

UFO

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CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
ROD B. DYKE

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SCIENCE

J. ANTONIO HUNEUS / SCIENCE FRONTIERS

TV Special to Put Spotlight on Alleged Gov't UFO Cover-up

First in a two-part series.

A large audience is expected nationwide for the 2-hour special *UFO Cover-Up? ... Live*, to be aired tomorrow at 8 p.m. (EST) from Washington. The program, hosted by actor Mike Farrell, better known as Captain B.J. Hunnicut in the TV series *M*A*S*H*, is a production of LBS Communications Inc., a company specialized in cable, home video, radio, theatrical films, international distribution, and "Live Event" specials; their "Return To The Titanic ... Live," ranked as the second-highest syndicated special in history. In the New York area, the UFO program will be shown by WPIX, Channel 11.

The executive producer is Michael Seligman, who has over 100 television events to his name, including the Titanic special and, at President Reagan's request, the 1980 and 1984 "Presidential Inaugural Galas." Martin Passetta, Jr. is the Director while Curtis Brubaker, the designer of many miniature vehicles for special effects in motion pictures and TV projects, is the supervising producer. All in all, the program should probably expose the government's alleged UFO Cover-Up as no other mass media event has done up to now.

According to a release from LBS Communications, the special "will examine numerous reports of UFO encounters from all over the world, combining on-site visits and interviews with previously classified documents, photographs, and film footage. Interviews with high-ranking Pentagon officials, members of Congress, scientific experts and eyewitnesses will explore the government's role in controlling the investigation of such reports."

The program will explore in particular the crash of an unknown aerial object near Roswell, New Mexico, on July 2, 1947, which many believe marks the beginning of the UFO cover-up. The facts of the Roswell incident are well established, as has been reported on this column in the past. Los Angeles writer William Moore, nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, and others have located some 100 informants, including 31 first-hand witnesses, who will attest to the fact that an unknown object did indeed crash in the ranch of William Brazel; that the 509th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force in Roswell, NM, under the direction of Major Jesse Marcel, retrieved the wreckage of the object; that the pieces recovered consisted of a material which was extremely light and at the same time unbreakable; and that some of the pieces were also said to contain a hieroglyphic-type unknown writing.

Furthermore, the public relations officer at the Roswell Army Air Base, Lt. Walter Haut, issued on July 8, 1947, a press release acknowledging that the base "was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc." And then the policy towards the event changed



ACTOR MIKE FARRELL hosts "UFO Cover-Up? ... Live" on Channel 11 tomorrow at 8 p.m.

drastically when General Roger Ramey, Commander of the Eighth Air Force in Fort Worth, issued a counter-press release which stated that the Roswell object was merely "a high-altitude weather observation device." Other documents, such as vintage FBI memos from director J. Edgar Hoover and special agents in the field, obtained years later under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), dispute further Gen. Ramey's balloon story. The full details of the investigation were published in 1980 in the book *The Roswell Incident*, co-authored by William Moore and Charles Berlitz, and in several updated reports published by Moore since.

Although the reality of the Roswell crash has been proven quite conclusively, and all efforts to debunk it or come up with alternative hypotheses (such as secret testing of V-2 rockets from White Sands) have failed, things became more complicated last year with the release of a series of allegedly "top secret" documents from Presidents Truman and Eisenhower. If genuine, these documents would show that the Roswell object was an interplanetary spacecraft and that the badly decomposed bodies of four alien occupants were found later on or near the crash, and that Truman convened an exclusive group of high-ranking generals, admirals and scientists to study the crash. The group, which included then Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, the first CIA Director Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, and scientific "high priest" Dr. Vannevar Bush, was purportedly code-named "Operation Majestic Twelve" or "MJ-12."

Next week, we'll reveal an analysis of the documents in question which was made by a world renowned expert in linguistics, Dr. Roger W. Wescott, which supports the validity of Adm. Hillenkoetter's "Briefing Document" to Eisenhower. We'll also discuss some of the other issues related to UFOs that will be raised tomorrow by the TV special. In the meantime, stay tuned to Channel 11 at 8 p.m. and see the evidence by yourself.

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written frequently for publications in North and South America.

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Palmdale, CA - Aug. 4, 1988

Van driver reports sighting UFO in sky over Lancaster

LANCASTER - It came from the northwest, hovered briefly over Sierra Highway and vanished in a matter of seconds.

That's how Kaye Stricker describes the unidentified flying object she says she sighted Wednesday morning.

Stricker, who drives the LIFE Nutrition van, was picking up a rider at Gadsden Avenue and Avenue K enroute to the Antelope Valley Senior's Center for lunch. She says she was stopped at the traffic light when she noticed a shiny object in sky to the east.

"It wasn't a dirigible, it wasn't a plane and it wasn't a helicopter," Stricker said. "It was shiny, it came from the northwest. Slow. It hovered." That was at

11:15 a.m. and Stricker radioed LIFE Nutrition.

"All of a sudden, it just evaporated. It disappeared. Became invisible."

Stricker says she was only able to see one side of the silver, oval shaped object. "I couldn't tell if it was saucer or a doughnut."

Wednesday's sighting was the first UFO she has seen, Stricker says. "It was so unusual. I stuck out like a sore thumb." Stricker says she pointed out the UFO to the passengers in the van, but none of them said they had seen it.

Stricker isn't willing to hazard a guess as to what she thinks it was. "All I know is it's an unidentified object. I'm not about to play guessing games."

- ROBIN VALAITSIS

REPORTER DISPATCH, White Plains, NY - Feb. 18, 1988

UFO Sighted

My wife and I read with great interest, Ms. Connor's story on the UFOs of October.

We are summer residents at Indian Lake. We came to the lake last October to enjoy the colors and close the cottage for the winter. On Thursday, October 8, 1987 we went out to dinner and on returning to Rossmore strolled down to the dock to enjoy the starlight over the lake.

We were surprised to see, coming from the southwest a semi-circle of lights similar to those on the wings of aircraft. But this was, apparently, either a huge flying machine of some kind, or four or five aircraft flying in formation. We have seen precision flying but never so closely coordinated as this appeared to be. We think it extremely unlikely to have been more than one object.

It was moving quite slowly and there was a low, but noticeable, hum.

It moved toward the northeast and shortly circled around and returned in the same direction from which it had appeared initially. We watched it until it disappeared from view.

We decided to say nothing about it at the time since, quite often, persons who report this type of event are ridiculed.

However there was absolutely, based on our joint observation, no question that what we saw was something which we could not classify.

We think we observed this phenomena over a period of thirty to forty minutes from beginning to end.

Would appreciate if you will send this report to the authors of *Night Siege* or use it to your best advantage.

Francis J. Cullan

Millerton
Millersville, MD.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 16, 1988



BY MEREDITH OAKLEY
Democrat Staff Writer

Fillman Bledsoe of North Little Rock is the author-publisher of a softcover book entitled "Far Star," which he says contains "the bold, shocking

facts about our UFO visitors and the infamous reason why the truth was covered up from us."

Bledsoe says he did not write the book "to prove the existence of unidentified flying objects" but to provide food for thought on the controversial subject.

The book is available from Bledsoe for \$9.95. Contact him at 108 W. 17th St., North Little Rock, Ark., 72116.

★ ★ ★

UFO Photo Exhibit Coincides With 'War of Worlds'

By KATHIE FLANNERY

Staff Writer

WEST WINDSOR TWP. — Trentonians weren't the only ones watching the king and queen of Sweden touring the state capital this spring. A UFO showed up for the festivities too.

And there's a never before released photo to prove it that will be on display at the township library with about 40 other photos of UFOs starting Oct. 1 through Nov. 7.

In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the War of the Worlds radio program and sponsored by the Central Jersey and Penn-

sylvania UFO Study Group, the photos document UFO sightings from all over the world, according to member Pat J. Marcattilio.

In the case of the most recent sighting in Trenton, a man was trying to take a photo of the American flag flying side-by-side to the Swedish flag. While he waited for the one flag to unfurl, bright light came through his lens, but he snapped the photo anyway, explained Marcattilio.

The man looked for a plane or other object near to the flagpole and saw nothing, according to Marcattilio. A few minutes later, however, the photo showed six white lights of varying intensity circled by the

flagpole, he continued.

Whenever a UFO might have been spotted, said Marcattilio, a phone call is put out to the airports to see if any planes were present at the time. An effort is also made to check for balloons or other possibilities.

The Trenton sighting was checked, but Marcattilio said that the shape itself ruled out an airplane. "It looks like a UFO train going through," said Marcattilio.

The exhibit at the library, located at Clarksville and North Post roads, will also include the latest information about Mars gathered by probes to the Red Planet.

And Mars is closer to the earth this year than it has been in over 17 years. According

to Marcattilio, that historically means there will be more UFO sightings this year.

"The best thing is a picture," said Marcattilio. "A picture is worth a thousand words." He said he has over 150 worldwide photos but will only choose 40 or so of the best for the library display.

Marcattilio is also the state section director for MUFON, Mutual UFO Network, an international organization with about 2,000 members.

The local organization meets every third Wednesday at the Hamilton Township Library at 7:30 p.m. For more information contact Marcattilio at (609) 888-1358.

OUTDOORS

They're Heeere!

Who Are They? By Lyla DeVita

MORE THAN THIRTY THOUSAND UFOs are reported worldwide annually. Most are dismissed as reflections of the sun's rays off airplanes or as the effect of quirky meteorological conditions. About 10 percent, however, remain a mystery.

Paul Cerny is the western states director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an organization in Mountain View that researches alleged sightings. Cerny says that a hundred UFOs have been reported over the last ten years in Northern California alone.

Although Cerny recalls a sighting as recent as last summer in the East Bay, MUFON has lately been concentrating on massive sightings of unidentified craft in the area of Gulf Breeze, Florida. For the best example of a local sighting, we have to go back a few years to July 1979.

Back to the Hernandez episode.

Investigators associated with MUFON agree on several criteria in selecting the few cases, among the thousands, that will be investigated. The criteria are (1) number and credibility of the witnesses, (2) closeness of the encounter, (3) acts apparently defying laws of nature and (4) witnesses showing physical reactions after the encounter.

The 1979 Hernandez case meets all four criteria and more, says Marv Taylor, the primary investigator of the case and MUFON's state director for Northern California. "On a scale of 1 to 10, I would rate it a 9, and possibly a 10, if it could be proved that an abduction took place."

Because of the compelling aspects of the Hernandez story, Taylor passed over more recent sightings in Livermore, Stockton and Brentwood to open a then-seven-year-old case. The Hernandez affair had never before been investigated. Afraid that they would not be believed, the Hernandezes never discussed their experience with the media, police or private investigators. Taylor, who sells real estate in Modesto, first talked to Arlene Hernandez, also in real estate sales, in March 1987, and she entrusted the MUFON investigator with the case.

AT 10:30 P.M. IN MID-JULY, 1979, GLORIA Hernandez pulled her Toyota truck out of her Tracy driveway and headed for Livermore. It was time to pick up her husband at work. Both her at work. Both her husband, Herb, and her son Herby were employed at the now-defunct California Steel Works on Vasco Road.

Seated next to Hernandez that evening were daughters Virginia, then seven, and Arlene, nineteen. Riding in the back of the pickup were Gilbert, Hernandez's fifteen-year-old son, and his friend Chan Weddell, fifteen.

While backing up, Hernandez's eyes riveted on a peculiar light in the sky. It floated a block away, motionless, about fifty feet off the ground. Nervously, she joked that it was a flying saucer. As they turned onto Byron Road, the light began to move. With alarming speed, it closed to within fifty yards of the truck.

Weddell recalls only a faint murmuring of the wind. "It couldn't have been a plane or helicopter," he says, "because when we came to a stop sign, it stopped with us. That was when we started freaking out."

On Patterson Pass Road, Gloria stopped the pickup out of curiosity. Arlene says the wind stopped and all was quiet: "There was one house on the



WAYNE WHITE

corner surrounded by alfalfa fields—no homes around it for a mile either way. I've never seen any type of aircraft move so fast without making noise or some kind of breeze."

Then, leaving the cab, Hernandez and her daughter Arlene looked up, stunned by what they saw. The circular, orange-yellow light, which they describe as about twenty feet in diameter, was hovering slightly behind them at a distance of a hundred feet above the ground, illuminating the road and part of the surroundings. The light emitted no heat and didn't bother their eyes.

Virginia was frightened to the point of tears. She says, "All I knew of flying saucers was that little green men came down and got you. I kept on praying that they wouldn't come."

Overwhelmed by fear, Gloria started the engine. After some car trouble, she drove ahead at a high speed. In minutes, a diesel truck approached them from the opposite lane, causing the light to disappear from view. Once the truck had passed, the light reappeared overhead and followed them to Grant Line Road. There, Weddell says, "It turned toward San Francisco."

Earlier in the evening, in a bizarre coincidence, Ken Kroft and Cristoforo Ruelas, employees at the California Steel Works, had been working in the yard when they were startled by a light about forty feet above them. The men, running in "white as ghosts," described to Hernandez's son Herby a perfectly round, blue "flying saucer."

Following the incident, Arlene says that she, Virginia and Gilbert were examined for strange lumps that appeared on their bodies. Arlene says that she saw an eye doctor in September 1979, who wanted to excise a lump that had grown on her left eyelid. She decided against

the operation, and after one week the lump mysteriously disappeared. (Every

She saw a strange light in the sky and joked that it was a flying saucer. Then it followed her car.

several months the lump returns and can appear on either eye, she now reports.)

In the summer of 1980, it was Gilbert's turn: According to Arlene, a cancer specialist examined a lump that had formed under Gilbert's left arm, and a biopsy was planned for November. By November, however, the lump had disappeared. Every six months or so, a lump reappears, sometimes under either arm, sometimes behind his left ear. Virginia found her first lump in January 1980, and after three or four occurrences, she has never had lumps again. Taylor theorizes that radiation from the UFO might be the cause of this physical reaction.

Such a dose of radiation may have been the result of the Hernandezes' possible abduction into the alien spaceship, suggests Taylor. Gloria and her daughter Virginia both have small, scoop-like indentations between the knee and ankle of their left legs. These markings are similar to those of other alleged abduction cases, in which "abductees" claim to have made direct contact with extraterrestrials.

Although the family has no memory of being abducted, the physical markings and the fact that the craft followed the truck overhead lead Taylor to suspect that greater interaction took place. "I have heard of cases where a UFO hovered over a car and abducted passengers out of the car. It's also possible that the aliens abducted the Hernandez group without taking their bodies—an out-of-body experience."

Gloria's daughters say she acquired an unusual habit immediately after the incident, which lasted until they moved, seven months later. "There was a balcony off the master bedroom, and every morning at two o'clock, she stood out there and stared into the sky," Arlene says. "I asked her about it once and she didn't know what I was talking about."

The Hernandez family will also tell you that Gloria's psychic sensitivity has become heightened, enabling her to foretell events involving family members with impressive accuracy. Arlene says her mother can sense when Herby has been picked up by the police or is in similar trouble. Another time Hernandez interrupted a happy family picnic in Oxnard, California, by bursting into tears, Arlene recounts. She then announced, accurately, that the children's grandfather had just died in Long Beach.

Richard Haines, a retired senior research scientist with NASA who now teaches psychology at San Jose State, has been contacted about possibly conducting hypnosis experiments with the family. Haines says his involvement with the case is at a very preliminary stage, pending more information.

Taylor has analyzed and officially registered the account with MUFON headquarters in Seguin, Texas. "It is extremely unusual for a family of five to be within fifty feet of a UFO," Taylor says.

IN ANOTHER CASE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING alien spacecraft, a family provided a vivid account of a glowing disc above Highway 680 near Pleasanton. On June 25, 1976, Ellen Roberts, her daughter Jo, then fourteen, and her sister Laura were driving home from Santa Cruz on Highway 680. It was about 10 p.m., dark enough that the illuminated object could be clearly viewed when it approached them from the left, by Roberts's account.

As Roberts slowed the car to 30 miles per hour, the craft hovered alongside them, about 200 feet away, making every detail visible to the women, according to Roberts. She estimates that the craft was about 25 feet high and 40 feet long, and she remembers red and white lights ringing the craft, as well as green lights at its top and on some side panels. After lingering for five minutes, the UFO flew over the car and disappeared over a nearby mountain.

Cerny's files and his memory of other locally reported sightings have enticed but incomplete details. A dark-colored alien made the acquaintance of teen-age boys in a field near Brentwood, in a report that Cerny called "vague and probably not too reliable." In Stockton, a military helicopter pilot and other airport personnel reported seeing a glowing object cruising in and around the Stockton airport a few years ago. Two employees at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab said they saw a torpedo-shaped object trailing a small jet aircraft over the plant, in an incident that occurred several years ago. Last summer, a couple driving near Fremont spotted a UFO making erratic turns before it disappeared from view.

Arlene Hernandez maintains she doesn't feel traumatized by the UFO sighting, but she says, "I constantly look up into the sky to see if something's going to happen. I'm ready now, but I guess they don't come when you're ready. I feel they don't want you to be expecting them." ■

Lyla DeVita last wrote about three "haunted houses" in the East Bay ("Ghost Stories," December 1987).

Wisconsin Puts Out Welcome Mat for UFOs

BY REGGIE McLEOD

Elmwood, Wis.

Perhaps UFO pilots would like to make official contact with Earthlings, but they are too polite to drop in uninvited. Perhaps they are waiting for us to put out the welcome mat.

Tom Weber of Chippewa Falls, Wis., heads a group that wants to build a two-square-mile welcome mat that will be clearly visible to UFO pilots.

We have reacted to UFOs with fear, hostility, curiosity and indifference, but we have never shown any hospitality, he explained.

"They may be wondering 'When are you people going to make a collective response to our presence? When are you going to invite us?'"

His message would begin with a quarter-mile-long figure of a man facing a slightly smaller alien figure. Both

The aliens 'may be wondering "When are you going to invite us?"'

figures would be painted on flat, wooden platforms four feet off the ground. A row of lights from each figure would ripple to figures of the alien and human shaking hands.

Another row of lights would then ripple to a prepared landing site.

Weber said the message conveyed by the figures will be: "Members of your society and members of our society will meet here."

"Here" is just outside Elmwood, Wis., population 991, a place that may already be familiar to extraterrestrial travelers. Residents of this village, in the hilly farmland 25 miles west of Eau Claire, have reported UFO sightings regularly since the mid 1970s.

This summer, they held their 10th UFO Days Celebration, an annual observance of their place in the interplanetary fast lane. Celebrants donned antennas and ate UFO burgers while a bus toured sites where locals have spotted UFOs.

Weber joined the celebration this year. He is president and founder of the UFO Site Center Corp., a nonprofit organization trying to raise \$50 million to build and staff the UFO landing site.

During UFO Days, he and other volunteers answered questions and tended a table filled with UFO Site Center T-shirts, pens and bumper stickers.

The site center itself would cost about \$25 million, and another \$25 million would be needed to operate and staff it.

Spotlights would illuminate the figures and a landing pad marked by concentric circles. The two-square-mile area would be fenced and secured to protect the aliens. Buildings on the site would be staffed by about 100 diplomats and scientists from around the world, according to Weber.

Weber launched his quest last winter. His group has an office in downtown Chippewa Falls staffed by about 10 active volunteers. The plan has attracted thousands of inquiries from around the world, including a call from Geraldo Rivera, who interviewed Weber on network television.

So far, nobody has attempted any-

thing of this sort on this scale, although the late Major Donald Keyhole — a well-known writer on the subject of UFOs — proposed a similar project, said Weber.

"This is something I've thought about for a long time. I suppose you reach a point in life when you either have to take action or forget about it. I'm willing to give everything to this project."

Although many people — including pilots, police officers and scientists — have reported UFO sightings, a stigma is often attached to those who admit to seeing one.

Weber, who has not spotted any UFOs himself, found the average Elmwood resident to be open-minded and well-informed about UFOs. Residents and the village board have been receptive to his plan.

Weber conceded that his group doesn't expect to raise \$50 million dollars by selling T-shirts and bumper stickers.

The group is contacting celebrities and other possible sponsors. If or when it nears its goal, it will flaunt its success, he promised.

He believes contact with an advanced race could provide shortcuts to solving many problems that threaten humankind, such as the arms race, cancer and AIDS.

Weber introduced Paul Frederickson, who says he spotted UFOs twice during the 12 years he lived in Elmwood, where he worked as administrator of the nursing home. He and his wife moved to Melrose, Wis., in 1986.

One night in the late 1970s, Frederickson was working at the nursing home when his son stopped in after a high school basketball game to catch a ride home. As they were driving over Tuttle Hill, south of town, his son pointed out a bright object on the horizon and asked if it was the full moon rising.

"I said 'That's one of them!' because the moon doesn't go that fast," recalled Frederickson.

He pulled his van off the road, and they jumped out to watch a huge, gray, metallic object pass about 800 feet overhead.

"It made no sound, except when it got right above us there was a soft whirr. It came out over the village, then went like this," said Frederickson as he shot his arm straight out. "Whoa, it was gone."

Several reliable witnesses told Frederickson about their sightings only after swearing him to secrecy. Most people described cigar-shaped objects about the size of a football field.

"My first reaction was skepticism," he said. "Then, when many good people I had known for years started telling me about it, I became interested."

Of course, local residents speculate about the reasons Elmwood would be so popular with extraterrestrials. The most common notion is that they tap into the high-power line for energy. Many of the sightings have been near the line, and television reception often gets bad at night, said Frederickson.

