim his son's account without proof of his death.

The 20-year-old pilot vanished on October 21, 1978, while on a flight from Melbourne to King Island.

Valentich's disappearance, minutes after he reported his plane was being "orbited" by a "bright object", captured headlines around the world and prompted speculation that he was captured by a UFO.

His last words, radioed to Melbourne flight control were: "... that strange object is hovering on top of me again ... it is hovering and it's not an aircraft."



● Frederick Valentich ... mystery.



● Guido Valentich ... access.

No trace has been found of the young pilot, nor of the Cessna aircraft he was flying.

Mr Valentich said he was told by bank officers the only way he could claim Frederick's account was to have him pronounced dead by the courts.

A Commonwealth Bank spokesman said yesterday the bank "accept a claim" from the Valentich family after Mr Valentich produced a Transport Department report on the aircraft disappearance, which listed Frederick as presumed dead.

MERCURY, Leicester, England - July 5, 1988 CR: T. Good

No explanation for circle mystery 'UFO' rings baffle boffins

Pilots make first report on imprints

BRITAIN'S great flying saucer debate flared in Leicestershire today after the discovery of mysterious rings in a county field.

A circular area of flattened wheat, with an estimated 25-yard diameter, has appeared near Oadby.

It is surrounded by a single ring apparently scored into the vegetation — with a triangular formation of three smaller circles nearby.

No tracks seen

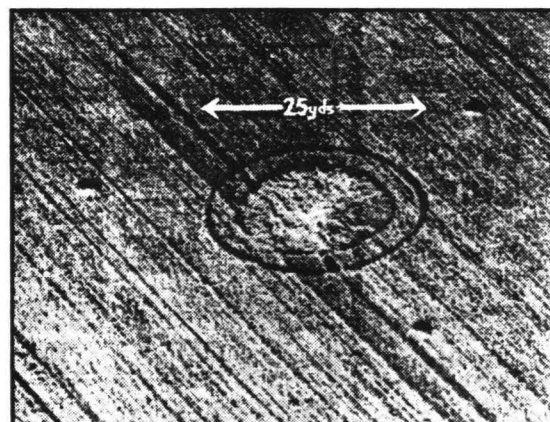
And it has already begun to baffle experts, who say there is no obvious botanical or geological explanation for it.

The rings were first spotted by flying instructors from Leicestershire Aero Club, in the field between the Roman Gartree Road and houses at Copse Close, Oadby.

Aerial archaeologist Mr. Jim Pickering was called in — but admitted he was stumped.

The 73-year-old former Battle of Britain fighter pilot said: "I have never seen anything quite like it."

"I have seen tens of thousands of circles in my time, formed by sub-soil



FLATTENED: The circular area in a wheat-field which has an estimated 25-yard diameter.

conditions. But this just doesn't fit that."

The main ring was the size of a barrow or prehistoric burial mound, but this shape was of no archaeological significance.

People may have caused it, but the shapes were very regular and no tracks could be seen from the edge of the field, he said.

Similar rings, discovered in the south of England, particularly

around Salisbury Plain, have caused wide-ranging theories to be aired.

Claims that the rings were formed by flying saucers landing on crops were dismissed by scientists, who now feel they may be the result of small whirlwinds.

Mr. Pickering added: "I totally reject all mystical explanations of phenomena that can't be explained. But I just can't explain this."

CITIZEN, Woburn Sands, England - July 21, 1988 CR: T. Good

MYSTERY OBJECT SPARKS A PROBE

Driver shoots video of UFO over the city

ARE WE BEING WATCHED?

That's the question tantalising scientists this week after an amateur photographer captured incredible shots of a dazzling UFO — hovering over the city centre.

For 30 seconds the historic video film records a mystery object blazing like a torch over the A5 — where stunned cameraman Gerry Twaites spotted it on Monday night.

Though Gerry's hands are shaking with excitement and disbelief the glow, which he swears is proof we're not alone, scarcely wavers.

Then, at the end of the reel, the cigar-shaped light seems to tilt slightly, before vanishing as mysteriously as it appeared.

From his home in Great Holm, a still shaky Gerry described his close encounter.

He told the Citizen: "It was a sheer fluke I had the video camera. I've never used one before, I'd only borrowed it for a wedding on Saturday."

"We were driving down the A5 at Little Brickhill when we first saw it. Then near the Bowl my wife Sue spotted it again. It was like

By JANE MATTHEWS

a cloud — except there wasn't a cloud in the sky."

Added Gerry: "It wasn't the shape of an aircraft, and no way was it a weather balloon — it was too low."

"By the time it stopped it could have been five miles away but I'd say it was very large, anything up to a mile long."

The space oddity — which is an uncanny repeat of UFO sightings near Bletchley last year — was also witnessed by Gerry's nine-year-old son Danny.

He recalled: "Danny was really shaking. He knows what he's seen and he doesn't tell lies. I know what I've seen too. It's incredible, I can't believe it."

When the Citizen contacted UFO expert Arnold West, who chairs the British UFO Research Association, he promised an immediate investigation.

"We look for an explanation, but in about five per cent of cases we can't find one and then it's logged as an unidentified flying object."

But Gerry's film record



● Gerry Twaites.

got a sceptical response from the Ministry of Defence which was called in by intrigued Milton Keynes police.

A spokesman commented: "I've seen flying oranges — until they turned out to be balloons. It depends on the time of day, the position of the person, the weather."

"We follow some of the reports up but we've never yet been able to prove the existence of little green men."

Mystery rings answer storm

WINCHESTER GAZETTE EXTRA, Basingstoke, England July 21, 1988 CR: T. Good

By DEBBIE RYAN

THE MYSTERY of the rings which crop up in fields all over Britain — including cornfields around Winchester — may have been solved.

A recent report in the Observer said that British Tornado expert, Dr Terence Meaden, has discovered the circles are caused by stationary whirlwinds.

Endless speculation surrounding these artificial looking circles has varied from UFO's to hoaxes and

even hoards of rampant hedgehogs and has had scientists baffled.

Dr Meaden is convinced that the circles, usually found near hills, are created when sudden gusts on just one side of the hill sink to the ground and flatten crops in a spiral.