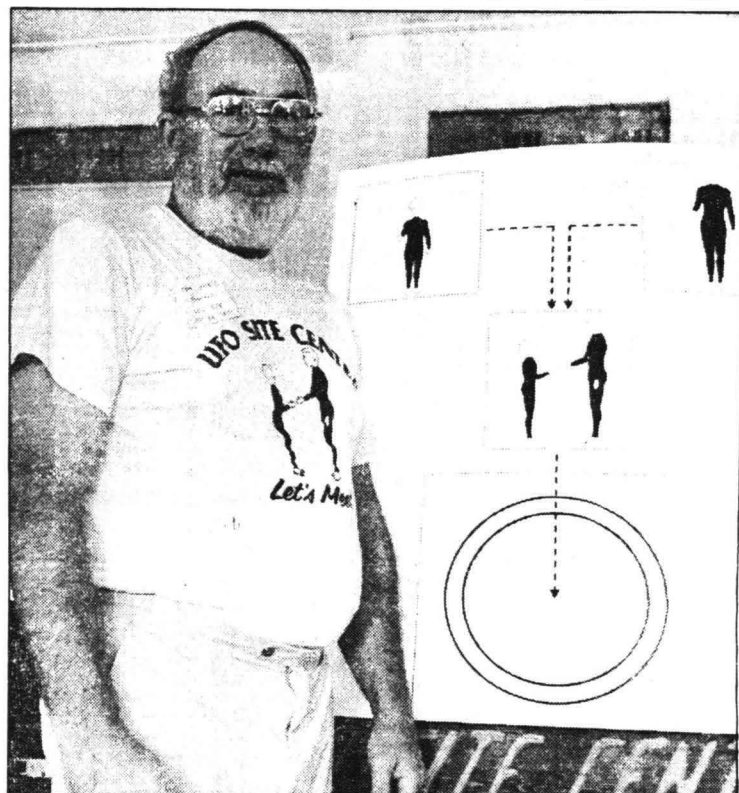
He supports the concept of a UFO Site Center, with some reservations: "I'm for it, but it overwhelms me. I feel some apprehension. Could they be hostile? I don't know. Maybe I've been reading too many National Enquirer stories."

Larry Feiler, village president, has spent a lot of time explaining that UFO Days and the UFO Site Center are two different things.

"I've been trying to make it clear that the Site Center has nothing to do with anybody from Elmwood."

Feiler, 45, has always lived in Chippewa Falls but has not seen a UFO. He said people have gotten used to the sightings.

"We have kind of gotten to the point where people may say 'I saw a light in the sky,' but we only call it a sighting when people actually see a vehicle in the sky."



BY REGGIE McLEOD 'SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Tom Weber, president of UFO Site Center Corp., showed off a drawing of the two-square-mile landing pad he wants to build for cruising extraterrestrials

Across from the UFO Site Center's table in the village auditorium, Don Schmitt and other volunteers from the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies at behind two tables full of books on UFOs and issues of their magazine, International UFO Reporter.

Schmitt, an investigator and co-director of the center, said it has gathered more than 50,000 reports of UFO sightings.

'In Elmwood, most have been legitimate sightings that nobody has been able to explain'

The Chicago-based group has about 30 investigators across the United States and representation in 50 countries. Investigators and consultants include psychiatrists, psychologists, physicists, chemists, astronomers, physicians, biologists and other experts who try to explain reports of UFO sightings. About 90 percent can be explained, but 10 percent remain a mystery, he said.

The sightings from the Elmwood area that he has looked into have been of better-than-average quality.

"One thing that impressed me right along is not only the number of people involved, but the people themselves," said Schmitt.

Witnesses have been calm and composed. One sighting has not triggered a rash of sightings; rather, there has been a steady flow of them, he said.

"In Elmwood, most have been legitimate sightings that nobody, including ourselves, has been able to explain."

Sightings used to follow a five-year cycle, with many in 1947, 1952, 1956-57, and so on until about 1973.

"In 1973 that cycle broke," said Schmitt. "And since then, we have been spending more time on 'abduc-

tion cases,' which became more prevalent in the mid-60s."

In the typical scenario, an individual or couple is driving late at night on a secluded, sparsely traveled road. They observe a bright light that seems to be pacing the car. It becomes larger and brighter and appears to be following the car.

If a car comes from the opposite direction the light disappears then returns after the car has passed. The passengers become disoriented and confused about where they are and what time it is. They have lost track of an hour or two. Later they suffer confusing flashbacks, anxiety and nightmares, said Schmitt.

About two-thirds of these people cannot remember the abduction without counseling. The other third have full recall. They remember visiting a craft where they were probed and examined by aliens.

"It's intriguing that different people from different backgrounds would report the same things," notes Schmitt.

The Center for UFO Studies is conducting research to determine whether these reported abductions are a kind of psychological phenomenon or can be explained in some other way.

Schmitt said he has not heard of any abduction reports from the Elmwood area, but CUFOS has a backlog of 10 reports from other parts of Wisconsin waiting to be investigated.

A few days after the UFO Days, banners, beer tent and alien costumes had been put away, village president Feiler estimated that the celebration attracted between 6,500 and 7,000 visitors — 2,000 more than it usually hosts.

As far as he knows, a UFO has never been sighted near the village during UFO Days. Unfortunately, none joined the celebration this year.

However, stories circulating this year claimed that someone spotted one about 12 to 15 miles east of town, near the spot where one was seen last spring.

Reggie McLeod is Winona, Minn., freelance writer and photographer.

Is anybody or anything out there?

By Steve Cooper
Gannett News Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

The messages of these outer space entities are the driving force behind the thriving movement. To believers, the question is no longer: Is there higher in-

POST CARDS FROM SPACE, 5C

telligence out there? But: What do they say to us?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Seen any flying hubcaps lately? This photo was taken on Aug. 3, 1975 in California, and is an example of many suspected sightings around the world.

A UFO KIT

Gannett News Service

A MUFON field investigator is advised to keep an investigation kit at the ready and close at hand. The kit should contain supplies that enable the investigator to immediately begin gathering evidence and interviews from a UFO sighting or encounter with an entity. MUFON breaks down lists of supplies into three categories: necessary, desired and optional.

□ The basic kit should have an identification card, MUFON questionnaire forms, the manual, a compass, clipboard or three-ring notebook, area maps, paper, pencils and pen, star finders, camera with film, sample containers (plastic sandwich bags), tape measure or ruler, flashlight with extra batteries, *Farmers Almanac*, magnifying glass, string, stakes, knife and tweezers.

□ The desirable supplies are tape recorder and tapes, elevation indicator, arc indicator, binoculars, 100-foot steel tape, chalk lines, camera flash, paraffin or plaster of Paris, trowel, shovel, boots, disposable gloves, first-aid kit and a detailed almanac.

□ Optional additions are Geiger counter, pocket spectroscope, scintillation spectrometer, magnetometer UFO radiometer, camera with diffraction grating, police monitor, movie camera and film, camera light meter, tripod, topographical and aerial maps and rangefinder.

TYPES OF UFOS

Gannett News Service

A MUFON manual for field investigators provides descriptions and drawings of the four most commonly reported entities.

□ **Type 1:** The most frequently reported entity is dwarf-like, with a large, bald skull, large, slanted eyes, pointed ears and may carry a baton-like object.

□ **Type 2:** This type is human-like in appearance. The manual sketch of the humanoid looks strikingly similar to Mr. Spock of *Star Trek*, but without the pointed ears.

□ **Type 3:** Anthropoids — reported in South America — are small, covered with dark hair, have arms that dangle past their knees and claw-like hands and feet.

□ **Type 4:** Also called Bigfoot or Sasquatch, is large and apelike in appearance, with glowing red eyes and fang-like teeth. Neither Type 3 or Type 4 are usually associated with UFOs.

Entities may be encountered by accident, usually when a person comes upon an alien or aliens when "UFO crews are engaged in either sample gathering or in apparently repairing their craft," according to the manual.

Intentional encounters involve UFOs or beings deliberately blocking a human for communication or abduction.

Types of communication are audible (either spoken or mechanical), gestures, written, telepathic or through visions.

UFOs seem to bypass Rochester

By Deborah Fineblum Raub

Dana Schmidt of Penfield is a patent attorney with a degree in engineering and two feet planted firmly on planet Earth.

He's also the state section director for Monroe, Wayne and Ontario counties for MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network.

And, as such, Schmidt is responsible for investigating all UFO sightings in the area, including those folks who get in touch with him through MUFON's national office in Seguin, Texas, and others he may hear about in the local media.

Unfortunately, like the Maytag repairman, Schmidt hasn't had much work to do around these parts.

"There may be something going on and nobody's reporting it or there may be nothing going on and nobody's reporting it," he says good-naturedly.

In the past five years, Schmidt has been called on to investigate only two sightings.

The first occurred two years ago when an air traffic controller in a town outside of Rochester noticed unusual-looking lights in the sky and a radar screen with objects hopping erratically about, not at all like the path of an airplane. A few miles away, outside gazing at the night sky, the controller's wife saw the same inexplicable lights.

That sighting, says Schmidt, has been registered in the file of unexplained phenomena at MUFON's national office. But sighting number two turned out to be Venus.

"That just indicates that there are a number of people who don't know their sky," he says.

In fact, the planet Venus accounts for 90 percent of the 30 or more UFO phone calls received by the Strassenburgh Planetarium each year, according to director Don Hall.

"When people see something they don't understand, they jump to the least likely explanation," Hall says. "Someone looks up into the sky and sees an unidentified flying object and says, 'Oh, wow! It's a spaceship coming from the farthest corner of the solar system!'"

Hall further explains his skepticism by citing "the 27 years I've been looking at the sky professionally and never have seen anything I don't understand."

John Hambleton, meteorologist at WHEC-TV Channel 10, says he gets his share of phone calls, too. They all seem to involve lights spotted out over Lake Ontario at night.

And, although he admits to "a certain amount of skepticism about UFOs," Hambleton hasn't ruled out the possibility of something appearing in the sky that is beyond his experience.

"People in the sciences have to learn 'never say never' because man has a tendency to be very arrogant," Hambleton says.

William Forrest, associate professor of astronomy at the University of Rochester, says he would have to see some real physical evidence of UFOs. "Otherwise, sightings are a dime a dozen. We have real problems here on Earth. If we look for creatures from outer space to solve our problems, they'll never get solved."

Schmidt says there are theories that aliens are worried about pollution of the Earth or are escaping their own planet where war and pestilence may be taking a toll.

Schmidt says he would be suspicious of anyone who has, say, sighted 20 UFOs. But he'd love to see one.

Although he calls himself "fairly skeptical," Schmidt is angered by scientists who have closed their minds to the possibilities of extra-terrestrial life. "How can someone who adheres to the scientific method totally reject new evidence? If we all did that, we'd never learn anything."

Deborah Fineblum Raub is a Rochester free-lance writer.

SEEN A UFO?

If you've sighted a UFO, Dana Schmidt would like to hear from you, at 385-3795.

UFO SERVICE

Enlarged listing of 162 sources of worldwide UFO information. Send \$5.00 check or money order to investigator/lecturer George D. Fawcett, 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092 USA. If from overseas, write first for extra cost of postage/handling.

For UFO trackers, the sky is not . . .

THE LIMIT

Investigator says sightings more than flights of fancy

By Lisa Faye Kaplan
Staff Writer

Philip Imbrogno became a believer on March 21, 1985. That's when the science teacher and author saw something he still can't explain. "The lights stood rigid. There was no sound," said Imbrogno about the dark object that hung in the air over I-95 in Bridgeport, Conn. "It looked like a boomerang with an orange glow. We tried following it in the car and almost got smashed up. People were looking up at it, slamming on the brakes. The whole area was in panic."

Before that night, Imbrogno was not convinced UFOs existed, even though he had spent 10 years investigating sightings reported by other people.

"Usually a team of investigators never gets to see the UFO," said Imbrogno. "But in this case, we saw it. That's when I was convinced 100 percent that we were dealing with a phenomenon that does not represent human technology. I'm not saying it's extraterrestrial. I'm saying I don't know where it's from."

Seeing is believing

Belief in UFOs, like belief in the Almighty, requires faith.

Most evidence that we are not alone in the universe is empirical, rather than physical. While thousands say they have seen a UFO, many others insist there's no such thing.

And officially, the Federal Aviation Administration takes a "we-don't-know" position.

"We are unable to prove or disprove anything," said Paul Steucke, a

spokesman for the FAA, which has investigated sightings by air crews.

Imbrogno, however, does exist and seems sane enough. He is 37 years old and lives in Bethel, Conn., with his wife and two children. His eyes are large and brown, his mustache is full and flecked with gray, and his hair is thinning. When Imbrogno is not running the science department at the Windward School in White Plains, he's a private investigator, looking into reports that UFOs are as real as the people who see them.

"Who in the sciences wouldn't be intrigued with the idea of visitors from another star system?" Imbrogno said. "The idea is not only romantic, but it's fascinating. If they are here, what the hell do they want?"

"Night Siege," a book Imbrogno co-wrote last year, details scores of UFO sightings over the Hudson Valley in the past five years. The book presents accounts from Danbury police officers, who say they saw a UFO in July 1984; a Mahopac physicist, who claims to have had a "close encounter" with a UFO in March 1983; and several Westchester residents, who insist the objects they saw in the night sky were UFOs, not airplanes or ultralights flying in formation, the most common official explanation.

Early stargazing

Imbrogno isn't sure why he first became interested in people who think they've seen UFOs. Maybe it's because, as a 12-year-old living in Port Chester, he saw things through his Sears telescope that other kids couldn't see.

"Whereas kids were talking about how fast cars are, I'd be talking about telescopes and stars and the evolution of galaxies," Imbrogno said. "I guess I was considered a little strange. Maybe I still am."

To nobody's surprise, Imbrogno studied the stars in college and eventually received a bachelor of science degree in earth science and astronomy from Northeastern University. In 1981, he began teaching science at Windward, a private school for students with learning disabilities.

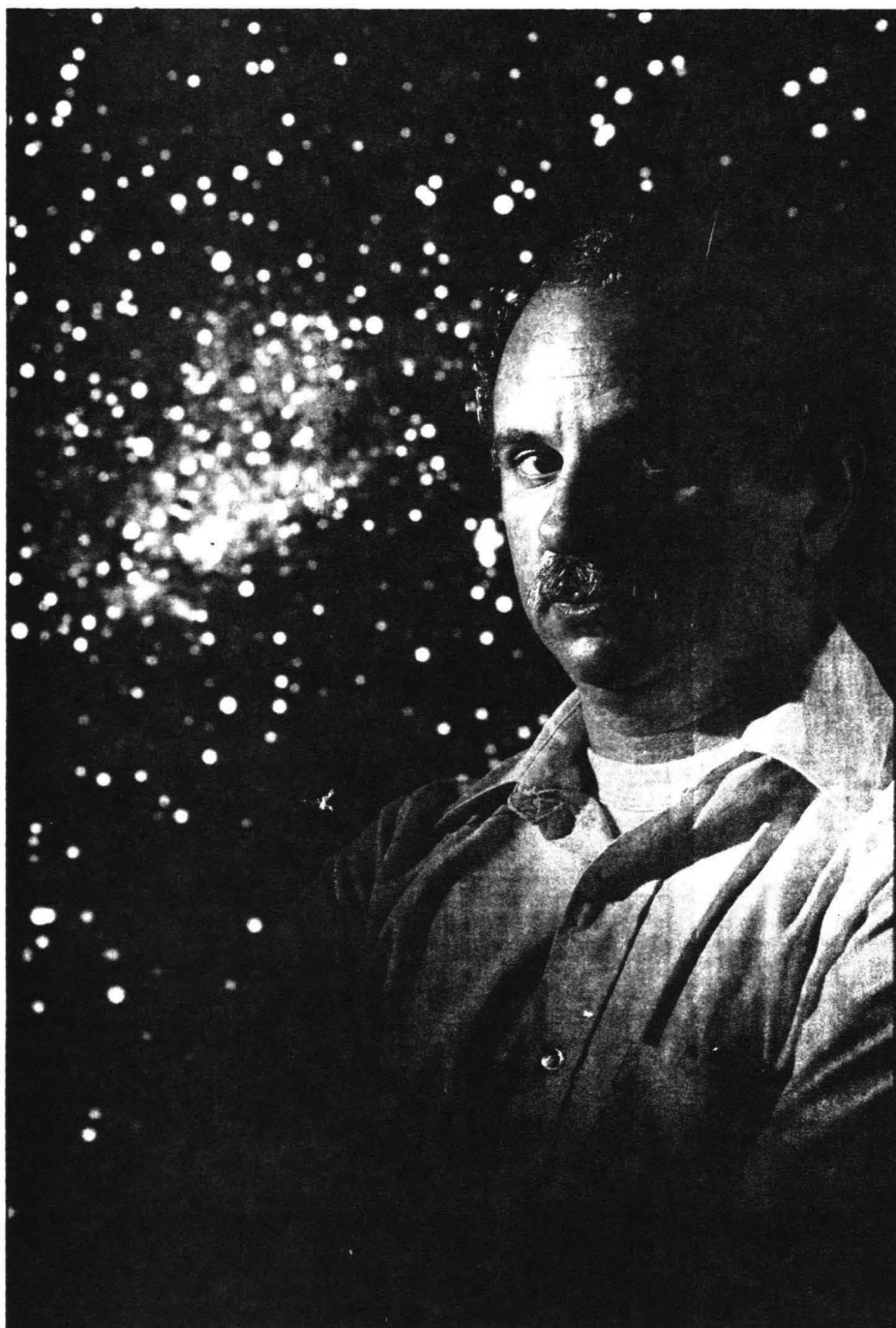
Imbrogno, who uses his interest in UFOs to intrigue reluctant science students, is an "outstanding" teacher, according to Judith Hochman, the school's director.

Searching for life

"Encounter: The Search for Extraterrestrial Life," sponsored by the American Museum-Hayden Planetarium, is a 45-minute slide and special effects show that explores the search by astronomers for extraterrestrial beings.

The show, which explains scientists' search for life in space and their likelihood of success, is being presented through Nov. 21 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. weekdays and every hour on the hour from 1 to 4 on weekends.

Admission is \$3.75 for adults; \$2 for children; \$2.75 for senior citizens and students. The planetarium is at 81st Street and Central Park West in Manhattan. For more information, call (212) 769-5920.



Gannett/Seth Harrison

Philip Imbrogno is a private investigator of UFO sightings. His book, 'Night Siege,' details scores of UFO sightings over the Hudson Valley in the past five years. Says Imbrogno: 'The stories of UFOs are as old as man himself.'

Don't just stand there . . .

If you think you've seen a UFO, don't just stand there and gawk, says Philip Imbrogno, a UFO investigator.

■ Find additional witnesses who can confirm your sighting.

■ Note the time, approximate angle of the object in the sky and its color.

■ Determine if the light is

steady or flickering.

■ To determine approximate size, hold a dime or quarter at arm's length and see if it covers the image in the sky.

■ Note in what direction in the sky — north, south, east or west — the object appears.

■ Don't waste time grabbing a camera, which probably won't

produce a good photograph. Observe instead.

■ Call police to officially record the sighting.

■ Send your information, plus a general description of the object, and telephone numbers of additional witnesses to: Philip Imbrogno, P.O. Box 4218, Greenwich, Conn. 06830.

— Lisa Faye Kaplan

Imbrogno, who rarely waxes ecstatic about anything, said about teaching, "You get a lot of free time off."

Joining forces

In 1973, Imbrogno joined the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a Texas-based organization that studies UFO phenomena.

MUFON maintains a newsletter, a toll-free number to report UFOs and a national network of field investigators who research sightings.

As a MUFON investigator, Imbrogno explored the backgrounds of people who saw things they couldn't explain. He'd ask how

much they already knew about UFOs, what time the sighting was made, and what the UFO looked and sounded like.

Imbrogno worked with MUFON for about a year when he concluded that most lights in the sky were only routine astronomical emissions.

"Most of it was caused by bright planets or bright stars glowing in the atmosphere," Imbrogno said. "Some people were seeing aircraft or satellites and reporting them as UFOs. I began to have my doubts about UFOs, that most of them were nothing more than misinterpretations, people wanting to see something."

Disillusioned, Imbrogno resigned from MUFON and joined the Center for UFO Studies, which, he believed was a more scientifically sophisticated group. The sightings he investigated were made mainly in the Hudson Valley.

Gradually, Imbrogno's belief in UFOs began to build.

"It came in steps," Imbrogno said. "There were more and more people who were obviously not looking for publicity, who didn't even want their names used. They came from professional backgrounds. And they were reporting strange objects and strange experiences."

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5 -
REPORTER DISPATCH, White
Plains, NY - July 14, 1988)

At what moment did the investigator's belief outweigh his doubt?
"Where we first saw the video."

Captured on video

At about 10 p.m. on July 24, 1984, Bob Pozzuoli was letting his dog outside when he noticed strange, bright lights in the sky. The business executive from Brewster yelled for his wife, Lori, and grabbed a video camera.

The result is a rare videotape of a UFO sighting, which Pozzuoli copied and gave to Imbrogno.

The video shows a large circle of lights trailed by a lighted tail. The mass of lights move together through the night sky and seem to outline a large oval object, which experts guess measures about 1,000 feet wide.

The only sound on the video comes from the Pozzuolis.

"I'm going to tell you something, honey," Bob Pozzuoli says to his wife. "I don't know what the hell it is."

"You take that video," Imbrogno said, "and all the statements you have from reliable people who stood right under it as it passed over, and you say, 'What the heck was this? Who are they?' One question leads into another, and you start getting confused again."

Theories behind UFOs

People who believe in the UFO phenomenon often theorize that UFOs are either extraterrestrial — from another star system — or interdimensional — from another dimension.

Imbrogno subscribes to the fourth-dimension school of thought and explains it this way.

"We don't know where the fourth dimension is because we can't see in that direction," Imbrogno said. "It's like if someone is perfectly flat on the ground. They can see forward, backward and side-to-side. But they can't look up. We're in the third dimension, so we can look down on these flat people and they won't be able to see us."

"The way UFOs behave seems to indicate that they could be a four-dimensional phenomena," Imbrogno continued. "They have the ability to disappear and reappear. Stories of UFOs are more like ghost stories than anything else."

Since "Night Siege" was published last year, Imbrogno has become a minor celebrity. He's a frequent speaker at UFO-related conventions and has talked about sightings on such television shows as "Today," "Gerald" and "The Morning Show."

"Regis Philbin and Gerald have class," Imbrogno said with a rare smile. "They sent a limousine."

Public interest in UFO sightings, however, has waned recently in the wake of recently published books that claim humans are being abducted by aliens. Imbrogno, in fact, has turned down offers to write "Night Siege Part II" because publishers want him to dwell on abductions.

"They want to see aliens close up," Imbrogno said. "They want stories that have no scientific base. I'm open-minded about (abductions), but I'm not totally convinced it's really happening."

Imbrogno, however, is convinced that an area beyond human perception exists, that it intermingles with our reality "from time to time," and that UFOs are real.

"The story of UFOs are as old as man himself," Imbrogno said. "We may have viewed them as religious things. In the Middle Ages, they may have been called demons. Now we're calling them spaceships. But we're dealing with the same phenomena. I think investigators have proved that UFOs do exist. Our next step is to prove where they're from. The only way we're going to find out is if we keep on researching and speculating and don't get carried away."

UFO

Chilling tales of kidnappings by aliens

By SUSAN RUDDIMAN

West Jackson County Bureau Chief

GAUTIER — It was better than staying at home and watching the weekly blood-thirsty thriller on television.

Those who attended the UFO Conference at the Gautier Convention Center Saturday heard stories and viewed photographs that slid tingles up and down spines.

"This whole thing seems totally crazy, but I've seen case after case after case," guest speaker Budd Hopkins told the audience of 300.

Working in the field of Un-identifying Flying Objects is so complex, that Hopkins has specialized in the UFO abduction phenomenon.

He contended that beings from another world come to earth not to fight everyone to death or to save mankind.

"It would seem whatever they are or wherever they've come from, they are in trouble. They're here because they need something. They are focusing on us as humans," he said.

From the many cases he has studied, he said he has found the abductions often start when the person is a toddler. Over the years, the beings return to examine the humans as he or she is growing.

These specially selected children are marked in two ways, Hopkins said. One, a straight incision is made and the second, a scoop mark is made, usually around the calf of the child's leg. Hopkins showed photographs illustrating the two types of marks.

Later in the child's life, Hopkins said the beings implant a small ball type object into the head, placing it on a long needle up the nose or in the eye socket or ear.

The beings show a strong interest in the human reproductive system, removing women's ova and men's sperm. Some abductees recount being taken back onto the spacecraft and being shown a baby that is a cross-being a human and the small creatures.

"They want to know about human emotions. They want the woman to take the baby and look at her emotions," Hopkins said.

Though most of the persons do not remember the abductions and being taken aboard the spacecraft for examinations, the events do have a profound effect on their lives, Hopkins said.

One man was in terror every time he drove a stretch of highway and another woman could not bring herself to stand in a field by the well, he said. Many of their buried memories come out during hypnosis.

Hopkins played a tape of a man's account of his abduction as he remembered it under hypnosis. When the man recalled mysteriously finding himself standing in his backyard one night in his pajamas and he sees the small creatures approaching him, he gasped, "Oh no, no, not again. I don't want to, I don't want to. Leave me alone. Get away from me. Leave me alone."

Hopkins, a painter and sculptor by profession, seriously started his UFO investigations in 1975 after writing about a sighting in New Jersey for "The Village Voice."

His first book on UFO abduction phenomenon, "Missing Time," was published in 1981. His latest book, "Intruders—The Incredible Visitations at Copely Woods," was published in 1987.

Speaking prior to Hopkins was Charles Hickson of Gautier.

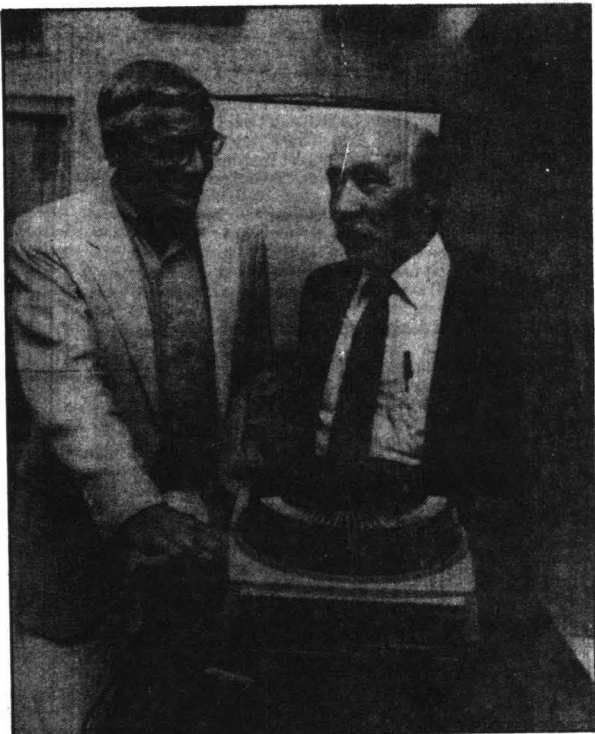
Hickson and Calvin Parker were taken aboard a UFO Oct. 11, 1973 while they were fishing north of the Pascagoula River drawbridge. The case received national recognition and Hickson later wrote a book about his abduction titled "UFO Contact at Pascagoula."

Hickson recounted to the audience that fateful night in 1973. He revealed he is now exploring the possibility of having been abducted when he was younger.

Master of ceremonies, Kenneth Mcgee of McMedia Marketing of Mobile, said a documentary on Hickson's and Parker's experience has been made. Produced by MCTV of Pascagoula, it is being edited now and will soon be available to members of MUFON, an international UFO investigative organization, Mcgee said.

The third guest speaker, UFO investigator Bill Clendenon of Biloxi, told how he, using a photograph made by George Adamski in California, made up a plan of how one type of UFO craft operates.

After the question and answer period with Hopkins and Hickson, the audience was invited to view a videotape of the Gulf Breeze, Fla. incident where a UFO was actually filmed. That recent case, Hopkins said, "is the biggest story yet."



Staff Photo/Carol Waddell

UFO CONFERENCE — Budd Hopkins (left), close encounter research expert, writer and author of two UFO books, talks with Charles Hickson, a 1973 Pascagoula UFO abductee, at the Gautier Convention Center. The two were guest speakers at the conference Saturday evening at the center.

Gulf Breeze UFO: Most Documented Case in History

After six months of nearly weekly reports of UFO activity in the Gulf Breeze area, extending from November 11, 1987 to May 1, 1988, we have not received any reports of UFO sightings for the last two months (since May 1st).

As we reported in our June 23rd edition, Dr. Maccabee did an exhaustive study of the Gulf Breeze UFO only to conclude that he could find no evidence of a hoax, so we

must conclude that what ever it was, it was here and was seen by many Gulf Breezans and was photographed by several.

With this concluding article we could like to share with our readers Dr. Maccabee's chart entitled "Temporal Distribution of Gulf Breeze Sightings."

This chart gives a visual perspective on the number and frequency of sightings throughout

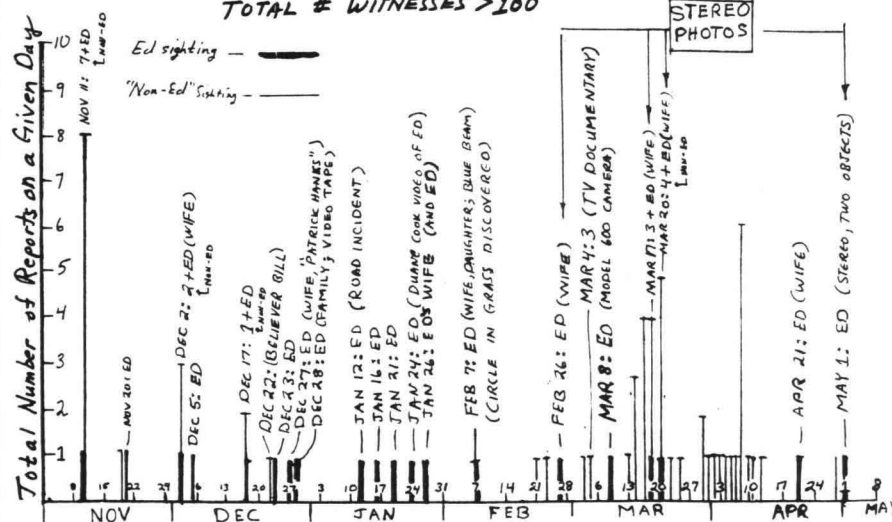
the six month period of UFO activity.

According to Maccabee, there were 78 sightings (not all reported to the Sentinel), and over 100 witnesses involved.

Needless to say, unless it is subsequently disproved, the Gulf Breeze UFO will remain as the best documented case for the existence of UFO's in the entire history of man.

TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF GULF BREEZE SIGHTINGS

TOTAL # REPORTS: 78 (THROUGH MAY 1)
TOTAL # ED REPORTS: 23 ; Non-ED: 55
TOTAL # WITNESSES > 100



© Bruce Maccabee
June 1988

The otherworldly obsession of Professor R. Leo Sprinkle

Stories by Matthew Soergel

THE UFO was shining bright and red over the Flatirons on that summer evening in 1956.

Driving from Denver, R. Leo Sprinkle and his wife, Marilyn, saw it as they topped a hill overlooking the Boulder Valley.

"We thought it was an evening star. We both remarked how lovely it looked, red and glowing in the sky," he recalls. "Then it began to move."

They pulled over and watched for several minutes as it hovered silently over Boulder, glowed with a pulsing light. Then it sped north out of sight.

Sprinkle knew then that he couldn't ignore UFOs any longer. Seven years earlier, as an undergraduate at the University of Colorado, he had seen another UFO, glinting in the sun, flying faster than any jet could. He decided to pretend it had never happened. Besides, only kooks believed in UFOs.

The second sighting persuaded him to take UFOs seriously — even if it meant being labeled a kook. His research began, paralleling his career in academia, first as a psychology professor and counselor at the University of North Dakota, then as a counseling psychologist at the University of Wyoming.

In 1967, Sprinkle turned a newly learned skill, hypnosis, to the subject, becoming one of the first researchers to use it as a tool in UFO studies. Soon, he became one of the leading investigators in that field.

His first hypnosis subject was a man who described how a strange being had tried, unsuccessfully, to invite him from his car into a UFO that hovered over Denver.

"He saw a craft in the sky, and a strange-looking man who encouraged him to come with him," Sprinkle remembers. "The young man was frightened. During the hypnosis session he blubbered and sobbed. He didn't want to go with him."

That was the first of nearly 200 people Sprinkle has hypnotized since then to find out more about their strange experiences. He calls these people "contactees."

Some of their stories are uplifting, about benevolent aliens who are watching us, guiding and teaching us. Other stories are horrible. These people tell of being abducted and becoming guinea pigs for aliens performing medical tests and surgery.

Sprinkle is a contactee as well — something he discovered in 1980, when a colleague hypnotized him and took him back to when he was a fifth-grader growing up in Rocky Ford. The hypnosis session unearthed a buried memory of being in a strange craft, looking out at the stars.

"I was standing at a large window with a tall man on my left, his hand on my right shoulder," says Sprinkle. "He was saying to me, 'Leo, learn to read and write well. When you grow up you can help people learn about their purpose in life.'"

That discovery helped explain a strange memory from his childhood. He remembers going to the school library

and taking down a book on science. The first chapter was on astronomy. Down in the lower right corner was a picture of part of the galaxy.

Suddenly, he was hit by a rush of recognition — today, he would call the feeling *deja vu* — that left him reeling. He knew those stars, he had seen them before.

"Even when I think about it today, or if I see *Star Trek* or a commercial where the stars are coming toward you, it just gives me a rush," Sprinkle says. "I think, 'Wow. I'd like to see that again.'"

†

Sprinkle sits in his University of Wyoming office in Laramie and offers, in his psychologist's soothing monotone, what more than 30 years of observation have told him about the exploration now under way.

Its purpose is unclear and may take generations to be revealed. It may transcend time and mortality. And it may cross into dimensions of which we can't even guess. We are, he says, still learning.

"One of my friends said, 'Leo, is this war?'" He laughs softly. "I said, 'Well, I think it's worse. I think it's education.'"

Sprinkle is 57, tall and lean, mustachioed and bald except for a horseshoe of hair around the back of his head. He is married with four grown children. His wife, Marilyn, encourages his research.

"She knows flying saucers exist, though as far as she believes, they're not the big deal I make them out to be. She feels they've been around thousands of years al-

Aliens knocking at town door?

Linda Martin's dogs normally bark at any noise. But they hid and whimpered when the nine knocks — in three sets of three knocks — sounded on the walls of Martin's mobile home early in the morning of Feb. 27.

"All three of my dogs went and hid under my bed," says Martin, a resident of Glenrock, Wyo. "Oh yeah, there was no doubt. They were scared to death."

They weren't the only ones. The strange knocking was heard all over Glenrock that morning, mystifying residents and police.

A police officer on duty stopped his car, thinking the thumping came from a flat tire. One resident reported a shadow that appeared in the house just before the knocking. Another said a strange fog covered the inside of her car windshield; her defroster couldn't clear it.

Things got stranger.

Martin went outside a few minutes after the disturbance. "Up in the sky," she says, "there was this kind of light haze. Then I saw flashing lights. I saw this thing that stayed in the same place for an hour, with red and blue lights flashing." The lights

— discounted as a weather satellite by police — then moved quickly away, as if climbing.

UFO researcher R. Leo Sprinkle traveled to Glenrock, 18 miles east of Casper, to interview residents. The strange events could, he theorizes, be part of efforts by aliens to let us know they're here.

But Randy Stalker, a *Glenrock Independent* reporter, says most townspeople have discounted the UFO rumors. "I heard one guy at a local restaurant, talking out loud: 'Yeah, there was a spaceship landed on my front yard. Me and my boy went out, wanted to get in but they took off.' I think he was drinking too much."

Martin isn't ready to dismiss any theories yet, though. "I don't usually believe in UFOs or stuff like that. It's just something unexplainable."

She pauses when asked if she believes now.

"Yeah, I think so."

Carol Tober, the police dispatcher on duty that night, says maybe half the town of 1,700 heard it. Many called, from all sections of the town.

"It was strange enough not to know what it was. We've had nothing since then," says Tober.

ready, and they'll go on just fine without me."

Since 1980, Sprinkle has organized the Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation, held each summer on the University of Wyoming campus, although it is not sponsored by the university.

This year, 175 people came to the conference, some from as far away as England. As participant Bob Digby, a London resident and chairman of an international UFO committee, says: "It's not a uniquely American experience by any means. There are people having abduction contacts in the U.K., and just about any country you could imagine."

Some in attendance claim to have been contacted by aliens; others say they are just curious. They came to hear speakers and to swap stories — some traumatic, some exalting — about their experiences.

Some tales, to outsiders at least, would seem ridiculous: There is talk about shamans, interdimensionality and simultaneous time. Someone talks about how to contact aliens by holding "either a quartz or silica crystal" in your right or left hand. Although there's debate, the speaker says which hand is used isn't important.

Still, among those who say they've been abducted by aliens, talking openly — about rejection by friends, about struggling to believe you're not going insane — seems to have a cathartic effect. Hugs are exchanged; it's not unlike being in an evangelical church.

"The time is getting very close," says one speaker. "Amen," a woman in the audience cries. "Amen."

At the conference is Whitley Strieber, a novelist who wrote a best-selling book, *Communion*, about his purported encounters with aliens. He only has words of praise for Sprinkle. "He's a man who's very comfortable with questions. He's very open with people's answers. He takes them and goes on from there."

Strieber also notes that Sprinkle has been open about his UFO studies — at some risk to his academic career. Later, Sprinkle admits it's taken some delicate juggling to keep both his professional and UFO interests going.

"There's some pressure to separate my UFO, ESP, reincarnation interests from my university work," Sprinkle laughs. "We're a scientific institution and therefore believe we should deal with the scientific. There's a controversy over whether these phenomena are acceptable fare for scientific minds. In other words, they're taboo topics."

†

Philip J. Klass long ago became fed up with stories of UFOs and aliens.

"If you are to argue there are alien visitors in our skies," he says, "do they travel zillions of miles just to impregnate some young girl and to buzz over some farmer's skies?"

Klass is a retired editor of *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine who now spends much of his time debunking UFOs through lectures, articles in *The Skeptical Inquirer* and books such as *UFO-Abductions: A Dangerous Game*. He is the arch-nemesis of those who champion their existence. Those such as Leo Sprinkle.

"He has achieved international fame as a result of his work with abductees. . . I am not suggesting that this is his only motivation. But without this hobby, almost nobody outside the University of Wyoming would know who Leo Sprinkle is. Today, he is an international celebrity because of his work in this field."

Klass' voice over the phone from Washington, D.C., stays calm as he raises the sarcasm level a notch.

"You don't have to go around abducting obscure and sometimes pretty strange people. I say, for God's sake, you don't have to do that! Land in the middle of Times Square or at the White House!"

That is not how aliens would do it, counters Sprinkle. This meeting, this learning, is a much slower process.

"More and more people are becoming observers. We move from small groups, a couple-hundred people at a football game, a thousand at a soccer game in Brazil, now whole towns. If that speculation has merit, more and more small towns will report sightings, then middle-sized towns, then pretty soon, Denver."

He laughs loudly. "Or whatever. That's the speculation."

†

UFOs would be easier to believe if it was all just about hardware, things you could touch — if it was just about strange creatures scouting out the Earth in spaceships.

It's at the more bizarre aspects of the field — galactic schemes to save the world, extrasensory perception, reincarnation, etc. — that many get lost.

Sprinkle acknowledges that, but says these phenomena can't be ignored. In 1965, he began a five-year study of people who claimed to have seen UFOs. Sprinkle wanted to see if they were "normal" — or if, as he suspected, there was a link between their UFO sightings and unexplained psychic phenomena.

The suspicion proved correct. Many of the more than 80 people he talked to reported incidences of poltergeist activity, ESP and out-of-body experiences connected with their UFO sightings. He has since concluded that UFOs are both physical and non-physical. Perhaps some people are more receptive to them. Perhaps UFOs and aliens exist in another dimension. Perhaps they even come from within us.

"This is why some UFO sightings sound strange. We are used to thinking that either this thing is real or it ain't real. It's either physical or it ain't physical."

There's much more, he insists — so much we are only beginning to piece it together.

"People who insist that it's only physical get caught. People who insist it's only spiritual — they get caught in a blind alley. But it could be extradimensional, not just extraterrestrial. There could be several dimensions, but our electromagnetic spectrum perceptions are rather incomplete. We're being shown that there's a lot more to the universe."

†

So what is the purpose of all this? Sprinkle believes it will be revealed, maybe 30 or 40 years from now, maybe sooner. But of this much he is sure: this is a benevolent invasion.

"My speculation is, people are being tagged, monitored — especially those who have the ability to heal — to guide, to teach. Not only are they weighing us, measuring us and assessing us physiologically, they're also assessing us psychologically. What are we like? What kind of life experiences have we had? What lesson would be useful to the person to catch up quickly?"

Hypnosis can help figure out the mystery, he says.

Skeptics such as Klass discount that, calling hypnosis a notoriously unreliable method of finding out the truth. Klass says that even careful hypnotists influence the story of those hypnotized, casting it all into doubt.

Studies have shown that, under hypnosis, people often mix fantasy and fact, creating "pseudomemories" that become a permanent part of their memory.

And skeptics assert that the similarity of details in UFO abduction stories, which believers point to as proof of the validity of these tales, are nothing more than pervasive images from pop culture — from movies, television and books — that are retold as truth by wishful thinkers.

Sprinkle admits that hypnosis is not perfect. But, he says, we still have to find out the truth behind what could be the biggest news story ever.

Don't we?

"It's still a mystery. We don't have the answers. Sometimes, we don't even know the questions."

TV Special Breaks New Ground in Bringing UFO Information to Public

Second in a two-part series.

A wealth of UFO data, some of it well documented and some of a quite speculative nature, was shown nationwide last Friday in the 2-hour special *UFO Cover-Up? ... Live*, produced by LBS Communications Inc., and hosted from Washington D.C. by actor Mike Farrell. A number of UFO experts and witnesses were on hand to discuss the various facets of this intriguing phenomenon, including Soviet investigators linked by satellite from Moscow.

In fact, the program tried to cover so many aspects of the UFO experience that one could say that executive producer Michael Seligman and director Martin Passetta, Jr. came close to "overkill." Too many people talked about too many things without having enough time to explore them in more detail.

Besides the sections on the controversial "MJ-12" alleged government conspiracy, which will be discussed in more detail, *UFO Cover-Up? ... Live* also touched upon, among other things, sightings by airline pilots; Soviet sightings and Close Encounters of the Third Kind and abductions, described live from Moscow by journalist Sergei Boulanzov of the TASS News Agency and investigator Leonard Nikishin; the history of the Air Force's old UFO probe Project Blue Book; photographic hoaxes like those perpetrated by self-styled "contactees" George Adamsky and Billy Meier; legitimate UFO footage, such as a celebrated videotape shot in Westchester County, N.Y. in 1984; the December 1980 Cash/Landrum close encounter case in Texas, in which two ladies and a boy were seriously injured by radiation from a UFO which they saw surrounded by U.S. military helicopters; the latest wave of UFO abductions; and a recent and controversial photographic case in Gulf Breeze, a community near Pensacola, Florida.

This last case began on last November 17, when a local construction entrepreneur referred by the name of "Mr. Ed," began to take Polaroid photos of what looks like an artificial craft of unknown origin. Since then, Ed has purportedly taken dozens of photos of the same or similar objects, including one in which the UFO is shooting a blue ray. The investigation of the case was handled by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and the photographic analysis by Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a Navy research physicist who is also the director of the Fund for UFO Research in Washington DC.

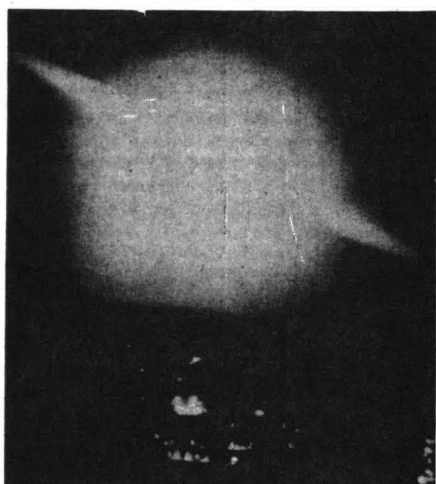
While MUFON, Dr. Maccabee, and UFO abductions author Budd Hopkins are convinced the Gulf Breeze photos are authentic, others are not so sure. The TV special, for instance, interviewed Dr. Robert Nathan of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who said he had "the feeling there is some cut and paste. I am afraid the Gulf Breeze photographs just don't check up." Dr. Maccabee disagreed, indicating that he had tried and failed to create a similar hoax, if that was the case. Therefore, concluded Maccabee, "my opinion is that the photos are genuine."

Without a doubt, the most sensational revelations of the UFO special dealt with the alleged MJ-12 conspiracy. As stated in the previous column, this is a code name of a purported "top secret" commission of elite generals, intelligence chiefs and scientists President Truman created in 1947 to deal with the crash of an ET craft in Roswell, New Mexico. Regardless of the authenticity of MJ-12, the facts of the Roswell crash have been well established by writer William Moore, nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, and other researchers.