But Mr Patrick Delgado, of Arle Close, Alresford — who since 1981 has been investigating the appearance of rings at Cheesefoot Head — said Dr Meaden was in agreement with him in backing the UFO theory.

But he added: "We are so disgusted that he is so adamant that the rings are caused by whirlwinds that

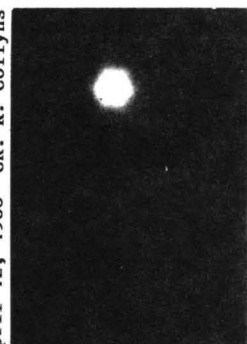
we don't want anything to do with him."

"We rang Met 9, the Intelligence department of the Meteorological Office, and they fell on the floor laughing at his theory."

Mr Delgado wants the rings taken seriously "without any talk of little green men."

So far this year, 41 rings have been recorded countrywide.

PEOPLE, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - April 12, 1988 CR: R. Collins



A UFO on film, or just an Unfortunate Film Occurrence?

UFOs EXPOSED?

SOMETHING strange happened to 12 photographs of friends which People reader H. Blum snapped in October last year.

When he collected the prints from the chemist, four shots of what could be UFOs were included in the batch.

"I've never seen a flying saucer in my life, so I'm disappointed that I can't remember how these were taken," Mr Blum writes.

"The camera I used is a Chinon CE4 35mm SLR. Can you explain anything about it?"

● UFO-like images have inexplicably appeared in many home photographs. Often there's a logical explanation, but sometimes strange forces are at work. Please send me the negatives for digital analysis.

PEOPLE, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - Feb. 8, 1988 CR: R. Collins

STRUCK DUMB

A YOUNG mother was so deeply disturbed by her encounter with a UFO that she refused, for years, to admit anything had happened.

"Mum and I saw the thing when we were living in Tredegar, Wales," recalls PEOPLE reader Karen Gilbert

of Nerang, Qld. "It burst into our lives one humid summer's night when I was about 10."

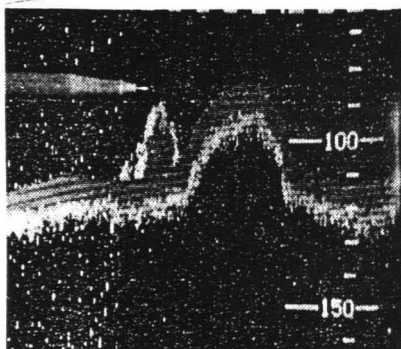
"We watched, quite amazed, as something huge, dome-shaped and silvery rose up from behind the terrace opposite. It spanned the width of five houses and was encircled with windows and red lights."

"My mum grabbed me by the collar and practically dragged me home. She locked our door,

too, and sent me straight to bed. The incident had extraordinary results."

"My mother and that neighbour never spoke to each other from that day. And mum refused to answer any of my questions ..."

"I've never worked out why my mum should have been so deeply frightened by memories of that weird craft."



Sonar — yet so far!

Skipper on tenterhooks over a 'monster' echo

By GORDON FYFE

A PEN indicates the echo reading picked up by the prawn trawler Sapphire on Loch Ness. Is it or is it not evidence of the Loch Ness Monster? Witnesses to the unusual sonar reading were the Sapphire crew (left to right) Skipper John Galbraith, cook Ian Macaulay and engineer Duncan Dunlop.



THE SKIPPER of a Campbeltown fishing boat was wondering yesterday if he had landed his biggest catch yet — evidence of the Loch Ness Monster.

Mr John Galbraith picked up an unusual reading on his echo sounder as he was steaming past Foyers Bay in his 40ft. prawn trawler Sapphire on Wednesday evening.

The object, reckoned to be between 90 and 120ft. long, appeared on the sonar device for two minutes and Mr Galbraith was so excited by the reading that he froze it on the screen for analysis.

Monster hunter Mr Adrian Shine visited Mr Galbraith yesterday at the Muirtown Locks, Inverness, to examine the evidence and he plans to carry out his own sonar tests of the area.

Mr Galbraith (36), from Carradale, was sailing to Inverness from Mallaig with engineer Mr Duncan Dunlop (42) and cook Mr Ian Macaulay (26) when he picked up the reading.

Before continuing to

Pittenweem, Fife, he recalled: "I was alone in the wheelhouse when I remembered that my five-year-old son, Robbie, had asked me to switch on the echo sounder just in case the Loch Ness Monster was lurking deep in the waters."

"The monster was in Robbie's mind because, only weeks earlier, we had called in at the Monster Centre at Drumnadrochit."

"The sounder had not been on long when I noticed what I thought was a large mass of fish on the seabed at 115 fathoms."

"The unusual trace remained on the screen for two minutes and seemed to follow the boat as I travelled at seven knots."

"It was a clear recording and I froze it on the screen as I thought it might be a trace of the monster."

Mr Shine, leader of the Loch Ness and Morar Project, said the trace was "a most interesting one" and said he would be anxious to take a reading with a Simpson Echo at the same spot.

Spotter's Rank Helps Lizard Man

By LYNN INGRAM
Special Correspondent

The latest sighting of Lee County, S.C.'s, famed Lizard Man has gotten Sheriff Liston Truesdale's attention.

An Army colonel from Bishopville saw the creature a week ago, and Truesdale says he's inclined to believe the man saw what he said he saw.

"If you can't put credibility in it with a status like that, I don't know who you could believe, because he (the colonel) was really trained to observe things," Truesdale said.

The Lizard Man hit the nationwide news in July when Chris Davis, 17, said a strange creature chased him down a rural Lee County Road.

But Truesdale said Friday that the Lizard Man was first sighted eight or nine months earlier.

Last fall, a construction worker, George Holloman, saw "a large object that at first he thought was a tree," Truesdale said. "Then he looked around and saw it moving."

"We didn't know it then. None of this came out until we had that automobile chewed up by an animal," Truesdale said.

Asked later about the sighting, Holloman described something "huge and black, and when a car passed and light reflected from its eyes, they looked sorta reddish. Then he stated that it ran back into the swamp," Truesdale said.

Truesdale won't release the name of the colonel who saw the Lizard Man last week. But if more reports come in, he said, "I don't see how we can help but release his name."