Moore, Friedman and their associate, Hollywood TV producer Jaime Shandera, were on hand to speak about their research into the Roswell incident and the MJ-12 papers. So was Dr. Jesse Marcel, the son of the Air Force intelligence officer who handled the retrieval of the crashed saucer back in July 1947. Marcel is certainly a credible witness, an M.D. who personally touched some of the light metallic pieces recovered by his father. Also on the program were two of Moore's and Shandera's informants, alleged intelligence officers referred as "Falcon" and "Condor," who were presented with blacked-out faces and electronically distorted voices to protect their identities.

These individuals made a number of assertions which truly stretch our credulity. "Falcon," talked about "a yellow book, a Bible in MJ-12" which contained all the anatomical data gleaned from autopsies conducted on dead alien humanoids allegedly recovered from the crashed saucers. Yet the government is not only dealing with dead aliens and UFO debris, stated "Condor," but essentially "an agreement" has been made between MJ-12 and the so-called "gray aliens," whereby they share some of their advanced technology with us while we provide facilities for them in an area known as "Dreamland," located within restricted federal land in Nevada.

As part of this agreement, continued "Condor," there have been three aliens — called as "Extra-terrestrial Biological Entities" or "EBEs" by MJ-12 — living as "guests" of the U.S. between 1948 and the present. These are beings three to four feet tall, with large eyes, no teeth, an IQ of 200, and a lifespan between 350 and 400 years. They supposedly come from the star system of Zeta Reticuli, which was made famous by the "star map" in the early abduction case of Betty and Barney Hill. Among other incredible revelations made by these anonymous intelligence types is the facetious detail that



UFO APPEARS as a gigantic flash of light photographed by the Spanish Air Force and seen by thousands of witnesses in the Canary Islands on June 22, 1976.

the EBEs are specially fond of strawberry ice cream.

What are we to make of all this? As it could be expected, host Mike Farrell indicated "LBS Communications makes no claim as to the validity of these statements." The problem was that the finer details and proper background of the entire MJ-12 conundrum were somehow missed between the avalanche of incredible claims made by the electronically distorted voices of the agents. There was much talk about the current status of this ultra-secret commission while little attention was paid to the package of documents which started it all.

The MJ-12 documents were received December 1984 by Jaime Shandera, in a 35mm roll of undeveloped film, inside a manila envelope with no return address. With some minor exceptions, their content was not released until English writer and violinist Timothy Good published them uncensored in his 600-page volume, *Above Top Secret — The Worldwide UFO Cover-Up*, published last year in the U.K. and recently in the States by William Morrow. As it turned out, the release of Good's book, which quickly climbed to the number two spot in the British bestseller list, was highlighted in an article in the *London Observer* published in May 1987, which brought immediate world attention to the documents and their sensational allegations, forcing William Moore to publicize his own copy of MJ-12. The cat was out of the bag, so to speak, and the skeptics were out to get him.

The documents released so far consist of a September 24, 1947, signed Memorandum/Classified Executive Order from Truman to Secretary of Defense Forrestal, authorizing him "to proceed with all due speed and caution" in the matter of MJ-12; a comprehensive "Eyes Only Briefing Document" on the whole affair, prepared for President-Elect Eisenhower, dated November 18, 1952 and supposedly written by MJ-1, who was none other than Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, the first Director of the CIA; a list of attachments, which were not included with the exception of the Truman memo; and a "Memorandum for General Twining," dated July 14, 1954, written by Eisenhower's special assistant Robert Cutler, and dealing with the scheduling for a briefing of the "NSC/MJ-12 Special Studies Project."

Unlike the previous documents, the Cutler memo was obtained under the FOIA by Moore and Shandera at the National Archives. However, that office and later both the Truman and Eisenhower Libraries tried to disassociate themselves from the whole affair by casting doubts on the legitimacy of the Cutler memo. As reported by this writer in a previous column last year, the documents were later criticized by, among others, famous debunker and avionics writer Phillip J. Klass, who called them an outright forgery; and Barry Greenwood of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), a group specialized in FOIA UFO documents, who called them "a giant black eye on the surface of UFOlogy."

Though critics would lead you to believe that the matter has been solved and the documents are definitely a fraud, the question has not been settled yet. Besides Moore, Shandera and Friedman, who issued several rebuttals against the arguments presented by Klass, other important researchers have also come on their defense. These include Dr. Bruce Maccabee, who has stated that the Cutler memo is probably genuine; and the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, which issued a press release stating that the verdict on the documents is still open and that further, unbiased investigation needs to be undertaken.

One such inquiry, not mentioned in the TV special, was conducted by Dr. Roger W. Wescott, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Linguistics Program at Drew University. Dr. Wescott is truly a world-class expert in linguistics and stylistics, whose list of credentials and scholarly studies would fill this whole column. Dr. Wescott was contacted by MUFON attorney Robert Bletchman to stylistically compare the writing of

Hillenkoetter's "briefing document" with 27 known letters and memos written by the late admiral and first director of the CIA.

Dr. Wescott's formal conclusion was that, "there is no compelling reason to regard any of these communications as fraudulent or to believe that any of them were written by anyone other than Hillenkoetter himself. This statement holds for the controversial presidential briefing memorandum of November 18, 1952, as well as for the letters, both official and personal.

Last but not least, *UFO Cover-Up? ... Live* presented words of caution from three skeptics: Dr. Herbert Spiegel, an expert on hypnosis from Columbia University; well known space writer James Oberg, an expert on the Soviet space program who explained a number of UFO sightings as secret rocket tests; and Dave Williamson, described as "NASA's point man on UFOs." Although Williamson stated that no physical evidence had been analyzed by NASA, he was careful not to deny the existence of the UFO phenomenon per se.

Obviously, the final verdict on UFOs is still blowing in the wind, but a lot of data and many still uncorroborated facts were shown for the first time to the American public on prime time TV.

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written frequently for publications in North and South America.

Arkansan adding new chapter to Air Force book on UFOs

FORT SMITH — Project Blue Book, the Air Force research organization that dealt with sightings of unidentified flying objects, was closed nearly 20 years ago.

William Pitts of Fort Smith, however, has reopened Project Blue Book as a civilian institution and is in the process of writing a new chapter in UFO studies.

Pitts, 62, the co-owner of an industrial tool company and a long-time UFO investigator, received Air Force permission

this year to use the Project Blue Book name. He has since assembled 148 "adviser-consultants," many of whom were Blue Book investigators, to research UFO sightings, particularly those between the 1940s and 1960s.

"These have sort of been pushed to one side," he explained of his interest in the older cases. And, Pitts said, "Some of the better reports never found their way to what was then Project Blue Book." Pitts said he also is interested in obtaining information from anyone who was ordered not to discuss UFO sightings. "Many of these people are getting old or have died," he said, adding that he also would like to talk to any survivors who have knowledge or evidence of flying saucers.

Pitts' interest in UFOs began in the summer of 1947 when he read a news article about a sighting near Mount Rainier, Wash., of "nine silvery objects flying at fantastic speeds." The objects, he said, could not be explained by the Air Force.

That sighting, however, led to the creation in 1947 of Project Sign, the forerunner of Project Blue Book. And, Pitts said, "They [the sightings] have been continuing quite steadily since." Pitts said scores of reports of crafts that possess remarkable flying capabilities have been validated over the years. "And," he said, "I don't think they're ours. If they're ours, why are we holding them back? We're wasting billions of dollars and lives" by not deploying them, he said.

Pitts said he also has had the occasion to witness a UFO. That was in 1949 near Fort Worth, Texas. Pitts said the cigar-shaped object was seen by himself and others circling the midsection of a four-propelled plane flying at about 3,500 feet. "It left a slight exhaust, not a vapor trail," he said. The pilot of the plane was questioned, but said he saw nothing unusual.

It's those persons who have seen the unusual, however, that interest Pitts. Sightings, he said, may be reported to Project Blue Book, 506 N. Second St., Fort Smith, Ark. 72901, or by calling (501) 782-7077. Sources will be kept confidential and materials submitted will be returned, he said.

— Rodney Bowers

TELEVISION

Live Special

A UFO Coverup? Answer Is Up in the Air

BY DAVID MOORE

CHRONICLE STAFF

"THEY'RE THREE to 3½-foot tall, hairless, gray skin, large heads, with no

protuberances for their ears or nose," Jaime Shandera said matter-of-factly.

The description sounded as if Shandera had just finished watch-

ing "E.T." on his VCR. But the bearded, 44-year-old father of three wasn't describing a movie but real extraterrestrials he said are now living on Earth. Shandera said an "intelligence operative" gave him this information and told him of a massive government coverup involving the last eight U.S. presidents and other world leaders who are now hiding aliens on our planet.

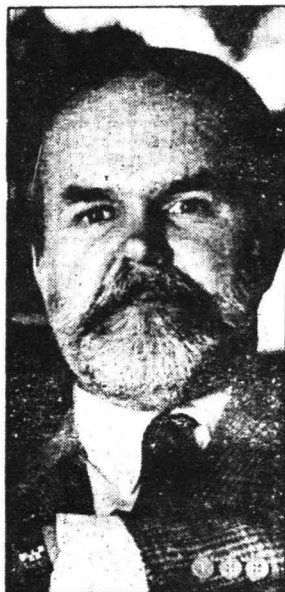
The government covered up evidence of UFOs, according to Shandera, because it was afraid confirming the existence of extraterrestrials would bring incredible changes to our society. "Every facet of life would be affected," Shandera said. "Culture, thought process, technol-

ogy ... Some might build a religion around the alien. They'd think it was the second coming. Others would think it was the Antichrist."

As Shandera tells his amazing story over lunch, two waiters in the posh French Room of the Clift Hotel exchange glances. It is difficult not to dismiss Shandera as a kook.

Shandera's main claim to credibility is his scheduled appearance, along with William Moore, co-author of the 1980 UFO book "The Roswell Incident," on the nationally syndicated television special "UFO Coverup? ... Live," airing at 8 p.m. Friday on Channel 2.

The show, hosted by Mike Farrell of "M*A*S*H" fame, is being presented by LBS Communications, the same company that did "Return to the Titanic ... Live" and "Myster-



BY MICHAEL MALONEY/THE CHRONICLE

Jaime Shandera says aliens are three-foot tall and being hidden by the leaders of the planet

ies of the Pyramids ... Live." Shandera, an ex-television director/producer, is featured, according to advertising for the two-hour special, as part of "a team of respected professionals" hired to "authenticate the accuracy of our findings."

Regarding Shandera's claims, Michael Seligman, executive producer of the UFO show, said that no one connected with the production "claims that what they [Shandera and Moore] say is 100 percent of the truth. They are respected and have a credible presentation. They've had contact with an intelligence operative who they've code-named Falcon and a scientist who they've code-named Condor. They [the sources] are part of the government and have been checked."

He added that Shandera and Moore have agreed to meet "with a staff Senate aide to go into specific details about this" after the show.

Seligman has produced numerous other specials, including the 1980 and 1984 presidential inaugural galas, and was associate producer on the Academy Awards show from 1976 to 1986. Seligman said he's never seen a UFO, adding that he's "neutral" on whether he believes they exist.

He said the UFO show will feature numerous segments, including skeptics of the UFO phenomenon, a live remote from Moscow "which has had more than double the number of sightings we've had in this country," and a live town meeting from Gulf Breeze, Fla., where numerous UFO sightings have been reported during the last year.

The show also will have a segment asking viewers to indicate via a \$1-a-call 900 telephone number whether they've had personal experiences with UFOs and whether they believe Congress should investigate the alleged coverup.

NEWS TRIBUNE, Tacoma, WA - Sept. 18, 1988

Tacoma man recalls night on 11th Street when he saw UFO

We knew nobody would ever believe us, so we didn't tell anyone. Then, a few nights later, shortly before 11 p.m., Jolene was driving along North 11th near the Pearl Street intersection and saw it all again. The same brilliant sphere with the three smaller ones spinning and pulsating. This time she was alone and the experience left her more disturbed and frightened. She vowed never to drive on North 11th Street again. Sometimes I wish I had never seen it. I often wonder now what is real and what is not, what is true and what isn't. Yet I know what I saw was real. Thank You. Cecil R. Blackwell, Tacoma

Shirley Teabo is a Federal Way psychic and Jac-
quie Witherrite a student of psychic phenomenon.
Readers with questions may write: "The Curious Psy-
chic," c/o The Morning News Tribune, P.O. Box
11000, Tacoma 98411.

As we watched, the sphere rose at an angle from the ground into the clear black night sky. Moving like it was alive, easy and natural to its apex of about 100 feet above and about two blocks in front of us. At its apex the shape started to change into a shimmering cloud. Three smaller, more perfect spheres — about 15 feet around — appeared perfectly spaced inside this golden orange cloud.

One sphere was deep blue, one glowed white and one was dark red and as each would give a wild and crazy spin, it would emit an unbelievable multiple color design. Each then would pulsate in sequence before returning to its original color.

Three times I watched in total awe as these spheres spun and pulsated. I didn't have time to realize that what I was witnessing could be from another world or dimension. Suddenly, all three spheres blinked out, disappeared. The larger cloud shape turned a dull pale orange and it too disappeared. It was as if it had never been there.

When we arrived home it was 12:25 a.m. The whole incident we witnessed was no more than 60 seconds. But it left us amazed and full of wonder.

Jolene Westlin and I were returning from a shopping trip. Our last stop had been for a burger from one of the many drive-ins on Sixth Avenue in the Highland Hills area. We left the drive-in a little after midnight.

Jolene was driving. We turned left from Sixth Avenue onto Pearl Street and past a construction area, we turned right onto North 11th Street. We were on a hump in the road near an open field in back of Wilson High School. As we started down, something caught my eye — an orange curvature was moving across the very tops of the trees to the north in front of the high school.

"Jolene," I exclaimed, "look at that!" She slowed the car as we gazed through the windshield. We could see a huge, brilliant, fiery sphere of deep golden orange. This amazing sight extended from the ground up past the very tops of trees 40 feet or more high. It moved down Huson Street about three-quarters of a block to the left of North 11th. One house and a few trees were silhouetted against it. Great swirls and movement of bright orange could be seen inside.

The Curious Psychic

Jacquie Witherrite and
Shirley Teabo



We were on our way home late that Saturday night, when we first saw our unexpected visitor from god-only-knows-where. It was moving down a residential street rising into and overcoming the night sky. It was June 30, 1984, in Tacoma, Wash.

REGISTER, Torrington, CT - Oct. 7, 1988



RANDALL BEACH

Indiana woman learning to deal with alienation

LISTEN: This housewife from the Midwest has a very strange story to tell. You probably won't believe her, but she's learning to deal with that.

Her life seems to be the stuff of science fiction. She firmly believes she has been abducted by space aliens many times since her childhood and used for an interspecies breeding experiment. She says the child that resulted was taken from her and raised by these aliens.

Last weekend, she got up for the first time and gave her account to more than 100 people attending "The UFO Experience" conference in the Ramada Inn in North Haven.

"I was scared to death," she said later, recalling her feelings about going public. "But I needed to do it."

Fear and anxiety have dominated much of her life. Things improved after she called author and UFO investigator Budd Hopkins, who made her the central figure in his best-selling book "Intruders" (soon to be a movie).

Hopkins agreed to protect her privacy and give her a pseudonym, Kathie Davis. But Saturday, she "came out of the closet," revealing her name.

Meet Debra Tomey of Indianapolis. A very average-appearing, bespectacled woman, 29, shy, perhaps timid, vulnerable. Sad eyes that say, "I've seen it all, but nobody believes me."

Why did she finally disclose her true identity? "It was therapy for me," she said Sunday during a break in the conference. "I have to try to accept this, stop being ashamed of it, stop being embarrassed so I can move on."

"Maybe I can help somebody else by admitting it, talking about it. Maybe they will not feel so alone; maybe they'll talk about it too."

Indeed, Hopkins, who also spoke at the conference, said there are "hundreds of thousands of (alien) abduction cases all over the world. And nobody is abducted just once."

Hopkins believes many of these accounts because consistent patterns recur that he says cannot be just coincidence. For example, the aliens are virtually always described as having high-domed, hairless heads, large cat-like eyes and grey, leathery skin. They are never intentionally cruel but are very, very curious about us.

Hopkins also notes that the "abductees" have similar scars that their doctors cannot explain. Tomey believes her scars resulted from aliens' experimenting on her.

But she has learned not to talk about this with most people. "They smile at you and say, 'I think you're lying. I think you're crazy.' A writer said I made everything up because I have a boring and lonely life. I resent being called a liar."

She spent years in a state of intermittent high anxiety. "I think it was triggered by my subconscious when I recognized a certain sound or smell."

"This can leave you feeling vulnerable, helpless. That out-of-control feeling is not pleasant. I've always had to fight with that. I'm fortunate to have support from my family and friends. Otherwise, I don't think I would've made it." (She is divorced, living with her two children.)

Now, Tomey is trying to return to a normal life. "I'm a mother and a housewife. I take care of my kids, I clean the house, cook, shop. I do the things everybody else does."

"I'm so much better since I got in touch with Budd. For the first time in my life, I feel like I'm living it, not just existing. I'm getting on pretty good."

How has all this affected her life? "I'm more mature; I've grown. It's given me an increased awareness of what goes on around me. I'm not so wrapped up in my own little world."

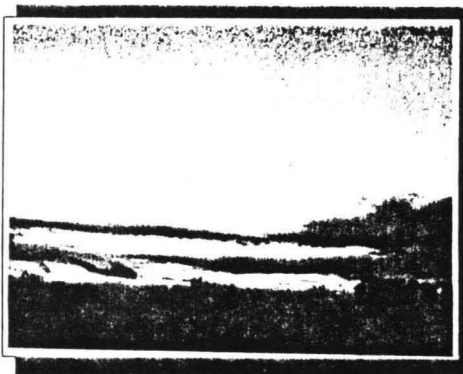
In spite of herself, she watches the sky. "All the time," she sighs. "I'll be looking up and then I say, 'What am I looking at?' It's an automatic thing."

COVER

Somewhere out there...

By Anna L. Bisol

The phenomena that have been grouped under the umbrella term Unidentified Flying Object, or "UFO," are as complicated and diverse as the people who for one reason or another find themselves caught up in it. For the believers, it is a battle against ridicule and what they say is a long history of government intervention to cover up information vital to lending credibility to their claim.



Given the size and age of the universe, it is very likely that some other form of life exists elsewhere. But have they visited our region?

For the skeptics, the cries of a government cover-up is just another in a series of excuses for the lack of hard evidence that UFOs exist. Even now within the community of UFO believers there is a schism developing between those who believe in the validity of UFO abductees and those who do not.

What emerges is a jumble of jigsaw pieces that do not fit neatly into the framework of science or fantasy of what could be a puzzle with universal implications.

One thing can be agreed upon - the phenomenon has captured the public eye. In the latest Gallup poll on the subject, taken in 1978, 57 percent of adult Americans believed that UFOs were real rather than imagined. This spring, three books were published concerning the phenomenon: *Communion: A True Story* by Whitley Streiber; *Intruders* by Bud Hopkins and *Light Years* by Gary Kinder all deal with UFO encounters of one magnitude or that have happened in other parts of the country. This region also contains stories of encounters.

Sightings in the area

For the choir members of a church located in the Water Street area of Fitchburg, the night of Dec. 23 1986 had been hectic. They had just finished the final rehearsal of their holiday music program and called it quits around 8:30 p.m. They stepped out into the darkness onto the top flight of stairs. It was not an unusually cold evening, but there were a few clouds and a stiff, steady breeze coming from the northwest. The group, four women and one man, chatted outside the building. Suddenly, one of them noticed a strange group of lights hovering in the distance in the direction of Lunenburg.

They observed the lights, which at first were tiny dots in the distance. As minutes passed, the lights grew brighter until 10 could be counted. The brilliant, silvery-white flashes seemed unlike any conventional aircraft. The display lasted 10 minutes or so, after which the lights seem to break away from the cluster with alarming swiftness.

The group broke up, with the curiosity of what had been seen still lingering with them. Two days later, on Christmas, the sister of one of the choir members casually remarked how she had seen the same lights from her home on the west side of Leominster.

It was a clear autumn evening five years ago when an area resident set out to do some fishing off May Street in Leominster. After setting out his line, he sat back for what he thought would be a quiet evening of bass fishing. At 6 p.m., he looked up to see a large, translucent craft hovering approximately 500 feet overhead. The craft remained motionless, as if "dangling by a thread," for about five minutes. Suddenly, it sped off into the night sky.

Taking off from Fitchburg Municipal Airport, a student and flight instructor in a Cessna 172 aircraft headed for Concord, N.H. It was mid-winter 1987, approximately 6 p.m. The student was in the pilot's seat and had six months of flying experience. Reaching an altitude of 5,500 feet, with a speed of 105 knots, they observed a bright amber light directly in front of and heading toward them with considerable speed.

The student asked the instructor if he had ever seen anything similar to that. The instructor put his glasses on for a better look and answered, no.

The student started to take action to avoid a collision. Suddenly, the object climbed upward and as it passed over them both men identified it as an Air Force jet. The UFO became an IFO (Identified Flying Object).

On the night of March 8, 1967 a husband and wife were driving through Leominster admiring the freshly-

fallen blanket of snow. Driving toward the downtown area on Route 13, they observed a heavy fog coming from Evergreen Cemetery. Upon further investigation they came upon a domed, disk-shaped object hovering approximately 500 feet above the car. The husband exited the car and pointed at the object. At that moment the car's motor and headlights quit and he felt an electrical shock. His arm jerked back and seemed to be forced against the car roof; he became temporarily paralyzed. Approximately one minute later the object moved away emitting a humming sound. At this time, his movement was restored and he was able to start the car.

MUFON tracking reports

The Mutual UFO Network, (MUFON) has taken an active part in investigating these UFO sighting and abduction cases. The organization was started in 1969 and is headquartered in Seguin, Texas. It is a grass roots, private



Steve Firmani, director of Mufon-Massachusetts says that many people are afraid to speak about their UFO experiences because they fear they will be ridiculed.

sector organization that uses participants around the world to catalog, investigate and report on UFO sightings and abduction cases. Steve Firmani, a Leominster native, has been director of Massachusetts MUFON for the past three months.

Firmani says he has had a nearly life-long interest in the subject of "UFOlogy." "When I was in grade school, a few of my classmates claimed they had seen a UFO, and that got them into trouble with the other kids. They came up against a good deal of ridicule."