Truesdale said the colonel was driving on McDuffy Road, about 1½ miles from Scape Ore Swamp, at 11:10 p.m. last Friday, when a creature ran across the road in front of him.

The man said the creature was about eight feet tall and brown. Earlier reports had the Lizard Man about seven feet tall and green.

"Its unusual height is what's getting the people's attention," Truesdale said. "That and its speed. He said no human being can move that fast."

Truesdale said the colonel was upset by the sighting: "He said he didn't sleep no more that night."

REPUBLICAN EAGLE, Red Wing, MN - July 23, 1988

Giant footprint signals a time to seek strength

By Jim Anderson
STAFF WRITER

PRAIRIE ISLAND — The discovery of what appears to be an 18-inch long, human-like footprint on Prairie Island Indian Reservation is more than a curiosity or topic of conversation among the tight-knit community.

To Indians living here who follow traditional beliefs, it is a signal to find renewed spiritual strength at a time of difficulty.

Wayne Running Wolf was sitting in his living room on the reservation at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday when his dogs began barking frantically. He said he noticed something out of the corner of his eye through a window as he got up to see what the commotion was about.

"I saw a shadow or a shape, but I don't know exactly what I saw," Running Wolf said Friday.

"Whether it was a shadow or a shape, I don't know," he added. "I'd be a liar if I claimed either one. I thought someone was messing with my car."

"Our dog in the house, he was barking at the same time," added Dwight Wells, a neighbor.

Time of grief

What Running Wolf did discover, and has no doubts about, were two huge footprints crossing his driveway and heading toward a nearby wooded area. One print became obscured in the soft sand, but the clearer one definitely appears human-like, with five distinct toes on the end.

What outsiders might easily dismiss as a hoax is seen by several spiritual leaders here as a sign that Cee-ha-tonka, referred to simply as "the big man," has paid a call.

"We have our old legends about 'the big man,'" Running Wolf

said. "If it exists, it exists. You accept it." Common misunderstanding of Indian culture and sense of spirituality may cause some to scoff, "but I know what I'm looking at," Running Wolf said, carefully covering the print under a wheelbarrow.

"That big man, he's been around for centuries," Wells added. Both men referred questions about the meaning of the big man to tribal spiritual leaders.

The big man appears "mostly near where there are Indian communities that are struggling or having problems," said Amos Owen, spiritual head of the community. "That's a message for us. But the people are afraid of it."

The Prairie Island community is in grief this week over the untimely, accidental death Thursday of 27-year-old Clayton Wells, Dwight's brother.

A sign is always left behind after the appearance: a footprint, a musky scent, a tuft of hair or broken tree limbs too big for a normal-sized human to smash, he said.

Other appearances

"In our way of beliefs, they make appearances at troubled times," said Ralph Gray Wolf, an Alaskan spiritual leader visiting Prairie Island. He helps those troubled communities "to get more in tune with Mother Earth" and gain spiritual energy and inner strength. With the renewal comes the ability to face the difficulty.

Before appearing, the big man sends "signs or messages that there is a need to change, a need to cleanse," Gray Wolf said. "Right afterward, is when he makes his appearances."

"The legend has a way of teaching you. It disciplines you in certain ways," said Ray Owen,



Eight-year-old Erik Wells of Prairie Island points out the huge footprint left in the sandy driveway of Wayne Running Wolf. The print is a full 18 inches long and appears to have five toes. — staff photo by Jim Turvold

Amos' son. "It's to make you become more aware of other things."

The sign of the big man is preceded by a sense of foreboding among the tribe, he said, adding he could sense that before this week.

"I was up in Minneapolis, and I just had to get back down here," he said. I felt that pressure, that tension."

The trio said the big man has appeared in many Indian communities: Standing Rock, N.D., Pine Ridge, S.D., even Prairie Island five years ago, to name a few.

Spiritual guidance

Legends of a "bigfoot" or "Sasquatch" among Indian tribes of the Pacific Northwest, along with claims of footprints, photos and other purported evidence has been sensationalized in the same class as the Loch Ness Monster and UFOs.

But for some Prairie Island residents, it is a time of looking quietly inward and seeking spiritual guidance.

Scientists have tried to debunk the evidence of the big man's existence, Gray Wolf pointed out, "but they've never been able to disprove it."

Worms' eye view of storm

PENSIONER Alice Dexter could hardly believe her eyes when she stepped into her garden after a heavy storm to discover it had been raining — worms.

Dozens of the tadpole-like creatures were wriggling in the rainwater barrels at her home in Norton Lees Lane, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Mrs Dexter said yesterday: "They just dropped out of the sky in the rain. I have no idea where they came from, but they were still alive."

A Meteorological Office spokesman said: "It is possible that strong winds may have sucked them into the air and then dropped them in the rain."

Freak weather conditions have in the past been responsible for showers of frogs.

DAILY POST, London (?), England
July 12, 1988
CR: J. & C. Bord/COMD-I

Soviets search for legend

MOSCOW (AP) — Zoologists are heading to Siberia to search for the abominable snowman, while remains of a mammoth have been found elsewhere in the frozen expanse, news reports said Thursday.

The official news agency Tass said fishermen from the Siberian city of Yakutsk discovered the fossilized mammoth in permafrost near the Khroma and Indigirka rivers. Scientists said the skeleton was well preserved because it had been frozen in the ground for at least 15,000 years in northwestern Siberia.

The remains soon will be taken to Yakutsk, where they will be assembled, Tass said.