Massachusetts MUFON operates a hotline that people in the area can call to report sightings and abductions. Once a case is received by MUFON, the organization assigns an investigator who will put it through a checklist where witnesses are asked to describe as completely as possible the incident, making references to date, time, weather conditions, color of the object, relative speed, size, shape, as well as noises, smells and anything else they can remember. Photographic evidence, if there is any, is also collected and reference is made to the type of film used, shutter speed and aperture setting. Oddly enough, photographic evidence is not viewed by UFO enthusiasts as good, hard evidence because it is quite easy to perpetrate a photographic hoax.

MUFON takes the data collected and checks it against information from other sources, including air-

ports, the National Weather Service, seismological institutions and defense installations. This is done to rule out the possibility that what was seen was really an identifiable object.

"Many conventional aircraft have been mistaken for UFOs, such as advertising airplanes, blimps and the like," Firmani says. "There are also natural phenomena that can appear such as 'lenticular' clouds, quake-light and ball lightning." Lenticular clouds are large, two-level clouds that are disc-like in shape. Gently hovering above the landscape, they could easily be mistaken for a UFO. Quake-lights, or "seismic fireballs" as they are also known, result when an enormous amount of energy in the form of stress is placed on quartz-bearing rock before and during an earthquake. This could create a ball of light that would feed on the ambient electromagnetic field.

Firmani says there are currently 30 members of Massachusetts MUFON. "We are actively seeking new members and encourage anyone who is interested in joining the organization to get in touch with us. We look for sincerity as well as an interest in the subject; a person does not have to know everything about the subject, but just have a willingness to learn and be open to the possibilities out there."

Sensitivity is perhaps the key to investigating sighting and abduction cases. "Usually when something happens, a person is reluctant to come forward with the information. When they do, they usually contact the local police station, which is generally not equipped to deal with these types of calls." Massachusetts MUFON is putting together a letter of introduction to police departments across the state, offering to provide assistance to people who may call the station to report something.

Firmani feels, however, that despite increased exposure to the subject of UFOs, there remains a stigma attached to those who profess to have had a UFO encounter.

In interviews with local residents who report having UFO encounters, most of them agreed to volunteer the information provided they not be identified in the article. The student involved in the IFO case says he has mentioned the incident to a few people, but, "I don't talk about it much. Even though we did find out what it was approaching us, it still raised a brief question in my mind about the possibility of UFO existence." One of the women involved in the incident on the church steps says, "It doesn't make any difference if the majority of people in the United States believe in UFOs or not; people feel that if you talk about it in public, you're odd."

An abduction case

One area resident who did talk about her experience is Betty Andreasson. Andreasson claims she has had a lifetime affiliation with beings from another planet. These encounters first began when she lived on Howard Street in Leominster and continued when her family moved to Ashburnham Road in Westminster. It was here, at age 13, that she had an encounter with the aliens, who she says abducted her and placed a metal recording device the size of a BB in the back of her eye. Seventeen years later, when she was married and living in South Ashburnham, Andreasson had another encounter with the beings. They abducted her again and removed the recording device from her eye.

(continued on page 11)

Andreasson, through hypnotic regression, which helps someone recall painful events of the past, recalls these encounters with vivid clarity. She has drawn hundreds of diagrams and pictures to help investigators attempting to verify her story. Oddly enough, it was 10 years before Andreasson could even speak to anyone about what had happened to her. She saw an item in a local newspaper about the Center For UFO Studies and wrote the organization about her experience. CUFOs turned the case over to Massachusetts MUFON investigator Jules Vaillancourt, also of Ashburnham, and he began the process of collecting information.

"I was impressed by the sincerity of both Mrs. Andreasson and her daughter Becky. And I was also impressed by the fact that she was hesitant at first to speak out about the case," says Vaillancourt.

Vaillancourt, a seasoned investigator of UFO phenomena, says the reluctance to speak about an encounter is a tip-off that the abductee is sincere. "These people don't want publicity for their cases; they're not in it to make money off of it. They feel anger, resentment and shame about what has occurred."

Andreasson admits that at first even

she thought the story was strange and had to listen to tapes recorded during the hypnosis sessions. She also asked to be submitted to psychological and lie detector tests. According to testimony while under hypnosis, on the night of Jan. 25, 1967, the beings came into the Andreasson household and put most of the family members into a state of "suspended animation." The mother, Betty, then had an encounter with the aliens which included her abduction and return to the house. Unknown to her at the time, her oldest daughter, Becky, was able to see some of the events that occurred. Betty Andreasson feels that the beings that she came into

contact with were angels here to warn the Earth against possible self-destruction. She also believes there are "bad" aliens as well. Her daughter Becky concurs: "All along I've felt that there were good and bad beings; most of the time my contact has been with the good ones, but unfortunately, I've had contact with the bad ones as well." Both women have moved from Ashburnham. Betty Andreasson has remarried and lives with her husband, Bob Luca, in Connecticut. Becky Andreasson lives with her husband in western Massachusetts.

Vaillancourt handled the investigation, keeping MUFON informed of developments. The case caught the attention of

MUFON member Raymond E. Fowler of Wenham. Fowler had written numerous books and articles on the subject and was skeptical at first about what had happened to Betty Andreasson. As time wore on and data were amassed, Fowler became more involved and eventually brought Andreasson's story to the public in his books *The Andreasson Affair* and *The Andreasson Affair Phase Two*.

When questioned about the methods used to collect information, i.e. lie detector tests, hypnosis, and their validity, Fowler says, "This type of information is similar to the type used in bringing someone to trial. Because of the newness of this



Becky Andreasson and Jules Vaillancourt hold a sketch of "Quazgaa" one of the aliens Becky and her mother came in contact with.

type of encounter and the implications that it has, some people in and out of the scientific community do not readily accept it."

The implications that Fowler refers to is that there is in existence another form of being, alien to this planet, imbued with sufficient intelligence to enable them to construct an

aircraft with incredible mechanical abilities.

Regardless of their mechanical aptitude, the entities have enabled some of their abductees to reap some financial compensation from the revelation of their stories, fueling the skeptics' charges of "financial opportunism." Betty Andreasson says she received very little in the way

of financial compensation for the movie rights to *The Andreasson Affair* when Universal Studios bought the rights to the story and to any other sequel material.

Both mother and daughter say the remarks of skeptics do not bother them. But abduction cases like the Andreasson affair have caused controversy within the UFO community. Some die-hard UFO believers find it too hard to accept the idea that human beings have been kidnapped and spirited away. "It's a matter of evolution of thought," Fowler says. "Eventually the preponderance of evidence will show the truth about abductions."

The many theories concerning UFO sightings and abductions run the gamut from the psychological to the philosophical. Some, as Carl Jung did in his book *Flying Saucers*, see the symbol of the disc as the archetypal "circle" representing wholeness and unity. Others see the abduction case as an expression of deep-seated fantasy, an area that has been suppressed in the age of increased technology. Regardless of the motivating factors, real or imagined, UFOs are a phenomenon with staying power.

"There is something out there. What it is we may not know yet, but the fact that we have numerous cases coming from all over the world remains," Firmani says. "By collecting the information we are aiding in getting at least some of the answers to these questions."

F.Y.I.

U. F. O.

The MUFON information number is (508)537-6478.

The Center for UFO Study was founded by Dr. J. Allen Hynek. CUFOs address is 2457 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659.

Betty Andreasson Luca can be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 125, Rock Fall, CT 06481. She is interested in hearing from those who have had similar experiences.

UFO Sightings

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. (AP) — Radio station news director Dan Gordon claims he has seen 33 UFOs since last October, when he did a story about an unearthly sighting reported by a Wythe County, Va., sheriff's official.

Gordon, who is news and sports director as well as a broadcaster for WYZZ-AM in Wytheville, Va., has written a book about his unidentified aerial sightings, titled "Don't Look Up."

Gordon said he believes UFOs are a common enough event that everyone either has seen or will see at least once.

Gordon said he has been involved in documenting 2,500 sightings within the Wytheville, Va., area.

(Paper & City Unknown [Highland Co.], VA Oct. 2, 1988 CR: B. Pittman)

Strange craft reported cruising in Valley skies

By VALLEY PRESS STAFF and wire services

FRESNO (AP) — From Lancaster to Porterville to North Fork, Central California residents reported something strange hovering in the night sky.

Numerous reports surfaced of a low-flying, slow-moving object rumbling in the night sky Wednesday.

Brian Neel of Fresno said he had "never seen anything like it in my life. I wasn't scared — just curious."

Neel started snapping pictures of the object but forgot to put film in his camera.

A woman identifying herself only as Katy said she saw a large UFO Wednesday between 8:35 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. near 230th street West and Avenue D.

The object, she said, was V-shaped and about 600 feet in diameter and was traveling very low and at slow speed. The object was followed by 10 to 20 smaller objects in formation with the larger craft. The last one in the formation had a light that alternately flashed yellow and red.

No other sightings were re-

ported to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department or to the Air Force. A Plant 42 spokesman said there were no flights in that area.

Jim Lindholm of Kingsburg was convinced it was a UFO. He described it as "a series of red lights behind the main object." Then they went into a V-formation and continued to circle in the direction of Fresno.

He and his sister watched the object, which made a low rumbling noise, for about 45 minutes with binoculars.

"I believe it was a UFO — I really do. I tried to dismiss it or eliminate it, but there is no type of aircraft like that," said Lindholm.

Spokesmen at Castle, Edwards and Vandenberg Air Force bases, and Lemoore Naval Air Station reported no military planes in the Fresno area that night.

Some speculated the object might be the U.S. Air Force's super-secret stealth bomber. A spokesman for Northrop Corp., builder of the craft, would only say the stealth will be unveiled next month and will make its first flight sometime after that.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Oct. 27, 1988 CR: R. Reid

UFOs Sighted by Toll Booth personnel

By KIMBERLY STEVENSON

Tuesday night more than 50 people reportedly saw 13 unidentified objects over Pensacola Beach Sound. About 7:40 p.m. Stanley Butler and Jerry Thompson were working the 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. shift, at the Bob Sikes Toll booth. Butler stated that a deputy sheriff drove up to the toll booth and asked him if he had ever seen the UFO's. Butler kind of laughed and said, "no. The deputy reportedly said, 'Well take a look out your window.' He pointed to the window that faced east. Butler and Thompson looked out their opened window and saw something they had never seen before.

Butler has worked at the toll booth since May and watches the sky and sound every night. He said, "This is the first time I have ever seen anything like this since I have worked here. I am definitely familiar with what is out there.

From 7:40 to 7:50 p.m., the two men watched the lights in the sky. "It looked like they were just sitting there. They stayed there for about 10 minutes then slowly disappeared," Thompson said.

Thompson described what he saw as being "originally 13 lights that dominated the sky. They were so bright they looked like planets. If you were driving across the bridge you would definitely look that way, they were so noticeable."

Butler said the color of the lights were yellowish orange. He said the moon was to the upper right of the group. Thompson said they seemed to turn off their lights at different times. "First there were

13 then 8,13,10 13 5,3,1 then gone. They were definitely too bright for plane lights.

"When we look out this window at night we see a dark alley down the sound," Thompson said. This night however they saw the sky dominated by these unfamiliar lights.

The men said that they called Boy on a Dolphin Restaurant and reportedly everyone in the dining room saw the same thing they were seeing. They said at least 50 people had stopped their cars along the bridge and were watching the lights.

Thompson was looking at the objects thru standard football binoculars and they appeared bigger but he could not tell if they had any form to them.

Butler said, "If I hadn't seen them I would not have believed it. What impressed me was that they came back."

"I had a feeling that they would come back," Thompson said. At 10:12 four lights appeared in the same area, but lower to the horizon. They disappeared at 10:15.

"I heard that a farmer called from somewhere off Interstate 10. He said planes from Eglin were dropping flares up there. I can tell you, those were no flares. It looked like they were just sitting there. They stayed there for about 10 minutes," Butler said.

"I haven't seen anything like it in my life," Thompson said.

According to a spokesperson at Hurlburt Field in Fort Walton, there was an A C 130 airship and a MH-53 helicopters participating in

regular night training over range 77, which is about 4 to 6 miles east of Hwy 87 and north of Navarre Bridge. She said they were using live fire but definitely were not using flares. "You might be able to see fire coming out of the cannons in short burst," she said. But, the A C 130 was flying at altitudes of 6000 feet. She also said the aircraft fly "blacked out", the pilots use night goggles and infrared lights. However only people wearing night goggles could see the infrared lights. Also, the aircraft usually take off and land blacked out and do not usually turn their lights off while in flight.

She did note that it is very rare that anyone can see any fire coming out of the cannons. And, she stressed that these are regular night maneuvers that anyone from the area are familiar with. She said nothing out of the ordinary was going on last night, that they were a part of.

Thompson said, "I am very familiar with airplanes and all the lights in this area. We saw planes later that night that seemed to be flying a search pattern over the area where we saw the objects. You know, I couldn't believe there were all these sightings between Gulf Breeze and Navarre and we had never seen anything. So, I brought my binoculars and have been watching the sky every night. This was definitely different than anything I have ever seen."

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Palmdale, CA - Oct. 30, 1988 CR: W. Hamilton

Woman reports strange object over the Richland area

By James W. Siehl
The Tribune-Democrat

Reports of strange sights in the skies over suburban Johnstown continue to circulate. This time, it is a retired Jackson Township woman who is wondering whether she may have seen a visitor from another planet.

The woman declined to identify herself, taking the same course as others who have preferred anonymity to risking suspicion of mental incompetence.

The woman said that she is in full control of her mental faculties.

Drives, gambles

"I drive a car. I take trips to the shore and I gamble," she said with a laugh. She said she is 69 years old and formerly was employed in a respected position with

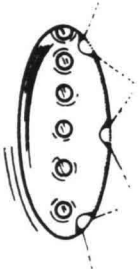
around. This time there was something there that was never there before. What the devil is that, I said. It looked like a n. I can't explain. It looked like a Christmas ornament — the kind that has a point at each end and bigger in the middle."

Object hung motionless

The brightly lit object hung in the distance, perpendicular, motionless, neither drifting left nor right or up or down, Mrs. X said.

If it had moved, she said, she would have been able to tell because her sighting followed a line between two neighbors' houses over the treetops.

"I watched it for about 20 minutes. Then I got cold and I went back under the bedcovers. If it had started over my way, I would have ended up under the bed," she said,



laughing again.

"I have read about UFOs all my life, but I didn't think too much about it. But this didn't move or budge."

Mrs. X said the object had been far off, probably over Richland Township.

Pretty, she says

"It looked like a pretty Christmas bulb. It seemed to be different colors. It was really

The woman said that she is in full control of her mental faculties.

pretty. I thought at first it was a sales promotion, but who would do it in the middle of the night?"

Mrs. X said she had telephoned The Tribune-Democrat newsroom because she was curious whether there had been other calls or an explanation for the phenomenon.

"There is no doubt about what I saw," she said. "There may be a logical explanation for what I saw, but I never saw anything like that there before."

As she lay in her bed, she was left with this thought:

"What the devil! Don't tell me I have finally seen a flying saucer."

Only, she added, it wasn't shaped like a saucer or a cigar box.

"I was looking for my little planes out there and I saw it."

TIMES, Shreveport, LA - July 10, 1988

By JOHN ANDREW PRIME
The Times

Barksdale Air Force Base figures into one sighting, and several Shreveporters admit having seen something in the sky they can't explain — even as much as 20 years later.

Walter Andrus, head of the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, says the widow of a B-47 crew member based at Barksdale provided information about a sighting involving her husband's airplane.

The aircraft, he said, was flying a practice bomb run over Texas on Sept. 3, 1954, when the control tower at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth directed them to investigate a suspected UFO.

"They were at 25,000 feet when they discovered the object — flying within 100 feet, above them," Andrus said.

The UFO dogged the airplane for an hour, then left as quickly as it had appeared. During the hour, however, the crew took photographs.

"But when the plane landed at Barksdale, their film was confiscated and they were questioned for three days," Andrus said, adding that the men were told to share their tale with no one — not even their wives.

"Finally, the bombardier-navigator told his wife, and she called us," he said. Spokesmen at Barksdale could not confirm the incident.

In mid-1966, Virginia Brown and her cousin, Antoinette Barteet, were at their grandparents' house in what was then a country setting off Hart's Island Road, just north of where LSUS is now.

"We were 13 years old," she recalls. "There was nothing out there but their farm, their house and a road in front of the house, but we were in the back

bedroom."

They were drifting off when a bright light swept across the room.

"We went to the window and looked out," she says. "The light was coming from the sky. Whatever it was, it just stood still, flashing different colors — red, green and white."

She doesn't remember any noises, only that the lights swirled around in a circular fashion — before the craft rose up and out of sight.

"We just sat there and looked — we didn't bother grandmother and grandfather, because they were asleep already, and it was gone." The next morning they told everybody what they'd seen, "and they laughed and thought we were nuts."

One might believe teens capable of an error in identifying a common object behaving in an uncommon manner.

But consider Carlton Morris. In 1967, aboard the anti-submarine rescue ship USS Greenlet in the South China Sea, he saw a bright light streak high in the sky, parallel to the horizon, "traveling unbelievably fast."



Morris

Then the object abruptly made a 90-degree course change and shot up into space.

"I notified the captain, and he said it was either a satellite or a meteorite," says Morris, now a civilian employee at Barksdale. "But when it did its turn, I said 'That's no meteor, no satellite,' and logged it in the ship's log."

Morris was no green recruit. He was the ship's operations communications officer and retired from the Navy in 1970 after 20 years' service.

Ernest Ethridge, the official in charge of the National Weather Service offices in Shreveport, says his office regularly receives calls about unexplainable visual phenomena, "though the number is much less than what it was 15 years ago, and much much less than 25 years ago."

Unofficially, Ethridge believes many things are possible that science has no explanation for — today.

"The problem we face is that we all feel so sophisticated, we feel that man has the answer for everything," he says. "He does not. He knows more about certain things, but the number of unknowns is still there. I like to believe that man is only a small part of this planet."

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS, El Centro, CA
June 21, 1988 CR: L. Whitehurst



QUESTION: After a dance recital Sunday in Brawley, we went back to my house for a small Father's Day celebration. We had ice cream and cake, diet sodas and coffee. When the last guest left, I walked to the car with her. Up in the sky southeast of El Centro was an object with red, white and blue lights. It hovered there at about 3,500 feet.

I went back in the house and got my daughter, 15, a level-headed, straight A student so she could come and see this object. She took pictures of it with a Polaroid camera. When she started taking the flash picture, the object must have thought she was signaling because it dropped down to about 2,500 feet.

Finally, my son, 19, woke up, saw all the lights on in the house and came out to see what was going on. He saw the object. We watched it from just before 1 a.m. until 3:30 a.m. Finally, a second lighted object appeared. I am not a believer or disbeliever in UFOs. I never thought about the subject one way or the other, but there was definitely some vehicle remaining stationary in the sky. Did anybody else see this? — Steady Reader, El Centro

If anybody else saw the red, white and blue object in the sky, they did not report it to the El Centro Police or the sheriff's office. The Navy had no explanation, neither did Vandenberg Air Force Base at Lompoc. Vandenberg is doing some missile testing but a spokesman said nothing was sent into the air Sunday. The National Weather Service or Palomar Observatory knew nothing about lights in the sky. Both of the astronomers at the California Technical Institute were on vacation, according to an astronomy department telephone recording. The Yuma Daily Sun had no reports of lighted objects in the sky.

Mysterious glow causes search for plane crash

ENTERPRISE, Eagle Valley, CO July 28, 1988

Search efforts for what was believed to be a downed aircraft were halted at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, after a daylong air and ground search of the terrain south of the Eagle County Airport.

Search efforts were concentrated between Blowout and Hardscrabble Mountains, and then expanded southeastward toward the Seven Hermits area. No evidence of a crash scene was spotted, and there were no reports of a missing airplane.

The search was started early Sunday, following a 12:30 a.m. eyewitness report of what appeared to be a crash.

Eagle County Building Inspector Gerald Best and his wife, Vera, who reside on Spring Creek south of the airport, were en route home early Sunday when they observed what they thought was a low flying aircraft with either its landing lights on or a strobe light.

Best said the aircraft vanished over a

hill southeast of the airport, and then the couple saw a red and orange glow that appeared to come from an explosion.

They immediately notified the Eagle County Sheriff's Office of a possible crash.

Colorado National Guard personnel stationed at the Eagle County Airport launched an aerial search shortly after daybreak Sunday. They spotted a "white V object" on the north slope of Hardscrabble Mountain, but the object was later determined not to be part of any aircraft.

Colorado Civil Air Patrol planes later joined the aerial search, and two ground vehicles from the Vail Mountain Rescue Group also aided in the effort.

Eagle County Airport Manager Dan Reynolds said Monday that although the official search had been halted, "I won't be surprised if we're not back up there looking again later."

CR: L. Whitehurst

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Sept. 22, 1988 CR: R. Reid

UFO Witnesses & Friends to Watch Unsolved Mysteries at Players

A gathering of all the area UFO witnesses is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5 at the Quiet-water Beach Boardwalk

Restaurant, The Players. The attraction is a 7 p.m. slide show and discussion by Don Ware, State MUFON Director, followed by a group witness viewing of the NBC premier show, *Unsolved Mysteries*, featuring the Gulf Breeze UFO.

At your discretion, the special "all you can eat" fish fry will be available.

Recently an hour special program on the *Late Show* also featured the Gulf Breeze UFO. Several of the local photos, as well as a portion of the video tape of the craft, were shown.

"UFO research is sending us kicking and screaming into the science of the 21st century," Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

This quote was used by the president of the National Space Council and former astronaut Dr. Brian O'Leary as he described the computer analysis used to examine the Gulf Breeze photographs. O'Leary said the Gulf Breeze evidence is holding up under intense scrutiny.

Along those same lines, the nationally known, Chicago based organization, Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), had earlier considered the Gulf Breeze case a hoax. However, during the past six months CUFOS has reconsidered

that position and, while not endorsing yet, now makes a revised statement: (CUFOS was) "able to review the subsidiary evidence. The other sightings made by Gulf Breeze area residents of objects that seem very much like those that figure in the photographs...It does seem clear that something is in the sky over Gulf Breeze."

This October 5, 7:00 gathering of the witnesses is also a warm-up for the live 2 hour documentary link-up with Washington, D.C. on October 14. Neither of these meetings is intended to gain interviews or names, so if you are a witness or are just interested in learning more - you are welcome.



FOREIGN NEWS

TRADER, Leicester, England
Sept. 14, 1988 CR: T. Good

Spies in the skies

UFO sightings in the Leicester area are "frightening the living day-lights" out of local people, claims Regional Investigator, Clive Potter.