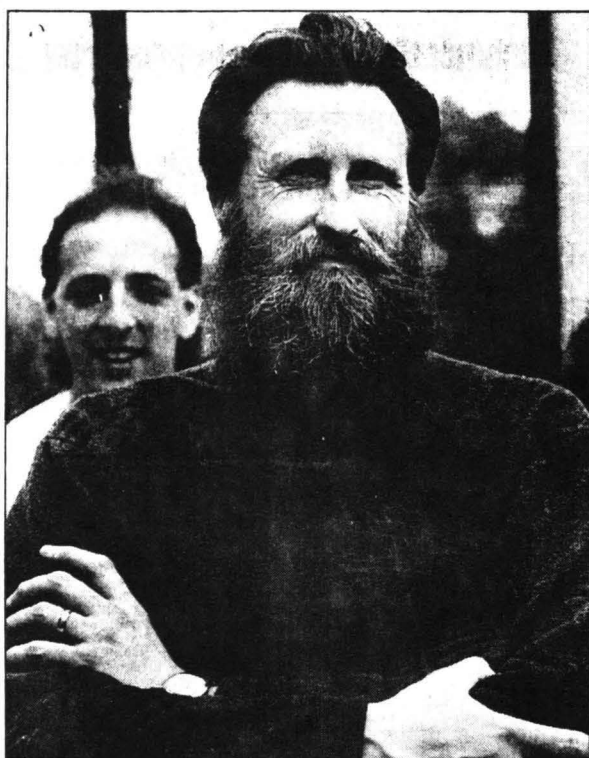
The newspaper Socialist Industry reported that 12 scientists, sportsmen and enthusiasts planned to search in the Tyumen region of western Siberia for the abominable snowman.

The expedition will follow the same route that a Leningrad explorer used several years ago. The explorer, Vladimir Pushkaryov, disappeared in the region while interviewing residents who tell legends about the mysterious creature they call Kompolen, the newspaper said.

A group of tourists also disappeared in the area, and the expedition will look for them as well as the abominable snowman, the newspaper reported. It did not say when the expedition would begin.

The hairy behemoth said to roam the snowy expanses of Siberia and other areas is a favorite legend among superstitious Soviets. Tass reported in January that the Soviet Culture Ministry had set up a Society of Cryptozoologists to search for the snowman.

In March, a newspaper said a Mongolian adventurer claimed to have made plaster molds of an abominable snowman's footprints and photographed the creature sitting on a rock. The sighting was alleged to have occurred in the Altai Mountain range of extreme western Mongolia, just south of Siberia.



Staff photo by Alexa Welch

MONSTER HUNTER — Adrian Shine of Scotland has led several expeditions to find the elusive Loch Ness Monster.

anniversary of the Loch Ness Monster, a roller coaster at Busch Gardens. Shine explained that although he has not seen Nessie, his quest is undaunted.

And Shine believes question about the creature may still be resolved.

"I think it will take us a while yet," he said, "and the explanation may be due to a number of widely different factors."

Does he worry that he may puncture the belief that the monster exists?

"I don't think you can puncture myths with science. I'm sure that conception of the Loch Ness monster will survive anything that I do or say."

Because of the popularity of the Loch Ness monster, Chessie and the other creatures reportedly sighted, Shine is confident that "people do want to have something from the primeval."

"Unless there are people like me trying to find an answer and that mystery is resisting us and we are failing, it wouldn't be a mystery. It would all fade away."

Last year, Shine conducted Operation Deep Scan, a sonar curtain sweep of Loch Ness, using 20 vessels equipped with fish-finding echo sounders.

"We pulled that line of vessels up and down Loch Ness twice, looking for sonar contacts deep in the water column," he explained.

"We did get a series of three echoes on the first day, echoes that we were unable to follow up with our ... flotilla with more sophisticated equipment. They were unable to find them later."

One of the chief concerns on the expedition was that some of the sonar targets in the loch would be such items as old fishing gear "or maybe Loch Ness monster hunters equipment from earlier eras. Because we were able to follow up these targets immediately, we were able to dismiss the possibility of fixed things because they were not there on the follow-up."

Shine said no contacts were found on the second day. "That doesn't mean, of course, that we comprehensively covered the water column, no way," he added. The contacts the first day, however, were "quite encouraging."

Is there really a monster in Loch Ness?

"What is the monster? Rhetorically, I could say, I suppose the Loch Ness monster for the public is a blend of two images: There is the serpentine image — the classic sea serpent with a multihumped body — or the plesiosaurus, the Jurassic reptile."

"I must confess that in the '80s we don't subscribe to that [image]. ... We no longer sit by the banks of Loch Ness with large cameras waiting for the answer to come out and shout at us. We no longer mount underwater cameras in long vigils," Shine said.

"We're listening for whispers now from things like temperature."

Shine said cold water tends to rule out the plesiosaurus type of reptiles and mammals are expected to surface more often to breathe and draw attention to themselves. Amphibians, he added, tend to come from the land rather than the sea.

So the only possibility left, he said, is that Nessie is some kind of giant fish, "whether you like it or not."

"Fish have no trouble breathing without being seen, no trouble with the water temperature, no trouble with reproduction, no trouble with anything at all," he said, noting that fish can certainly be as big as the 15-foot length of the known Nessie observations.

He added, however, that not all witness reports describe a monster that resembles a fish.

"But, if you look back to the original local tradition, it was really referring to large eels in the loch. We mustn't ever forget that. The eel is a rather snakelike sort of a fish. I find [the eel] a more plausible explanation than certainly any of the other candidates."

Shine also added the sturgeon to the list. The upturned beak of a sturgeon may be mistaken for a long neck of some of the sightings. "I don't want to draw too much into this, but it is possible," he said.

Chessie sightings good news, says Loch Ness sleuth

By Wilford Kale
Times-Dispatch state staff

WILLIAMSBURG — Sightings of a mysterious creature affectionately called Chessie in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay enhance the possibility that a Loch Ness monster exists, says a Scotsman with a deep interest in the matter.

"I find it encouraging that things are seen elsewhere," explained Adrian Shine of Drumnadrochit, which is on the shore of Loch Ness in northern Scotland. "It doesn't mean, of course, that the same thing is being seen."

He noted that in addition to Chessie, there have been sightings of a creature in Lake Champlain in New York known as Champ and another monster in a lake in British Columbia.

Chessie, reported to have been seen during the past decade and described by witnesses as up to 20 feet long, differs in appearance from accounts of those who claimed to have seen the Loch Ness monster.

"This creature is thought to be more serpentine, even though it undulates up and down, rather than side to side like a snake. Whereas, many of the popular conceptions of the Loch Ness monster are now no longer serpentine, but are in terms of the plesiosaurus, a Jurassic reptile with a long neck and flippers," he said.