Mr Potter, who is the local representative of the British UFO Research Association, reveals that the mysterious craft are not part of an invasion from outer space.

"They are," he says, "top secret experimental aircraft manufactured and controlled by earthlings."

Sightings recorded in other parts of the country have prompted Mr. Bill Cash, to call on the Ministry of Defence to investigate, but as yet there's been no response.

"Although stressing

the need to maintain security, we also feel the public has a right to know what is flying above their heads.

"And since these aircraft fly very low and silently, particularly over populated areas such as Leicestershire, there is always the possibility of an accident," said Mr Potter.

He can be contacted on Leicester 20538.

MARLBOROUGH TIMES, Wiltshire, England - July 22, 1988 CR: T. Good

Speculation over mystery circles

STRANGE SIGHTING AT SILBURY HILL

By Richard Martin

A MYSTERIOUS set of circles has appeared near Silbury Hill firing speculation that the area has received a visit from extra-terrestrials.

Clearly visible from the A4 road, the five circles were apparently first reported on Friday morning. But the farmer on whose land the circles sit believes they appeared on Thursday night.

An eye-witness, who asked not to be named, claims that while driving along the Avenue from Avebury to the A4 at West Kennett on Wednesday night, saw a golden glow in the sky.

"As I looked, a constant beam of white light stretched from the clouds to the ground. The area of light was definitely being reflected from the cloud. I have never had an experience like that before."

The witness drove towards Silbury to investigate, but the beam and the glow had gone on arrival at the hill.

Roger Hues, who farms the land adjoining the ancient monument, found the large circle of flattened corn surrounded by four smaller circles on Friday morning. The larger circle was 16 metres in diameter. It was bigger than any previously seen in Wiltshire. Thirty metres separate the central circle from the outer rings.

Over 400 sightings, similar to that at Silbury, have been recorded around the world. Fifty six have occurred around Southern England in the last 2½ months.

One theory is that a high-power beam of energy, similar to that seen by the Silbury eye-witness, flattens the crops in a circular direction.

The phenomena is being monitored by Mr Colin Andrews, of Andover, who heads the Circles Investigation Group. The group consists of a number of specialised scientists.

Mr Andrews stated that this theory is consistent with a number of reliable sightings around the country. In recent months both a policeman and a vicar are on record as having similar experiences to the Silbury eye-witness.

Mr Andrews spent several hours at the Silbury site on Monday examining traces at the site. The Silbury circles are larger than previously recorded and the direction of rotation of the crops on the ground is opposite to previous traces.

However, he is keeping an open mind as to the validity of the Silbury circles. "It could be that we are seeing a new pattern of phenomena in the Wiltshire area."

Mr Andrews added that sightings in Wiltshire are becoming increasingly frequent. This year 13 have been found at the former Yatesbury Airfield, seven at Beckhampton, five at Silbury, five at Upton Scudderhouse and six at the White Horse, Westbury.

"These things are rising at one hell of a rate," he said.

And while not committing himself to a theory of extra-terrestrial visitations, Mr Andrews said that some sort of aerial component is responsible.

Roger Hues telephoned RAF bases in an attempt to discover the cause. He was told there had been no military activity in the area that night.

A power line runs immediately above the circles, making it unlikely that anything could have landed there.

Similarly, a spokesman for Bristol Weather Centre told the Marlborough Times that weather conditions in the district were stable. This would discount suggestions that the circles were formed by a freak storm.

A spokesman for the Met Office at Bracknell, stated: "I would not have expected any weather conditions to have resulted in a pattern so regular."

Mrs Sue Hues said that both she and her husband are mystified by the circles. "I think it's very weird, frankly. It is so precise, that's what I do not understand."

Avebury shop-owner Brian Ashley is in no doubt about what caused the circles.

He said that over the years there has been speculation centred around Silbury Hill as a landing point for extra-terrestrials.

Interested in the significance of the local ancient monuments, Mr Ashley uses divining rods to measure hidden energy. He said of the circles: "There is a tremendous energy and force there."

Ex-bobby's close encounter

A UFO expert claims he has proof that an ex-policeman was abducted by aliens on a remote moorland.

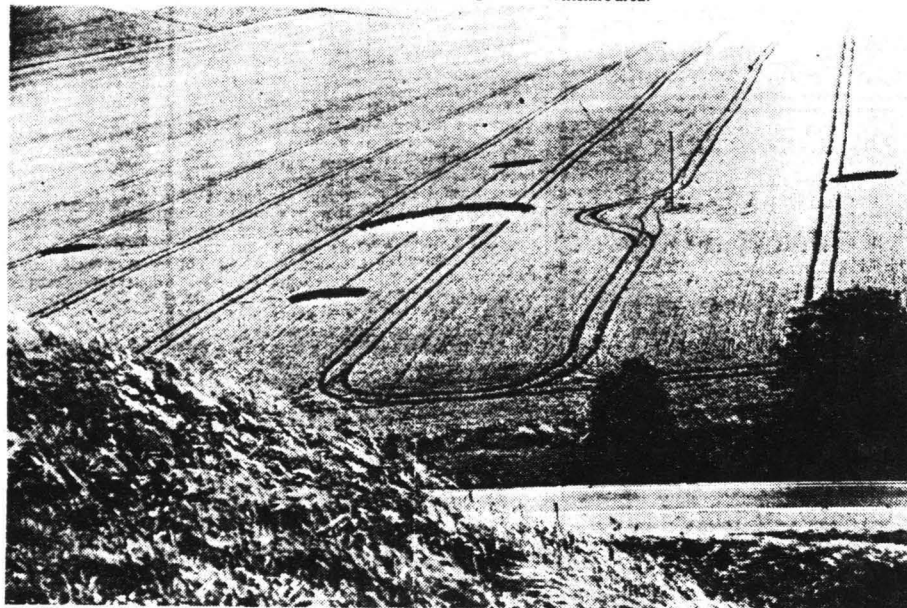
Mr Steve Balon of Woodlands Avenue, Leigh, says he has scientific evidence that the man, who refuses to be named, was taken on to an alien spaceship and examined.

Steve, who has been investigating reports of aliens and UFOs for 26 years, said the ex-Metropolitan policeman stumbled on an alien with dark green skin and long arms on Ilkley Moor.

"He followed it and was confronted with a large space ship like two soup bowls put together," he added.

After his astonishing experience, the man contacted the local branch of an association that investigates aerial phenomena and was referred to Steve.

CR: T. Good



● Genuine or a hoax? Mysterious circles that appeared near Silbury Hill were discovered by farmer Roger Hues on Friday.

WIGAN EVENING POST, Lancs., England - June 27, 1988

DAILY STAR, London, England - Oct. 1, 1988 CR: T. Good

REAGAN IN UFO FRIGHT

By MARK CHRISTY

RONALD Reagan is convinced he saw a UFO, it was revealed last night.

He was so amazed, he ordered the pilot of the plane he was in to follow the mystery object as it zig-zagged across the night sky.

The President said later: "When I got off the plane, I told Nancy all

about it and we read up on the long history of UFOs. "You know, even the Egyptians referred to UFOs in their hieroglyphics."

Speed

Veteran pilot Bill Paynter, 72, who was at the controls, said: "President Reagan and the others called my attention to a big light flying a bit behind my plane."

"It appeared to be several hundred yards away. It was a fairly steady light until it began to accelerate, then it appeared to elongate."

The close encounter, revealed in a new book, backed up Reagan's theory about aliens in space—apparently he once said he believed in flying saucers.

STAR, Sheffield, England - Sept. 28, 1988 CR: T. Good

UFO 'was secret fighter'

By Simon Irwin

Ministry of Defence.

David feels that the V-shaped object seen by the police and many others in the Sheffield and Rotherham area on the night of February 2 this year matches the delta wing configuration of the Stealth aircraft.

He said: "The drawings by eye witnesses do uncannily resemble the recently published artist's impressions of what the Stealth fighter and bomber are supposed to look like with the short and slender delta wings."

"The identity, origin and destination of the aircraft in question

has not been discovered by our investigation. This is not surprising if, as we suspect, the object was a low-flying military aircraft."

"If the aircraft was still further a secret military aircraft then even RAF Finningley may not have been informed about its movements."

"The triangular or delta-wing shape of this object is a very unusual design for either civilian or military aircraft likely to be flying in UK airspace."

"If our suspicion that this sighting was a Stealth aircraft are correct it may explain the reluctance on the part of RAF

Finningley to disclose any information about the recent sightings, preferring to say that all enquiries should go to the Ministry of Defence in London whereas previously enquiries about UFO sightings had been dealt with by the previous public relations officer, Squadron Leader Derek Exley."

"Of course I may be wrong and it might have been a triangular shaped space ship but I doubt it," said David of Old Retford Road, Handsworth.

Anybody who wants to report a UFO sighting should ring the 24-hour UFO hotline on 0924 444049.



David Clarke — fighter plane theory

AN unidentified flying object, spotted by two Sheffield bobbies above their heads, could have been a top secret American fighter plane, claims a local UFO investigator.

David Clarke, an investigator with the British UFO Research Association believes that the object seen by Pcs Susan Jackson and John Boam in Ecclesfield could have been an F-19 Stealth fighter, on a test flight.

Sheffield University student David is so certain that the police officers saw a plane that he is putting in an official complaint against low flying aircraft to the Civil Aviation Authority and

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Lancashire, England

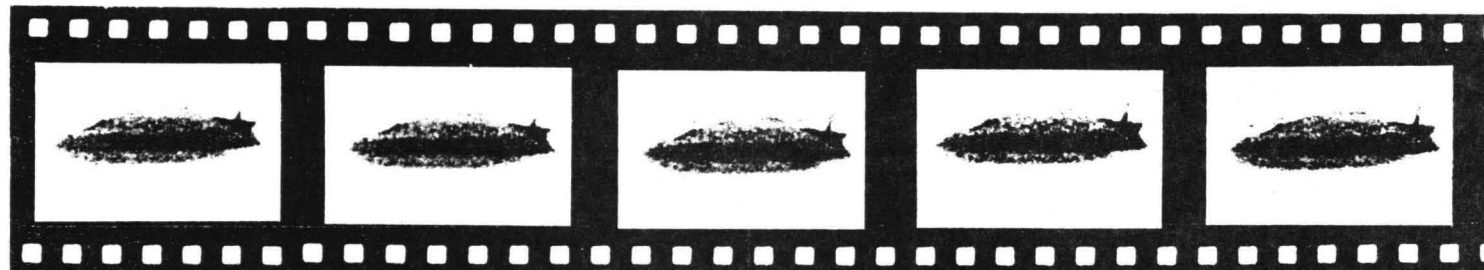
Sept. 28, 1988 CR: T. Good

UFO fear for pals

TWO stunned schoolfriends got the fright of their lives last night from what they think was a "UFO".

The dazzled Darweners say they spotted bright lights over Hindle Street and watched a triangular-shaped craft flit about the sky for a few minutes at 8pm before disappearing.

"We couldn't believe what we saw," said Darwen Vale pupil Dylan Bentley, 12, of Prospect Avenue, who saw the object with pal Wayne Johnson, 14, of Harwood Street. "At first we thought it could have been a plane but it only made a humming noise when it was over our heads."



EXPLOSIVE RESPONSE TO GOOD'S BOOK

Is there a UFO coverup?

BY RITA DeMONTIS

Toronto Sun

It's summer, the weather's hot and so is the latest in the saga of UFOs.

Word's out—before Ronald Reagan retires from his term in the White House the world will be told once and for all that extra-terrestrials from other planets really do exist.

Sounds far-fetched? Not if author Timothy Good tells you. Good has just celebrated the North American release of his controversial book *Above Top Secret—The Worldwide UFO Coverup* (MacMillan; \$24.95) and the response has been explosive to say the least.

The book's title is allegedly the classification accorded by U.S. security services to evidence of existence of UFOs—a classification two points higher than what covered development of the H-Bomb.

In his book Good writes that governments of the world are 'covering-up' the knowledge that not only have UFOs landed on Earth, but that aliens have actually been in contact with us—for quite some time now.

Critics have panned his writings as "evil" and the "ideas of a maniac" yet when one meets Good he appears to be neither.

Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947.

(In her unpublished biography *The Great One* Beverly McKittrick, former wife of Jack Gleason, claims the comedian visited Homestead Air Force Base in Florida in 1973 in the company of his friend President Richard Nixon and that—under extremely tight security—he was shown the bodies of four aliens, which were allegedly embalmed and displayed on operating tables. It reportedly made Gleason ill for days.)

The Majestic 12 document received worldwide publicity in May of last year and lengthy articles appeared in newspapers doubting the document's authenticity.

But Good advises a great deal of information has now surfaced which tends to indicate the document is genuine.

"I've obtained over 100,000 pieces of information through the Freedom of Information Act," says Good, in town recently. "The Majestic document was leaked early last year specifically...to get people prepared for the idea that UFOs do exist."

Good says there are many reasons for the stonewalling of information, "particularly since the facts are disturbing and could cause over-reaction. It would also indicate a loss of control to national security because there is very little we can do about the situation of aliens visiting our planet."

"I personally think that an official announcement would cause massive repercussions in both religious circles and in the economy."

Asked if people would be able to handle the news of such events Good quickly points out "we've learned to live with the H-Bomb so for many nothing could be worse."

Good is the first to realize he's opened himself up to public ridicule and literary scoff—"I'm baffled by the fact that there has been no reviews in the U.S. press yet the book is going into its second print after just four weeks"—but his strength lies in his staunch Brit reasoning and the words of Senator Barry Goldwater, who wrote in 1975 "the subject of UFOs is one that has interested me for some long time. About 10 or 12 years ago I made an effort to find out what was in the building at Wright Patterson Air Force Base where the information is stored that has been collected by the Air Force, and I was understandably denied this request."

"I have, however, heard that there is a plan under way to release some, if not all, of this material in the near future...and I hope we will not have to wait too much longer."



WRITINGS PANNED

Timothy Good's writings have been called "evil" and the "ideas of a maniac."

Rather, Timothy Good is a gentle, soft-spoken man, a respected British broadcaster and lecturer and a violinist by profession, whose particular passion just happens to be the controversies surrounding the whole UFO subject.

The book makes for astonishing reading, if from an entertainment point of view, and its immaculately documented research reveals the extent to which this evidence is suppressed.

Remember the well-worn story about a crashed spaceship in New Mexico and its subsequent recovery several dozen years ago?

Everyone grew up knowing the story, but that's all it ever was—UFO folklore that kept kids shivering with delicious fright well past their bedtimes.

Until Good's book reveals the extraordinary briefing document allegedly prepared for President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower by former CIA director Admiral Roscoe Hillekoetter, code-named "Majestic 12", "Majic-12" or "MJ-12," that details the recovery of a crashed UFO and the remains of its four alien occupants 75 miles from



TIMOTHY GOOD

This soft-spoken broadcaster-lecturer is actually a violinist by profession.



SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - Sept. 26, 1988 CR: T. Good

Mystery of those red and white lights in the sky

DID you see red lights zigzag across the night sky on Friday? Did you see a bright white triangular light or a square formation of lights over the sea at Southend? If you did the UFO spotters want to hear from you.

Several people from Southend, Leigh and Billericay phoned the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association at the weekend to report strange goings-on over the Thames Estuary between 8.30 and 9.30 on Friday night. Now Mr Ron West, of UFORA, wants to hear from anyone who saw them so he can catalogue what

happened. Phone him on 0728 830757.

Mr West said: "We have had reports of white, red, green and yellow lights. One said there was a triangular shape, another three in formation and another a square."

"I live in Clacton and when one person from Leigh rang I was watching the same thing. From here it

looked like a small pea. From Leigh it must have been massive."

"I checked with Southend Airport which gave out that Heathrow was overcrowded with aircraft and had to stack planes. But I do not believe that. If the lights had been in straight lines, yes. But they were doing all sorts of antics. There must be another explanation."

Valentich death cloud?

By SUZANNE McDONNELL

A MELBOURNE man claims to know the exact spot where Fred Valentich's Cessna 182L vanished into thin air over Bass Strait 10 years ago.

Harley Klauer, 76, a physics and photography expert, is so convinced about the fate of the young pilot that he wants the Melbourne Coroner to hold an inquest into the bizarre disappearance.

Mr Klauer, a retired radio engineer, bases his theory on a photo taken by an amateur, Mr Roy Manifold, the night Valentich disappeared.

Mr Manifold and his wife were at Crayfish Bay taking automatic exposures of the impressive sunset in 20-second sequences.

In the sixth consecutive frame, a large cloud-like object was visible.

Mr Manifold did not see this object while he was taking photos. When the film was developed, he noticed the strange spot and had the film checked.

There was no defect.

The photo was sent to a UFO research centre in the US which concluded the image was a bona fide UFO surrounded by a cloud-like vapor-exhaust residue.

The photo attracted world-wide publicity.

"What these gentlemen saw with their so-called scientific tests would be quite amusing if it were not tragic," Mr Klauer said in a letter to the Coroner in 1982.

The Coroner's office replied that Mr Klauer's evidence was considered circumstantial and not sufficient to open an inquest "at this point in time."

Plane blew up - new theory

Mr Klauer recently has reapplied for an inquest.

He believes close examination of an enlargement shows an aircraft catching fire and exploding near, and at the same time and likely place, where Valentich disappeared.

It is Valentich's Cessna, he says.

By pinpointing Mr Manifold's position on the shore, and using the photo, Mr Klauer has calculated the spot where Valentich's plane fell into the sea.

Mr Klauer sent his detailed calculations to Sir Edmund Hillary when he was president of the ANZAAS Festival of Science in 1985.

"The direction of the wreckage lies ... approximately 23 to 24 degrees south of magnetic west," he wrote.

Mr Klauer has spent years researching the strange disappearance and has visited the location twice. He believes there are many reasons why Valentich's



● ABOVE: Mr Manifold's photograph of a cloud-like shape. LEFT: Color contouring used to identify objects.

"You don't have to have a big thunderstorm to build up an electrical charge in the atmosphere."

On the day of Valentich's disappearance, Mr Klauer was photographing unusual looking clouds from his Sea-ford home.

The clouds, called lenticular clouds, are small and shaped like lenses, which often appear tinged with gold color.

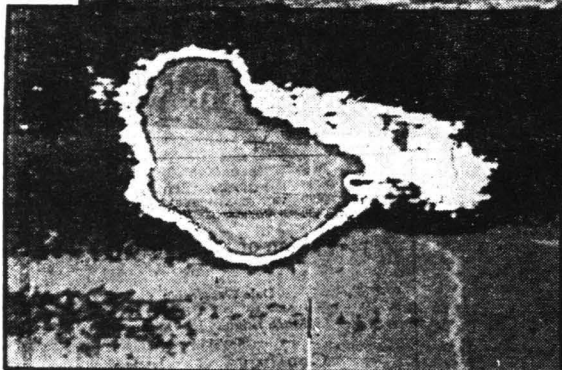
People mistake them for flying saucers, and there were many reports of gold

shaped discs hovering over the coast from Cape Otway right down to Sorrento on the fateful day 10 years ago.

"Quite possibly these clouds are highly charged," Mr Klauer said.

"Valentich's plane could have been hit with a discharge from one of these little clouds."

Mr Klauer describes himself as a sceptic and is not impressed with those who suggest that Valentich was abducted by a craft of curious aliens.



plane may have suddenly exploded.

"I imagine I am in the seat behind Valentich," Mr Klauer said. "I have flown the same model of plane many times before."

Mr Klauer served with RAAF in World War 2.

"I'm used to looking out of planes under all sorts of conditions. Things happen so quickly. I tend to believe it was an electrical accident."

... while a family still waits

By SUZANNE McDONNELL

GUIDO Valentich looked out off Cape Otway yesterday in the hope of finding a clue that might reassure him his son was still alive.

Guido and his family make the trip from their Avondale Heights home to sit a cliffside vigil and pray for Frederick's return each year.

Frederick Valentich mysteriously disappeared from the sky over Bass Strait near Cape Otway as he flew his pale blue Cessna 182L from Moorabbin to King Island just on sunset 10 years ago.

His disappearance has baffled aviation experts and remains one of Australia's greatest mysteries.

An extensive search revealed no trace of the single engine aircraft.

Frederick's last communication to air control was so strange many speculate that a UFO zapped him away.

"Melbourne this is Delta Sierra Juliet. Is there any known traffic below 5000 ft?" he radioed.



● Guido Valentich ... goes to Cape Otway every year hoping for a sign that his son is alive.

"Delta Sierra Juliet, no known traffic," was the reply.

For the next six minutes Frederick Valentich graphically informed Flight Service of his encounter with a UFO performing aerial somersaults around him.

"Seems to be a large aircraft at below 5000 ft," Valentich radioed. "It has four bright ... it seems to me like landing lights."

He described the object as long, metallic with a green light.

"It seems to me to be playing some sort of

game. He's flying over me two, three times at a time, at speeds I could not identify ... It (open microphone for two seconds) is hovering and it's not an aircraft, Delta Sierra Juliet."

Those were the last words heard from Valentich at 7.12 pm on October 21, 1978.

Then, an eerie silence broken only by a clicking sound, heard for 17 seconds, as Valentich probably held the microphone open.

That clicking sound could hold the key to the

mystery surrounding Frederick's disappearance, his father says.

Guido Valentich is the only person to have ever heard the tape of his son's last words, apart from air safety investigators.

The Transport Department said it was not policy to release the tape to the public. Instead it made public a transcript of a portion of the tape.

Mr Valentich said his son's voice sounded calm.

"He didn't call a may-day and he wouldn't jeopardise his career as a commercial pilot by saying he was seeing a UFO if he wasn't," Mr Valentich said.

"But he got a bit uptight at the end - I could tell he was becoming concerned."

"I believe those last 17 seconds, those metallic clicking noises hold the answer."

"They sounded like someone dialling on the telephone. They've got facilities to scientifically test it and tell me what it is."

"It is the key, I'm sure." That tape no longer exists - aviation officials have wiped those strange last seconds.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority, Mr Ken Williams, says although the file on the Valentich case is still open, the tape of the incident no longer exists. After Bureau of Air Safety Investigators had examined it, the tape had been put back in use.

He said a thorough search was made of the area where Valentich had disappeared.

"There were many theories that he'd flown inland, so the search was broadened to take in the land around Cape Otway," Mr Williams said.

"The cause of his disappearance has never been determined."