Shine has spent the last 10 years heading various expeditions to find the elusive monster and recently became a full-time consultant at the Loch Ness Center, the exhibition center related to the loch and the monster and a major tourist attraction in the Scottish Highlands.

His search for sea monsters, he acknowledged, began not at Loch Ness but at Loch Morar on Scotland's west coast. There have been reports of a monster there for years but without the fanfare and publicity of Nessie.

In Williamsburg on Friday to participate in festivities for the 10th

With the sightings of Chessie, Champ and Nessie, Shine is more comfortable with sea serpent-monster phenomenon.

"Were Loch Ness to be an entirely unique phenomenon, I don't think I'd be interested," he explained. "It's the very fact that there are a few other places, particularly in the Northern Hemisphere with the same sort of latitudes, where we do have these reports that makes it more plausible."

But as for Chessie, is it real?

The Chesapeake Bay "and the sea [are] very big and there is no way I would dismiss anything," Shine said.

BIGFOOT update:

Since *The Echo* "broke" the Bigfoot story in our May 25 edition, folks have been pestering us to write more about it. Some say they'd rather read about Bigfoot than the Ligonier Valley School Board, or the "C-word" for that matter, but I know they're just pulling my leg.

Bigfoot is still in the mythology department; the school board gives us real drama and hard taxes.

But Bigfoot may be alive and well and roaming Chestnut Ridge. Stan Gordon of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, based in Greensburg, tells me there have been several other reported sightings of Bigfoot since Ligonier's Samuel J. Sherry Sr. revealed his encounter with one the night of May 17 at Sleepy Hollow. Sherry's report was unusual in that it came in the form of a letter to *The Echo*. Most people reporting Bigfoot sightings prefer to remain anonymous, said Gordon.

One of the most recent sightings occurred June 29 on the Derry side of Chestnut Ridge in broad daylight, Gordon related. A woman was awakened by the barking of her dogs and looked out to see a Bigfoot-like creature about 100 feet away, moving toward her horses. The horses were so spooked they were climbing all over each other trying to get through the barn door. The creature was described as 7-8 foot tall with broad shoulders, no discernable neck or waist, and matted, grayish brown hair on its body.

"The most interesting thing is that we thought we had our first pictures," said Gordon. The woman snapped three photos, but unfortunately the film somehow jammed in the camera, creating a bunch of double exposures and ruined film — and no Bigfoot.

Gordon's team was able to take a cast of a 16-inch footprint left at another site on June 28, and he's received a number of second-hand reports on the PASU hotline, 838-7768.

Bigfoot followers will want to watch WJAC-TV's "Evening Magazine" next Wednesday, July 20, at 7 p.m., when Jim Dever will give an update on the sightings, including an interview with Mr. Sherry and four other witnesses.

ECHO, Ligonier, PA - July 13, 1988 CR: S. Gordon

Wildman's Hair Passes the Test

United Press International

Beijing

Scientists say an analysis of hair reportedly belonging to China's version of the abominable snowman has proved the existence of the legendary "wildman" who roams southwestern forests, a news report said yesterday.

"The distribution of trace elements in the wildman hairs is different from that of modern man, black bears, orangutans and other animals," Shanghai's Wen Hui Bao newspaper said.

"This objectively proves the existence of the wildman, a rare and advanced primate that is similar to man," it said.

A team of 100 Chinese researchers headed for the mountain forests of central Hubei Province in June in an attempt to solve the 3,000-year-old mystery of the half-man, half-ape whom numerous peasants in the area claim to have seen.

Peasant witnesses speak of a man-beast at least seven feet tall with reddish hair and long,

swinging arms. A number have claimed they heard the "wildman" emit a laugh that sounded almost human.

Nicknamed "Fei Fei" by Chinese scientists, the creature has given rise to a lore similar to that surrounding North America's bigfoot and the legendary abominable snowman of the Himalayas.

Atomic and chemical analyses showed the levels of calcium, iron and copper to be higher in the hair of the "wildman" compared with amounts in the hair of nine other mammals, including man, black bears, golden monkeys and orangutans, the report said.

The tests were conducted by the animal biology department at Shanghai's Huadong Normal University and at the Shanghai branch of the Chinese Academy of Science. They were done under the supervision of Liu Minzhuang, a biology professor at the university and head of the China Wildman Research Center, which was set up in the early 1980s.

J. ANTONIO HUNEUS / SCIENCE FRONTIERS

The Baghdad Battery: Did Ancient Parthians Discover and Use Electricity?

Every history of science textbook tells us that the first electric battery was invented in Italy by Alessandro Volta in 1800. Napoleon was so impressed with Volta's demonstration that he made him a count and senator of the Kingdom of Lombardy. Yet the real history of the dry cell battery seems to be much older, actually some 2,000 years earlier. Its discovery even has the flavor of a strange artifact unearthed by Indiana Jones back in the days when archeology was more adventure than academic profession.

The year is 1936 and the Iraq State Railways Department was doing work in Kajut Rabua, a farming village southeast of Baghdad. The area had been occupied by the Parthians, a late Near Eastern civilization which had lived there between 248 BC and AD 226.

A number of excavated objects were sent for classification and analysis to the laboratory of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad, then under the direction of Dr. Wilhelm König, a German archeologist and engineer. There was one item in particular which drew König's attention. "A vase-like vessel of light yellow clay, whose neck had been removed," he wrote, "contained a copper cylinder which was held firmly by asphalt." The vase was only six inches high, and inside the sheet-copper cylindrical tube there was "a completely oxidized iron rod." Similar pieces, designated by the amorphous term "religious or cult objects," existed in the Baghdad and Berlin museums. König was determined to solve the riddle of what they were.

"The question as to what this might be, received the most surprising answer," he wrote in his book *9 Jahre Irak* published in Vienna in 1940. "After all the parts had been brought together and then examined in their separate parts, it became evident that it could only have been an electrical element. It was only necessary to add an acid or an alkaline liquid to complete the element."

König thus postulated that the ancient Parthians had discovered the electrical battery some 2,000 years before Volta.

The hypothesis was soon tested and worked. Willy Ley, a noted German rocket pioneer who emigrated to the U.S. in the 30s and became a prominent science writer, noticed Dr. König's discovery. He persuaded the General Electric Laboratory in Pittsfield, Mass., to

construct a replica of the Baghdad battery to see if it would work.

The battery was filled with copper sulphate instead of the electrolyte, which was unknown, and it worked. More tests were conducted in 1960 by John B. Pierczynski of the University of North Carolina.

As reported in Ronald Story's *The Space-Gods Revealed*, a book which debunks the "ancient astronauts theory" of Erich von Daniken, "using an electrolyte of 5 percent vinegar solution, one-half volt of electricity was obtained from the cell, which lasted 18 days. The most likely purpose for such a battery would be a primitive electroplating process; one-half volt would be a sufficient electrical potential to electroplate silver onto copper." Story failed to see how this ingenious system could have anything to do with "an advanced alien technology."

So far the most complete research on the subject has been conducted by another German archeologist, Dr. Arne Eggebrecht, an Egyptologist with the Roemer und Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim, West Germany. He first saw the ancient battery when several treasures from Iraq were exhibited in the museum where he works in 1976. Since then, he recruited a battery specialist, an electrochemist, a goldsmith, and a galvanizer, to test not only how the battery worked but how and for what reason it was used.

"If you take all these things together, they can only mean an electrical cell or battery to a scientist," remarked Dr. Eggebrecht.

Dr. Eggebrecht's team made an exact replica of the original pieces, using freshly pressed grape juice to provide the alkaline liquid. As described in *Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World*, "as soon as the liquid is poured into the copper cylinder, a volt-metre connected to the battery registers half a volt of electricity." Having produced this effect several times, Dr. Eggebrecht then moved into the second phase of his experiment: to use it to gild a small statue, as he believed was the case.

The German scientist used as a model a small statue of the Egyptian god Osiris, "made of solid silver topped with a layer of gold which he believes is far too thin and smooth to have been applied by the crude techniques of beating or gluing," explains Arthur C. Clarke's book. "By immersing a silver statuette in a gold-cyanide solution, and running an electric current through it from the

Baghdad Battery," continues the book, "he was able to produce a finely gilded object in little more than a couple of hours." The process was repeated several times with similar success.

Furthermore, Dr. Eggebrecht believes that many ancient objects displayed in the museums of the world as being made of gold are actually made of silver with a thin veneer of gold like the electroplating of his Osiris statue in Hildesheim. Frank J. Biondi, an electrical engineer who worked at Bell Labs and is now president of Bond Engineering, thinks Eggebrecht's hypothesis is credible.

Dr. Biondi was quoted in *OMNI* magazine as stating that, "a half-volt to two volts of electricity is significant. The most frequently used battery in the modern world, the lead-acid battery, produces only two volts per cell. The proposal that a series of such cells were used to provide DC voltage and currents to electroplate gold is quite within the bounds of feasibility."

The Baghdad Battery may not be proof that our world was visited by extraterrestrial astronauts in the past, as was speculated by von Daniken, yet there can be little doubt that the artifact was indeed used to produce electricity. This ancient device from Mesopotamia was even discussed at an international scientific forum on Electrochemistry in Research and Development, held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in 1984.

Dr. A. Despic of the Faculty of Technological Metallurgy at the University of Belgrade in Yugoslavia, mentioned the pre-Volta, Mesopotamian battery, together with such futuristic advances in electrochemistry as electrophoretic deposition, electrochemical machining, and a "saline-electrolyte aluminum-air battery," as reported in a 1984 UNESCO Feature entitled "Electrochemistry from Ancient Mesopotamia to Treating Brain Diseases."

As for the Baghdad Battery, Dr. Despic stated that "its likely use was that of a mysterious driving power source for the process of plating metal objects with gold or silver."

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written frequently for publications in North and South America.

PAUL RECER

New Data Backs 'Snowball from Space' Theory on Origin of Earth's Water

BALTIMORE

A controversial theory that all of the Earth's oceans were filled with water from blackened snowballs that fall by the millions from space is gaining support from once-skeptical scientists.

Two studies reported this week at the American Geophysical Union meeting, along with studies in Europe and Canada, support the theory first proposed two years ago by University of Iowa physicist Louis A. Frank.

"No one has yet found data to show the comets don't exist," said Frank on Tuesday at the AGU meeting. But he admitted, "My life would certainly have been easier" if his snowballs-from-space concept had never been published.

Frank based his theory on data gathered from 1981 to 1986 by the Dynamics Explorer I satellite. In ultraviolet images taken to study air glow around the Earth, Frank found unexplained holes punched through the atmosphere.

After analyzing and discarding dozens of explanations, Frank concluded that the holes could only be made by space snowballs — 100-ton comets of ice coated with black hydrocarbons — that are falling on the Earth at the rate of 10 million a year.

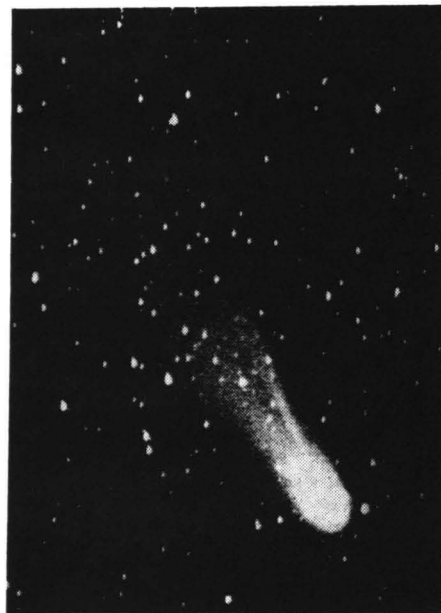
The ice balls, according to the theory, would come apart as they neared the Earth and would then flash to vapor in the atmosphere. Eventually, the vapor would fall as rain and join the Earth's water cycle.

Frank calculated that the snowballs, measuring about 30 feet across each, would contribute the equivalent of one inch of water all over the Earth's surface every 10,000 years. If this has been under way for the entire 4.5 billion years since the Earth's formation, the process would provide enough water for all of the oceans and the polar ice packs.

And if the snowball comets continue for billions of more years, as Frank believes, it could make major changes to the Earth's climate.