"The strongest theory is that he became disorientated, it was a clear night with no clouds."

"I consider it highly unlikely that he was taken off by a UFO."

Mr Valentich believes his son is alive and most likely had been taken by a UFO.

There were rumors and theories that Frederick was a victim of drug runners.

Frederick Valentich has been missing for 10 years, but there has never been an inquest into his disappearance.

STANDARD RECORDER, Southend, England
Sept. 16, 1988 CR: T. Good

Spaceship sighting claimed

FOUR friends claim to have spotted a spaceship hovering above a Laindon shopping centre.

The friends were walking through Essex Close, when they saw the spaceship at about 10.15pm on Friday. One of them, who asked not to be named, said: "It was like a black diamond with lights, it was quite low and really big and silent."

"It seemed to be there a couple of minutes then just went past. It couldn't have been a plane. I have never seen anything like it before."

Hovering

He said the spaceship was only about 10 - 15ft long and appeared to be hovering at about 200ft.

His sighting has been backed up by independent reports of a UFO spotted in the Thames estuary,

Southend area earlier in the week.

UFO expert Ron West said: "On September 4, four independent witnesses saw what they described as a multi-coloured square-shaped object, lighting up like a Christmas tree."

"This was seen over the Thames estuary and Southend area."

Appeal

Mr West, who is a member of the East Anglian UFO Society, has appealed for anyone who may have witnessed either of these two events to ring the UFO hotline 0728 830757.

KIDDERMINSTER TIMES, Worcester, England - Sept. 22, 1988

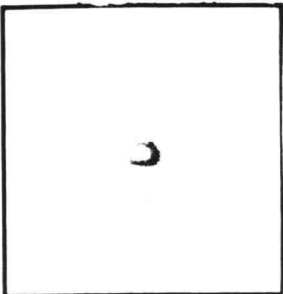
Mystery UFO snapped

This Unidentified Flying Object was photographed over Kidderminster last weekend by local man Roland Bowen.

The sixty-seven-year-old retired carpet worker was relaxing in his Windermere House flat in Hurcott Road at 6 pm on Sunday, September 18 when he saw a glittering, golden, rotating, egg-shaped object cruising gracefully across the clear blue sky.

A keen amateur photographer, Roland grabbed his camera and took some rapid photographs of the object which he estimated to be around a quarter of a mile to the north, travelling west to east, around 300 feet off the ground and about the size of a house.

He took the undeveloped film straight from his camera and handed it over to a Kidderminster Shuttle/Times and News reporter.



CR: T. Good

SUN, Melbourne, Australia - Oct. 28, 1988 CR: P. Norman

Truth is still clouded

WITH regard to the Valentich death cloud article (Oct 22), I am the researcher who took the pictures to the United States for high tech computer analysis. If this had been an explosion of the Cessna concerned, the automatic exposure in the previous frame (5), 20 seconds earlier, would have shown the aircraft.

In the 6th frame the object is nine degrees in the

shot, which means it would be flying about 320 kmh - impossible for a cloud to fly on a clear day.

The timing of the position of the sun as shown in the same frame and the time the pilot was reporting to Melbourne Flight Service was 21 minutes later.

The photographer, Mr Roy Manifold, had already gone inside his holiday cabin when he heard the Cessna fly over.

Fishermen camped along the Parker River also saw the blue and

white Cessna making its turn to pick the heading for King Island.

The six minutes during which Frederick Valentich was describing his encounter with the object is much too long for an instantaneous explosion.

At this stage the disappearance of Frederick Valentich and his plane remains unexplained.

— Paul Norman vice president Victorian UFO Research Society Moorabbin.

UFO hovers over homes

WORRIED local people called police when a mystery ball-shaped unidentified flying object was spotted hovering over Cambridge.

The glowing UFO — which made a loud humming noise — flew low over Cambridge early today.

Police and aviation experts were baffled by the object — which disappeared without trace.

Today police said they received at least four similar reports.

ORANGE

The first call — in the early hours of this morning — came from a woman who said that she had seen the large orange coloured globe hovering like a spaceship over her home.

Other sightings reported between 2 and 3 am corroborate the woman's description.

Have you spotted a UFO or had close encounters of an extraterrestrial kind? If so, ring the Evening Telegraph special UFO hotline tonight between 6 pm and 7 pm on 555111.

Three say 'we saw a UFO'

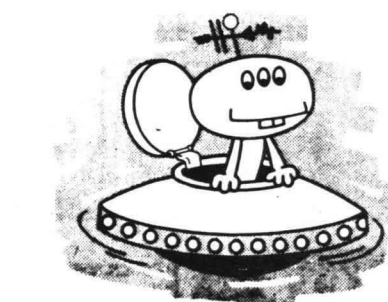
A BROXTOWE man and two young women in the Vale of Belvoir have reported seeing UFOs this week.

All three claimed to have seen a white light skimming across the night sky and hearing a humming noise, said Mr Dennis Harriman, the director of the National UFO Investigation Society.

He is appealing to anyone who has seen anything they believe may be a UFO to contact him on 03317 4961, which is a local number.

CR: T. Good

MANSFIELD & SUTTON OBSERVER, England - July 21, 1988



A FREAK storm which ripped through Kirkby last November may have been caused by UFOs.

The claim has been made by Denis Harriman, director of the National UFO Investigation Society.

He says there could be a link between the storm — which ripped holes in several rooftops and smashed a number of windows — and high UFO activity in the area at the time.

"The storm had some strange effects which leads us to believe it wasn't entirely a natural phenomenon," he said.

by George Robinson

"For instance, several windows were smashed by the force of the storm — but not all the same way. Some imploded, others exploded."

"That is a highly unusual and bizarre effect."

He added "Electrical storms as violent as that are unusual anyway, and at that time there were numerous UFO sightings reported in the area."

Did UFOs do this?

Freak storm may have been work of aliens

The storm damaged a number of flats and homes in the Abbey Road area of Kirkby, bringing down chimneys and blowing out windows and doors.



Flashback to our story on the storm last November.

There seems to be a great deal of UFO activity in the area," he said.

"Two years ago we were getting around 50 reports a year."

"Now it's gone up to around 800 a year."

If you have spotted alien shapes in the sky, tell Mr Harriman all about it on 033174961.

Violent

It raged for some hours during the night, firing off violent thunderbolts and sheet lightning.

In the morning the streets were littered with splintered wood, smashed roof tiles and broken glass.

ANEW wave of UFO sightings are being reported in the Notts and Derbyshire areas, says Mr Harriman.

Scores of people have been contacting his group in recent weeks claiming they have seen everything from saucer shapes with coloured lights to huge 'mother ships' gliding over treetops.

CR: T. Good

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Peterborough, England Sept. 21, 1988 CR: T. Good

Alien craft are familiar to spotters

By RICHARD BOWYER

STRANGE objects have been spotted on the local skyline.

The Evening Telegraph's special UFO hotline has been buzzing with reports of flying saucers.

And local people have unveiled chilling tales of close encounters with alien life-forms.

Our UFO hotline was opened after a flying saucer was spotted swooping low over Cambridgeshire.

And callers revealed that the aliens had visited the county before.

Ronald Lane, of The Pentlands, Gunthorpe, saw four UFO's in three different sightings.

He said: "My last sighting was 18 months ago in Gunthorpe when I saw two together."

Mr Lane said they were similar to the one spotted in Cambridge — a large orange coloured globe hovering like a spaceship.

In 1979 he saw a "giant torch" flying very low in the sky over Bretton the size of three houses.

Terry O'Neill, of Winwick Place, Westwood, Peterborough, said his house could be visited by an extraterrestrial being.

He said: "When we went to bed our tape recorder was unplugged from the wall."

"But we were woken up by the noise of music playing."

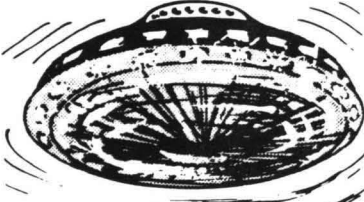
He went downstairs and found the music machine was plugged in.

Little Sian Holcroft woke her parents last Sunday night when she entered their bedroom at Lincoln Road, Walton, and stared out of the window.

The following morning she told parents Sean and Barbara of a strawberry and yellow coloured rectangular object in the sky.

And Maureen Harwood, of West Street Gardens, Stamford, called to tell us about two sightings her mother, Vera Nieland, of Queen's Walk, Stamford, has had in the last few weeks.

Mrs Harwood said: "She saw something over Ketton with a stream of light as a tail, and the rest orange in colour."



IRISH TIMES, Dublin, Ireland - Aug. 17, 1988 CR: T. Good

Believe it or not

EXTRATERRESTRIALS opened a black lid on a Bulgarian woman's head and manipulated whatever they found underneath with "tweezers and needles," the Communist Youth daily Narodna Mladetz reported yesterday in Sofia.

She is reportedly endowed with extrasensory powers, and said she felt a "slight and pleasant shiver" running down her spine after the manipulation by her guests from outer space. — (AFP).

LEIGH JOURNAL, Lancs., England Aug. 25, 1988 CR: T. Good

Mystery sighting

SHOPPERS and stallholders on Leigh market stopped to watch an object moving across the sky last Thursday morning.

The unidentified object was shaped like a Rugby ball, seemed to be made of aluminium and moved slowly across the sky, stopping at intervals.

LOCAL UFO expert Steve Balon has checked with Manchester Airport who say there were no aircraft or balloons in the area at the time.

"It is a mystery. If there were any more sightings, I would like people to contact me through the Journal," Steve said.

Aliens 'watching Aussies'

A UFO expert claims aliens are using the Nullarbor to study humans.

The South Australian head of Australian UFO information, Mr Colin Norris, said the recent West Australian incident involving an Ansett-Pioneer bus driver and five passengers was similar to the case of the Knowles family in January.

The bus was chased by a strange light along the Nullarbor highway near the WA-SA border.

The Knowles family claimed a UFO landed on their car.

Mr Norris said yesterday he believed aliens were using the area to examine how humans behaved.

"To use an analogy — it's like if you see an old 17th century building being damaged by time," he said. "You either restore it or watch it fall down."

"These people are watching us decay and seeing how far we'll go."

Mr Norris said aliens had warned people 30 years ago that the ozone layer, forests and the hot-house affect would cause us problems.

"We didn't listen to this advice and now we're in all sorts of trouble — it's our fault," he said.

Mr Norris said small pilot ships from a mother craft used the Nullarbor because the area was remote and they were not disturbed.

SUN, Melbourne, Australia Oct. 26, 1988 CR: P. Norman

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - Aug. 11, 1988

Air boils over circles

A pilot has reported more mysterious circles in a cornfield — plus an odd effect in the sky above them.

The markings, four small circles of flattened corn equally spaced round a large circle, appeared overnight on land near Silbury Hill, Avebury.

Yesterday morning they were spotted by a private pilot who reported turbulence when he flew over them, supporting the theory that they are a natural phenomenon and not man-made.

The latest circles are less than a mile away from 13 similar circles which appeared recently.

The Swindon pilot, who wished to remain anonymous, later flew an Evening Advertiser reporter and photographer over the site.

His single-engined light aircraft was buffeted by turbulence at 500 ft when it was directly over the circles.

"I have been flying for 10 years and I have never experienced anything like this," said the pilot.

"But I have no idea if the turbulence is the explanation for the circles."

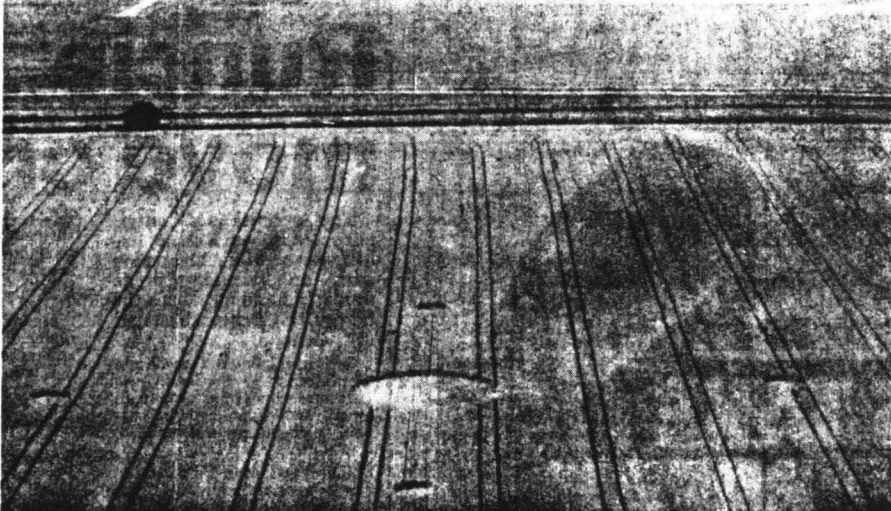
No footprints or tracks were visible between any of the circles.

There have been several causes suggested for the circles, including whirlwinds, energy fields, helicopters and, inevitably, UFOs.

"It's very difficult to fake something like this," said Paul Horwood, of the Swindon-based Borderland Phenomona Research Group.

"People have suggested the circles are caused by wind but they are so perfectly formed and the rest of the crop is not even crumpled."

"I don't know what the answer is but the plot is certainly thickening."



The mysterious new circles which have appeared near Silbury Hill. Picture: BARRIE HOWELL

CR: T. Good



SCIENCE SURVEY

Researchers studying all the data available about the mysteries of ancient times, divide them into several groups.

The first relates to facts which testify to the ancients' high level of knowledge. Late in 1900 archaeologists discovered a strange mechanism on board a sunken ship, with signs dating back to the 1st century BC.

The operating principles and the purpose of the device — which was made up of some 20 gear wheels — were unclear for a long time.

The researchers went through a great deal of trouble in finding out that the device was used to determine the time of the Sun and the Moon's rising and setting, and calculate the movement of the planets in the solar system.

In fact, scientists were dealing with a primitive computer. Obviously it helped those at sea find their way by co-ordinating their movements with the stars and planets.

Engineers got interested in the device too. They noticed that the teeth of its gear wheels were cut precisely at an angle of 60 degrees. Closer analysis has shown that the device could not have been manufactured by hand. The conclusion was that the ancient Greeks had special equipment to produce such devices on a mass scale. That was quite a surprise.

Many mysterious artefacts have much to do with astronomy, knowledge of which was indispensable for navigation. Both seafarers and travellers used stars as their guides. But then, what about the ancient African tribe of Dogons which had the most precise information about Sirius? What did they need it for?

The tribe's legends had it that the period of revolution of the star's satellite is 50 years. Latest research has given the figure 49.9 years and many other facts known to the ancient Dogons have been recently confirmed by science.

They refer to the star's unusual density and the spiral form of innumerable galaxies in the Universe. There are even references to the existence of intelligent life on other planets.

The question arises: 'How could they have possibly known it all?'

We are not the first to search for an answer. Many peoples had legends and myths about aliens who had visited our planet and shared their knowledge with terrestrials. But this is the easiest way to explain things — one of the most fascinating enigmas is the cave city in Peru.

The pyramids of Egypt pale beside this unique city with hundreds of corridors, passages and rooms cut in the granite rock. The room walls were skilfully polished and are as smooth as a mirror. It would take much time and effort to build such a city, even with modern technology.

Who could have built it? Let's forget about aliens for the moment and put the question differently.

What if ancient builders knew some special technique for stone treatment, such as the ability to soften the hardest stone, for example? These are not idle questions. According to the French author R. Sharou, one of Bolivia's museums has samples of rocks with the imprints of human palms and feet on them. The ingenuity of ancient Indian builders is exceptional too.

Those who visit India are eager to see the main attraction in Ahmadabad: two minarets dating back to the eleventh century. They are 23 metres high and separated by a distance of eight metres. Tourists climb one of them, and the guide climbs the other. Then he begins to rock the tower and the other minaret is set in motion, to the tourists' amazement.

Intuition alone was not enough to build the moving towers. If we agree that the ancient builders knew the secret of precise calculation, then we can conclude that once a highly developed civilisation existed. Maybe the myths about the vanished Atlantis have something to do with it...

Why, then, was the knowledge it possessed not disseminated all over the world?

There could be a different reason. Many rulers were quite ignorant: why invent a machine when you have enough strong slaves to do the job? It is quite possible that at the apex of its development the civilisation embarked on the road of self-destruction. At least one example fuels this idea.

At the beginning of this century, archaeologists discovered an ancient city near Moenjodaro in Pakistan.

Excavations revealed that it belonged to a civilisation which existed for a thousand years and was one of the world's most advanced. The way the city ceased to exist is one of the greatest mysteries. Researchers came forward with different hypotheses: a drastic change in climate, floods, epidemics or enemy invasion.

All of them were quite vulnerable: flood and epidemics had to be ruled out for lack of evidence; nothing suggested enemy invasion either — not a single skeleton had traces of violent death. The disaster, no doubt, came like a bolt out of the blue.

D. Davenport of England and F. Vincenti of Italy came forward with a sensational hypothesis. They maintained that it was the same fate which befell both Hiroshima and Moenjodaro. The analysis of lumps of clay scattered in the ruins showed that they had hardened very quickly. A more detailed analysis revealed that the fusion occurred at a temperature of 1400-1600 degrees C.

There are many traces of a powerful explosion in the city. There is a distinct epicentre where the houses were razed to the ground. The further from the epicentre, the lesser the destruction. The general picture is reminiscent of the nuclear explosions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And in India, they found a human skeleton whose radioactivity was 50 times higher than usual.

There are many Indian legends confirming this hypothesis. One of them describes a terrible fiery weapon which had no smoke. After the explosion, "darkness fell on earth, hurricanes were raging, sowing evil. Dust clouds soared up into the skies with a deafening roar. It seemed that the Sun was moving in circles. The world enveloped in the flames was in fever. Elephants ran amok..."

The legends also describe thousands of people, elephants and chariots burnt to ashes by the horrible weapon. Water boiled and fish were charred. Soldiers jumped into the river to wash off the dust lifted by the explosion: it was their only hope of survival.

If this stunning hypothesis is correct, one can easily imagine the level of development of the civilisation which possessed such a powerful weapon of destruction.

The astronomic calendars of the ancients, and their knowledge of mathematics, geometry and construction suggest that there really existed a highly developed civilisation. But then its 'traces' should have some meaning. What meaning is there in the Malta trenches?

Again, there are many hypotheses. One maintains that they are cart tracks driven by ancient animals. This supposition was proved incorrect because the carts in question would not have been able to manoeuvre in them: the radius of turn was too small.

Another deals with the hundreds

Terracotta figurine of the Mother Goddess, Moenjodaro



Looking at Malta from the air, the eye picks out hundreds of small trenches, each 63cms to 123 cms wide and about 70 cms deep, traversing the island in every direction like rails.

Many of them run in parallels, then some of them merge while making a sharp turn or else change direction gradually. These trenches cross the mountains and sometimes come abruptly to an end on a steep slope, only to continue their way down in the valley in the same direction.

Then they enter the azure waters of the Mediterranean and stretch for several hundred metres along the sea bed.

Who made this mysterious network of trenches on the rocky island thousands of years ago?

I. MOSIN, Candidate of Geologist, Mineralogist R. FURDUI and engineer G. BURGANSKY sought to unravel the mysteries of our planet's past.

An ancient enigma

of limestone balls found on the island. The authors maintained that they could have been used as platform supports for cargo transportation. However, it is improbable that such sharp trenches could have been left; the tracks would have been more rounded.

There is yet another hypothesis

according to which the trenches are nothing but water supply canals. But they can be seen both on the mountains and in the valleys. Of course, water could have been pumped upwards, but archaeologists found no evidence of this. And why have an irrigation or water supply system on a rocky island which practically is

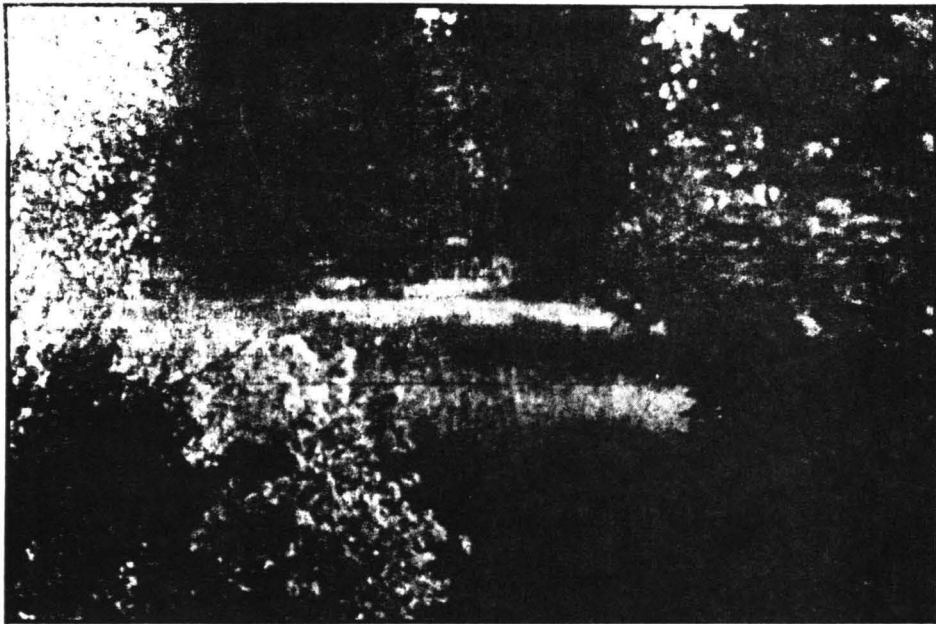
unsuitable for agriculture?

Other explanations are even more incredible: iron runners, writings which can be read only from the air, the remains of a transport system which connected Europe and Africa.

All these suggestions are unconvincing. The mysteries of the past have yet to be unveiled.

The Great Bath, Moenjodaro





Duane Freeman took this picture Wednesday on the northwest side of the Mill Creek Watershed. His father, Paul Freeman, was with him at the time. The photo at right is an enlargement of the same photo, which Paul Freeman believes shows a 7½-foot-tall Bigfoot.

Photo courtesy of Paul Freeman

Freeman snaps Bigfoot photos

By KATHLEEN OBENLAND
Of the Union-Bulletin

Bigfoot hunter Paul Freeman has obtained what he considers his most significant Bigfoot evidence yet — photographs.

The pictures, showing a large, dark, humanlike shape moving away from the camera, were taken Wednesday between 10 and 10:30 a.m. on the northwest side of the Mill Creek Watershed by Freeman's son, Duane.