"I sat for a year or two trying to decide if I really wanted to go through the pain of publishing this. I knew what would happen," said Frank. "But I just want to know the answer."

Initially, most scientists dismissed the theory and refused to investigate it. Many met the idea with ridicule and Frank said he feared for his career. But some took it seriously enough to test the theory with experiments.



'DIRTY SNOWBALLS', which is what scientists say comets basically are, may be a key factor in the formation of the earth's water, according to a controversial new theory. Pictured is comet Bradfield photographed Oct. 23, 1987 near Linville, N.C.

Clayne Yeates, a physicist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, said Tuesday he at first was very skeptical.

"I thought it couldn't be true because we could see these objects all over the sky, even with binoculars," he said Tuesday.

But Yeates said he soon realized that the snowballs would be moving at about 22,000 miles an hour and would break up about 1,000 miles above the Earth. "It was not as trivial as I first thought," he said.

Yeates said he used a powerful space search telescope at the Kitt Peak Observatory in Arizona to scan the heavens for the snowballs. He developed a technique that swung the telescope, like a shotgun at a skeet shoot,

and did, in fact, capture photo views of the speeding comets approaching Earth.

"It was remarkable. The results agreed exactly with the predictions," said Yeates. "I'm left with no other explanation except that there is a class of objects as proposed by Frank."

Thomas Donahue, a space physicist at the University of Michigan, thought that Frank's theory could be disproven by measuring the level of hydrogen atoms, which would be released by the water vapor, in the space about the Earth.

He studied ultraviolet data collected by the Voyager 2 spacecraft, expecting to find that the hydrogen atoms would be at a low level. Instead, the data showed that the hydrogen was much denser than expected, enough to support Frank's theory.

A group of Canadian scientists studying data from a camera carried aboard a spacecraft called Viking (pronounced "Vicking") discovered that it, too, detected the "atmospheric holes" that Frank found in the Explorer satellite data.

The Canadians invited Frank to look at their photos and the Iowa scientist said, "I found one of the holes in just three minutes."

Other studies also are lending support to the theory. These include:

- A Penn State University study has used microwave detectors to confirm the presence of water volumes at high altitudes. Similar data was reported by West German scientists using rockets to study the atmosphere 60 to 80 miles above the Earth.

- A study of one of history's most famous space snowballs, Halley's Comet, has shown that the deuterium-to-hydrogen ratio in the comet is the same as in the oceans of Earth, indicating that comets could have contributed this ratio to the planet.

Frank said many scientists shy away from his theory because they are more accustomed to studying things that are distant in time or space.

"This removes the notion that the Earth is remote from the rest of the solar system," he said. "This is happening right now — today — to our planet."

"I had someone ask if I knew it was 10,000 to one against me," said Frank. "I didn't know the odds were that good. But everyone who has looked now has found evidence to support it."

Paul Recer is a science writer for Associated Press.



Sherry Points To Spot Where Creature Seen
Rated Top Case

Valley Man Says He Saw Bigfoot

By KIM OPATKA
Bulletin Staff Writer

Investigators from a local group which studies such phenomena are saying that the reported May 17 sighting of a Bigfoot by a Ligonier Township man is one of the best documented cases ever.

Samuel G. Sherry Sr., Ligonier RD 1, not only claims to have seen the elusive creature along the Loyalhanna Creek between Kingston and Longbridge, Unity Township, but also reported that it touched him.

What is unusual about this sighting, according to Stan Gordon of Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU), is the length of Sherry's observation, an estimated 12 to 16 minutes, and the detail he provided.

A PASU artist is currently working on a composite sketch of the creature, based on Sherry's recollection of the incident.

Gordon has dubbed this particular creature "Old Hairy," because of certain characteristics, including a lot of wrinkled skin, and several other traits which made it appear older.

Sherry's description scales down reported size of the creature, to around six and a half feet and no more than 700 pounds.

The incident occurred around 11:30 p.m. when Sherry, an avid fisherman, planned on a night of lantern fishing along the Loyalhanna.

As he got out of his car, he recounted, he sensed the presence of something or someone other than himself immediately.

"It was real dark and quite," Sherry said, with "Not even a drop of water" making a sound. As he was getting his fishing lantern out of the trunk, he sensed that something was watching him, turned and shone his three-cell spotlight into an open area where he viewed the creature.

He estimated it was about 25 feet away and it moved closer. It was making a wheezing noise as if it had trouble breathing, Sherry recalled, and smelled "musty," with breath like "spoiled seafood." Sherry said he was not afraid,

and was able to observe it closely. The light apparently bothered the creature, and after a time, it suddenly, quickly approached him, "bounding" somewhat like a kangaroo.

Sherry, who is an experienced outdoorsman, said he turned his back to get into his car when the animal brushed against him, touching his elbow, then placed a hand on his shoulder and one on his back.

He said it could have easily done something to him if it had wanted to, but as he didn't provoke it other than by shining the light, didn't feel he was in any danger.

"I never believed in anything like this," he added, noting that he still is amazed by the encounter.

In addition to Sherry's encounter, Gordon notes that two other sightings have been reported in the area in recent months.

The first occurred the week of February 14 on the Ligonier side of the Chestnut Ridge, in daylight in a wooded area, when a tall human-like creature with dark brown hair was seen. Gordon reported that it was about seven feet tall, according to the observer, and smelled like a wet dog.

Then at 12:45 a.m. March 19 in Derry Township at the base of the ridge, a man driving his car along a back road allegedly saw a deer run out in front of his vehicle, followed by a large, hairy, man-like creature which appeared to be chasing it.

Reports of those two sightings are being kept confidential, as is PASU's custom, Gordon notes. He said because of the unusual circumstances of Sherry's sighting and his willingness to discuss the encounter, details were presented to the media.

Gordon said he would provide The Bulletin with drawing of "Old Hairy" when it is completed.

Persons who have sighted the creature are urged to contact PASU at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, or call 838-7768 at any time. PASU is a volunteer statewide scientific research group which investigates incidents such as UFO and Bigfoot sightings.

Area man recalls encounter with infamous Bigfoot monster

By JOE JONES
Daily Record Staff Writer

Bigfoot, Yeti, abominable snowman, Big Muddy Monster, the missing link.

Whatever the name, wherever the sighting, the description is basically the same — large, hairy, upright-walking creatures that continue to mystify and terrify.

While persons who swear they have seen the elusive beasts are sometimes brushed aside as kooks or overimbibers of distilled spirits, most are dead-sure of what they saw.

Darwin Hart, 50, Route 1, Claremont, recalls his experience as vividly as the night it happened — about 35 years ago — near Lawrenceville.

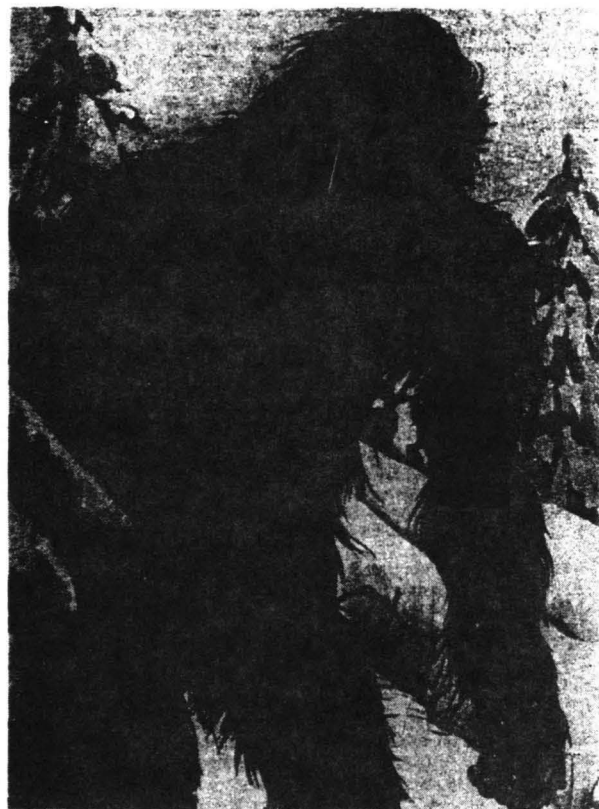
"There were five of us, two girls and three boys, going swimming in the gravel pits north of Lawrenceville," Hart said from his residence in rural Richland County.

"We were in a 1952 Ford and were driving along a gravel road that led to the pits when this ... thing ... crossed the road in front of the car. We stopped, it stopped in front of our car's headlights, and just stared.

"It made no sound and I don't remember any particular odor. The thing was about seven- or seven-and-a-half-feet tall and thin, not wide like a gorilla, and covered with brownish-gray hair. Its face was completely hair-covered and the head was pointed. What I remember most was the length of its arms. They were very long and hung below the knee."

Hart, who was about 15 at the time of the sighting, said the five went on to the pits and went swimming, but it was nearly 20 minutes before anyone brought up what they had seen.

"Someone, probably me, the 'mouth of the group,' asked 'Did you see what I saw?'" Hart said. "Everyone answered that they had. We weren't really scared, but it was like we were all mesmerized and not quite sure of what had happened."



Bigfoot: Myth or monster?

After telling the story to his parents, Hart said many of his friends at school laughed off the sighting as a tall tale and he decided to keep the story quiet.

It was only after reading of recent sightings of the so-called Big Muddy Monster near Murphysboro that he consented to retell his story.

"I'm not crazy and I would stand on a stack of Bibles and swear to what I saw," he added. "Others in the group could corroborate the story. I haven't mentioned their names, only because I haven't had contact with them for some time. Two live in Oklahoma and I'm not sure where two are

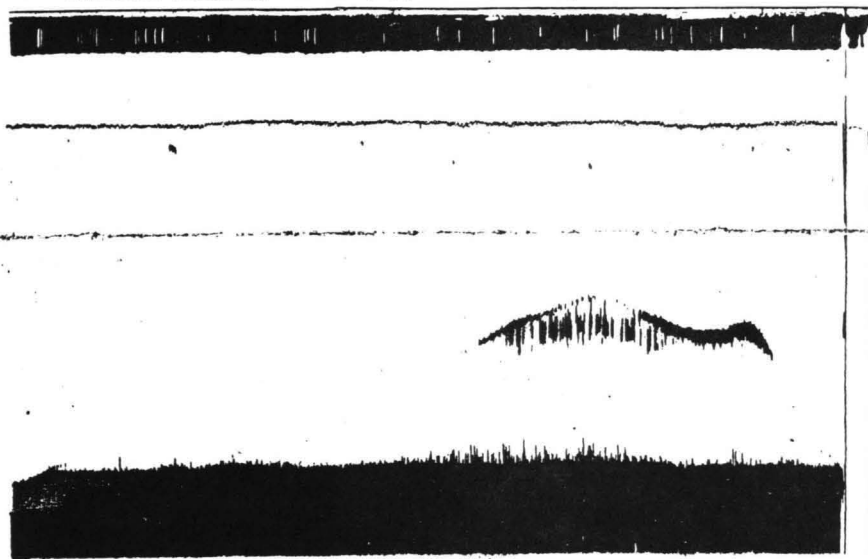
now. But we all saw the same thing, whatever it was."

Hart said the creature was no more than 20-30-feet from the vehicle and in plain view of the car lights.

"It crashed off into the woods and we went on and swam. That was a long time ago, but with all the sightings around, it makes you wonder if they live in pairs and if some offspring are still around. And it brings to mind that they must eat to survive. Are they vegetarians or meat-eaters?"

And do they still frequent the local gravel pits on nocturnal visits?

FLATHEAD COURIER, Polson (?), MT - Nov. 19, 1987 CR: T. Church



THIS IS NOT A LOCH NESS expedition souvenir—it's a copy of a Lowrance fish-finder sonar readout taken in August. It wound up in the hands of Jerry Kurzenbaum, who says the owner is a Missoula man with a summer home on Rocky Point Road. The man was fishing off Melita Island and turned

up this unusual image. The length of the eel-shaped whatchamacallit is estimated at 14 ft., enough to cause state fish and game officials to wonder just what it was. The rest of us, of course, have known all along there was something special in the lake.