Several other pictures show the creature moving up a distant hillside.

"These are great," Freeman said this morning. "I know that people have said all long, 'He's lying. There's nothing there.' I know what I saw. I know what my son took pictures of."

He describes the creature as 7½ feet

tall, 500 to 700 pounds, with a bulky build and extremely long arms. Its hair was dark, and the facial hair grayish.

Duane Freeman spotted it first in the distance.

"When this thing came out of the trees, he said he about fell over," Paul Freeman said. "He had thought the crashing through the trees was a deer."

The Bigfoot appeared to be moving toward the Freemans. Duane Freeman took a number of pictures, and Paul slapped some film into an old-fashioned movie camera and began filming — or so he thought. The movie pictures did not come out.

"(Bigfoot) came out of the trees about 150 yards from us," Freeman



said. "It must have smelled us or something, because the way it was headed it should have come closer than that."

Freeman also made several plaster casts of the footprints the animal left.

Freeman goes into the watershed four to five times a week, looking for signs of the Bigfoot in the areas he believes they cross.

He has been hunting them since allegedly spotting one June 10, 1982, when he was employed as a watershed patrol rider for the Forest Service.

Bigfoot Maryland Man Seeks Sightings Of Creature

By JOHN BARNES
Journal Staff Writer

If you're looking for Bigfoot, you don't have to go to California and you don't have to cross the border into Canada. You may find one in your very own backyard, so to speak.

Mark Opsasnick, a resident of Greenbelt, Md., in Prince George's County, says there have been a surprising number of Bigfoot sightings in Maryland. Now he's asking people with any information on sightings to contact him.

"Bigfoot has been commonly known to inhabit the Pacific Northwest," said Opsasnick. "But few people know there have been sightings in Maryland. I decided to create a network to gather this information."

"I'm trying to reach out to other parts in Maryland where there may have been sightings; find newspaper clips that I may not have seen before."

So far Opsasnick's Bigfoot Information Project (B.I.P.) doesn't have much of a membership after starting this past January. There is himself and one other person.

He's hoping for people to become "correspondents" for the organization, whether it be re-

ported actual sightings or going to local libraries and researching old newspapers in an effort to find clippings on the Sasquatch.

Opsasnick said because of Western Maryland's wooded setting, it seems that part of the state would be a natural place for the Bigfoot creature. But of the 250 sightings in Maryland, only one has come from Washington County.

Frederick is the leader among area counties with 22 sightings, while there have been four reported in Garrett County.

Opsasnick's home county, Prince George's, has had its share of Bigfoot accounts with 22 sightings.

"I would think Western Maryland would be a part of the state where Bigfoot could have been seen," Opsasnick said. "I haven't had a chance to go to the local libraries there yet."

Opsasnick, who is an interviewer for the Prince George's County Energy Office, says he must pay for trips from his own pocket — he has no outside funding. Because of that, it's important he creates the state network.

The best sighting in Maryland Opsasnick has on record, although he hasn't personally interviewed the person yet, comes from Peter Hronek in Rocks, Md.

"He was driving his Triumph car in Rocks State Park at about 3 a.m. when he claims to have run into a huge ape-like creature," he said.

"The car was totalled and the state troopers who investigated pulled flesh, hair and blood samples from the car."

Opsasnick said the state police had the samples analyzed and

CR: M. Opsasnick

reported they came from the the bovine, or cow family, but refused to release the results.

Bob Chance of Bel Air, Md., who previously worked on Bigfoot sightings, sent the samples he received to a lab at the University of Wyoming and those results claim they came from an animal similar to a primate.

According to reports, the area was searched for a carcass of the animal, assuming the animal should have been killed by the accident, but none was found. Farmers from a five-mile radius reported no missing livestock.

The most recent account of a Bigfoot sighting was Jan. 15 in Scaggsville, Md., in Howard County.

"What's significant about this sighting is that there have been a number of sightings in this area since the mid 1970s," Opsasnick said. "And I find that hard to believe since it's so close to Washington D.C. and they've been tearing up a lot of land in that area."

Opsasnick said he first became interested in folklore such as this when he was about 11, but added he became especially interested in Bigfoot about three years ago.

"I was finding it hard to believe and I was skeptical (about the Maryland sightings)," he said. "I wanted to find out for myself and talk to some of the witnesses."

Anyone wishing to get in contact with Opsasnick may write to him at 114 Rosewood Drive, Greenbelt, Md., 20770.

Reader Links UFOs, Lizard Man

The fellow on the other end of the telephone line sounded as sane as anyone I know and sober as a Baptist judge. In fact, he said he was a lay Baptist preacher.

"You ought not joke about the Lizard Man," he said. "I have been studying these things for 30 years, and they're real. I repeat, sir, they're real."

Well, ah . . .

"I know these things are real. We have spotted them. . . I saw one as a little boy. My wife saw one about a year ago. It attacked our trailer."

The fellow called in response to the columns Doug Robarchek and I wrote last Sunday about our trip to Bishopville, S.C., in search of the Lizard Man.

We ought not joke, the fellow said, because Lizard Men are real. The creatures are somehow connected to UFOs, and they might not be amused.

I asked questions, and I'm convinced the fellow believed his own answers. For instance, he described in fine detail the location of that spotting a year ago.

I won't share exact directions to the site, because folks there wouldn't appreciate this sort of publicity. But I visited the pond where he said his wife saw the Lizard Man, where it allegedly attacked their mobile home. The pond is only about a half-hour from downtown Charlotte.

The pond covers, oh, 8 or 10 acres. It's surrounded by thick woods.

It's shallow and weed-choked around the edges. Skeletons of dead trees stand guard over the shadowy swamp at the rear of the open water.

Thousands of cicadas buzzed on and on while I was there, with that eerie droning that always seems to punctuate scenes of Southern swamps in the summer.

The fellow said his wife and young son saw the creature emerge from the pond. They described the creature as dark and scaly, with broad shoulders and a small head. It had no visible ears and only a slit for a mouth.

The creature disappeared back

into the water, but later that night it attacked the trailer, which was about 100 yards from the pond.

The Lizard Man banged on the trailer so hard, the fellow said, that the mobile home rattled on its pilings.

"I didn't see the thing, but my family did. I saw the shadow that night, and I heard the sounds."

What about tracks? Did the Lizard Man leave any signs of its presence?

"I found some tracks the next morning, but I think they were dog tracks. In my studies, sir, these things leave no tracks."

He and his wife talked about reporting the incident to authorities, he said. Finally, they decided to keep the story to themselves.

"Who would have believed us?" he asked me.

"I see your point," I said.

The fellow said he saw his first Lizard Man in his back yard when he was only 11. That creature, he said, was a scaled-down version of the one described by his wife and the folks in Bishopville.

That first sighting 30 years ago sparked his interest. He has been studying Lizard Men ever since.

He has learned, he said, that Lizard Men are somehow connected to UFOs.

Which, of course, he also has seen.

"We have seen UFOs out in Nevada, over the Hoover Dam. . . One night, we saw one right over the power generating station. It hovered right over the power plant."

The fellow said he learned in Nevada that there's usually a strong smell of sulfur when an unidentified flying object passes overhead.

When he investigated around that pond near Charlotte where his wife and son saw the Lizard Man, he said, he found the grass crushed and yellow in one spot — and the strong odor of sulfur.

The fellow said he's not sure where the creatures are coming from. Only that they're not from around here.

They could be from another planet. They could be from another world we can't travel to in our scariest dreams and wildest imaginations.

"There has been such a rash of Satan worship," he said. "Perhaps that has something to do with it. It may be that Satan is coming out of the closet, so to speak."

"After 30 years, it's starting to come to a head now. These things are starting to show up."

"So we watch the skies, and we watch the woods. . ."

CR: G. Fawcett

The Electric Woman

A curious communication of particular interest to both sexes has just been made by M. Fere to the French Society of Biology. The doctor has discovered an electric woman!

The name and address of this phenomenon are not given, probably to avoid her being got hold of by some enterprising Barnum.

It appears that both her hair and body emit electric sparks. The electricity is more visible when the hair is combed. The hair then stands on end. When she puts on her underclothing its contact with her skin first produces a crepitation, and the clothes adhere as it were to the body, and finally her movements are partly paralysed.

These phenomena are particularly observable during dry and frosty



Another instance of a similar kind is reported by Arago. In all these cases the patients are described as of sickly disposition, subject to nervous or hysterical attacks.

—May 26, 1888.

CR: R. Collings

weather. The electric tension also increases under the influence of emotions — such, for example, as the effect of music, which augments the crepitation.

This extraordinary creature, however, is not unique.

Dr. Legue mentioned the case of a woman who during an aurora borealis was suddenly charged with electricity, which manifested itself when she passed her finger over the face of her brother; she remained electric for two months.

*Just when you thought it was safe
to step out on the patio ...*

Sasquatch in SUBURBIA

By ROBERT S. WELCH

When they saw it, Keith Hartley and his fiancée were parked on a residential street in Kirkland, Wash., listening to the quiet of a mild summer night. The cadence of lawn sprinklers had ended. It was 12:30 a.m., last July 29, and all was still in the heart of suburbia.

Suddenly, beneath a street light 75 feet from Hartley's Volkswagen Bug, a large, furtive figure lumbered across the two-lane street — in just five steps. Hartley and his fiancée were stunned. The thing was huge. With dark fur. And arms past its knees. Frightened, Hartley spun the car around and raced in the other direction.

"We both knew what we'd seen," the 20-year-old Hartley said later. "A Sasquatch."

Five blocks from a Burger King? Half a mile from Interstate 405? In a dense neighborhood of ramblers, Beauty Bark and BMWs?

"No doubt," Hartley confirms. By itself, the incident only raises eyebrows. But coupled with a handful of similar reports in the area, it also could raise goose bumps. Since last July, three Sasquatch sightings have been reported in a seven-mile stretch in and around burgeoning Bellevue, which lies across Lake Washington from Seattle. And since 1981, the same area has yielded seven sightings, numerous reports of tracks and even a story of strange, nocturnal screams.

What it all adds up to may be the most amazing thing to hit suburbia since the electric garage-door opener. It seems the Northwest's legendary ape-man may be trading the Cascades for cul-de-sacs, and switchbacks for sidewalks. Bluntly put, Sas may be going suburban. And just when you thought it was safe to go to the mall. . . .

Sure enough, one Kirkland woman claims she encountered a Sasquatch outside a Sears. And if that sighting seems a bit far-fetched, there's the Bellevue woman who claims Bigfoot pressed its nose to her living-room window.

Because of these reports and others, Vito J. Quaranta, a 26-year-old Bigfoot researcher from Mercer Island, another suburban Seattle enclave, has changed his strategy somewhat. Accustomed to tracking the creature in the wilds of the Blue Mountains on foot, Quaranta now finds himself cruising the streets of suburbia in his Chrysler LeBaron convertible.

Meanwhile, local residents don't know whether to laugh or to double-latch their doors. Some have chosen the latter. "I now have to get up and go on my son's paper route," says Fabienne Uran of Bellevue. "He's afraid of Bigfoot."

Therein lies the paradoxical story of the suburban Sasquatch: It is simultaneously haunting and hilarious. Haunting because different people in different areas at different times report seeing either the same mysterious ape-man or his tracks. Hilarious because it smacks of a real-life "Harry and the Hendersons," a recent movie about a Bigfoot who winds up lounging in a living-room recliner, munching potato chips and yukking it up over "Bedtime for Bonzo."

The real-life story takes place in a region that has its share of trees and water but isn't exactly the Three Sisters Wilderness Area. Instead, it's the

fastest-growing area in the Northwest, the well-yupified home to 250,000 people, lavish homes and, some say, fire hydrants that gush Perrier.

Amid such upscale surroundings, Bigfoot — never big on dress-for-anything, much less dress-for-success — would seem totally out of place. Reeboks never would fit him. Pictionary likely would bore him. But here he is, claim some, commuting from the wilds to the land of silk and money.

Joe Downham, 65, is among those who think such a scenario is entirely possible. Now retired, Downham doesn't strike you as a publicity-seeking wacko. With gray hair and a British accent as tidy as his garden, Downham seems like some grandfatherly character who just stepped off the set of a 1960 Walt Disney movie.

Instead, he just stepped off his back patio, where he's explaining how he peered through a fence at "some sort of creature" no more than 15 feet away. It happened in July 1981 in Eastgate, a residential neighborhood that abuts Bellevue's southern city limits.

Early one morning at about 12:30, Downham saw what appeared to be a person peeking in his back neighbor's lighted window. He decided to investigate. In the light of a full moon, he crept out to his back fence and peered through. When the figure looked to its left, Downham was stunned. "I realized it wasn't a man at all," he said. "It was some sort of creature. Its expression was like someone grimacing. It was a very spooky thing. Its head was sloped up to a peak, unlike a bear, but maybe something like a gorilla."

The creature, he said, was at least 7½ feet tall, with light brown hair covering its entire body. The face was covered with dark, grayish skin. It had a flat nose and a protruding jaw.

After a few minutes, said Downham, another creature joined the first one at the window. Then one of them turned around and looked in Downham's direction, walked toward him and stopped about 15 feet away. "It lifted back its head at an angle, opened its mouth and made a sound almost like a wolf," said Downham. "I'd heard that sound several times before in the neighborhood. It was long and mournful." At that, the neighbor's back lights flicked on, said Downham, and the two creatures bounded over a fence.

On two other occasions, Downham claims, he's seen similar creatures in his back yard. One, he said, left a 16-inch footprint at the base of his All-American Beauty rosebush and scraped all the thorns off one branch. Another ripped bark from one of his fir trees — at the 14-foot level.

Downham didn't go to the press with such reports; the press came to him. So did dozens of phone calls from Bigfoot buffs around the world, including one from Quaranta, who investigated and says he found strange hair samples on one of Downham's fir trees.

A woman down the street doesn't doubt Downham at all. That's because she claims to have seen a similar creature. "Whatever you do," she cautioned, "don't use my name." A local newspaper caught wind of the woman's story last fall, and she's taken some heat at work.

One night, the woman, who is 59 and lives alone with a number of dogs and

cats, was in her back yard when she saw "this critter." Her dogs began barking wildly. She shook a broom handle at the creature, ushered her animals in the house, went inside and locked the door. "Then the thing came right up to my window. He was looking me eyeball-to-eyeball. I nearly croaked, I was so scared. All I remember was it was dark and hairy — and it was standing on its hind legs. I shook my fist and said, 'Get out of here!'"

The creature didn't. Instead, it shook its fist back at her. Terrified, the woman phoned her son. "Must have been a raccoon," he told her.

Eventually, the creature left. After a sleepless night, the woman let her dogs outside, and they immediately began sniffing below the dining-room window. There, the woman found an indentation so deep she could place a gallon paint can in it.

Is she a crackpot? If so, she's a college-educated crackpot who works in a Boeing Co. office, once ran for the state legislature and is a licensed Eucharistic minister in the Episcopal Church. "I'm not a flake," she said.

Across the street, another woman discovered 18-inch footprints in her lawn following a light dusting of snow in February 1985. And on the other side of Bellevue, a couple came home from a Labor Day vacation to find 12 footprints that looked to be burned into their lawn, each about 23 inches long.

"Whatever it was," said Diane Chichetti, "it was very, very heavy."

Because of such reports, Quaranta, who's been tracking Bigfoot for three years, began refocusing his hunts in and around suburbia last fall. On a clear, cold afternoon last January, he pulled his LeBaron to the side of a gravel road on Cougar Mountain, an area just south of Bellevue where he believes Sasquatches might live.

He got out, laced up a pair of \$130 Italian-made, Gore-Tex boots, strapped on a fanny pack and began a search for evidence. "Why do it?" said the handsome, dark-featured Quaranta. "Well, they're close, it's a great mystery, and I love science."

As he hiked up the road, flanked by forests of fir, Quaranta didn't look like the typical Bigfoot hunter. According to the stereotype, he's supposed to be a burly mountain man who wears wool plaid shirts, drives a jeep, carries a rifle and shaves with an ax. Somebody like Paul Freeman, the 6-foot-5-inch, 270-pound bear hunter from Walla Walla, or René Dahinden, the Swiss-born Canadian whose coarse language could make a drill sergeant cringe. Quaranta, on the other hand, looks like a fraternity rush chairman who just discovered REI.

But he may well represent the new generation of Bigfoot trackers: young, serious risk-takers who bring new perspectives, a thirst for adventure and a touch of high tech to the hunt. "I take a scientific approach to this," said Quaranta, who recently graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in atmospheric science. "This isn't just fun and games."

Quaranta and his partner, Kevin Lindley of Ellensburg, head for the forests some three dozen times per year on overnight outings. Last summer was a very good year, particularly in the Blue Mountains, where they found "massive tracks and tree abuse." On most trips, they take along everything from portable tape recorders to movie cameras, from Fix-All (for foot casts) to specimen bags (for hair and feces).

At his house, Quaranta has a branch from the Blue Mountains that supposedly had been twisted, and imbedded with fingernail prints, by a Sasquatch. He also has plaster casts of footprints, cassette tapes of alleged Sasquatch screams and a stack of newspaper articles — everything from serious inquiries to check-stand tabloids telling about the latest South American woman kidnapped by Bigfoot.

Quaranta plots sightings on a specially made map. He works on new high-tech equipment, such as a sound detector system designed to trigger flash-equipped cameras. And he sends hair samples, such as the ones he took from Joe Downham's tree, to laboratories for analysis. "All of this is meant to increase our possibilities of finding him on the terms we want," Quaranta explains. "We're trying to take a high-tech approach."

Bigfoot's pursuer is not interested in killing a Sasquatch. If he spots one, he says, he'll simply follow it, not capture it. "I just want to find out for myself what it's all about."

Last fall, a few miles from the very

spot where Quaranta went searching for muddy footprints, an Issaquah man was driving along a county road at about 11:30 p.m. Suddenly, in the beams of the headlights, he saw what he believes was a Sasquatch. Later, the man called Cliff Crook, head of Bigfoot Central, a Bothell clearinghouse for Sasquatch reports. The 47-year-old Crook, who resembles a chain-smoking Johnny Cash, investigated and said he found more than a mile of Bigfoot tracks, including some on the banks of a creek, beside half-eaten salmon.

Quaranta wasn't surprised. "Between here and Snoqualmie Pass, there could be as few as five and as many as 20 Sasquatches," he said, looking across the expanse from a ridge top.

But what about the Hartley report in Kirkland — some 10 miles away, in the middle of suburbia, near the Burger King? "Sasquatches are capable of covering great distances," said Quaranta. "Fifty miles in a night isn't impossible."

Especially, it seems, if they're craving a Whopper.

Bigfoot's appearance in suburbia apparently is a Northwest first; of 158 sightings chronicled in John Green's "Sasquatch File," virtually all are rural reports. But the Northwest, as a whole, is known as Bigfoot's back yard. Since the mid-1800s, the region has been the scene of more than a thousand reported sightings, with Sasquatch evidence ranging from the eye-opening to the absurd.

In the former category, you have Grover Krantz, a tenured associate professor of anthropology at Washington State University who believes 200 to 2,000 Sasquatches roam the Northwest's western forests. Krantz's most convincing evidence is plaster casts of prints from the Blue Mountains showing actual dermal ridges — the foot's equivalent of fingerprints, and nearly impossible to fake. Because of such evidence, Newsweek magazine is taking Krantz seriously, recently suggesting more anthropologists should consider his findings.

In the latter category, you have your basic man being kidnapped by a family of Sasquatches and escaping when he gets his captors high on chewing tobacco (British Columbia, 1924), the woman being thrown over a fence by a Bigfoot (Wilsonville, 1970), and the man claiming he not only saw a Sasquatch, but also knows the source of a San Diego-to-Seattle underground tunnel in which they travel (Maple Valley, Wash., 1974). In the last case, we can only hope that the tunnel didn't come with a Portland/Beaverton exit.

Want solid Sasquatch evidence? How about the two supposed Bigfoot blood samples that proved to be, respectively, cat blood and transmission fluid? Or the tape-recorded Sasquatch yowls that a University of Washington zoology professor said were more likely squealing car tires? Or the "Legend of Bigfoot" movie, which suggests Sasquatches drag their dead thousands of miles north to the Yukon and deposit them in mountain crevices. (Now you know why nobody finds a dead Bigfoot.)

Want hoaxes? Step right up. In 1977, Frank White of Seattle revealed what he claimed was a 52-second film he had shot of a Sasquatch. "It's a flat-out hoax," said Crook, the Bigfoot Central head. How does he know? "Easy. I went to the costume shop with a picture of the man, and the person working there told me, 'Yep, that's the guy we sold the ape suit to.'"

The same year, four men confessed to a sophisticated hoax in Vancouver, British Columbia, involving a tour bus. And, in what must go down as one of the world's longest-kept secrets, an 86-year-old Toledo, Wash., man confessed in 1982 to starting the Bigfoot scare in the Mount St. Helens area in 1924. He did so by rolling a few rocks down a hill onto miners. The miners had claimed four giant apes held them hostage in a cabin by showering them with boulders.

But what of these new suburban reports? Said Crook: "You've got four or more people, unrelated, who don't know one another, saying they're seeing something. They've got no reason to lie. And you've got tracks that I don't think anyone could have hoaxed." He pauses, taking a drag on his Vantage. "I think you've got a tribe of Sasquatches up there around Cougar Mountain."

Crook, whose bedroom office is decorated wall-to-wall in Early Bigfoot, doesn't think Sasquatches are coming to

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 19 -
OREGONIAN, Portland, OR -
May 29, 1988)

suburbia for Nordstrom sales. Instead, he says, they could be returning to their stomping grounds of long ago — only to find a world of subdivisions, skateboards and Slurpees. "I think it's curiosity that's bringing them back," he says.

Hunger pangs, too, might be the culprit. But what's on the menu? Leftover brie found in garbage cans?

Quaranta realizes most people have difficulty believing in a wilderness Bigfoot, much less one that might frighten French poodles and bang into backyard barbecue sets. But he also knows that people such as Keith Hartley and Joe Downham have seen something that looks strangely like a Sasquatch. That's why Quaranta, amid a room full of water skis, weights and stereo equipment, keeps his Bigfoot gear at the foot of his bed, ready to go.

"Bigfoot is huge, ugly and moves at night. Let's face it, he's the ultimate fright night," he says. "Sometimes, when you're alone out there, all you can hear is your heart beat."

Occasionally, in the dead of night, Quaranta pulls his convertible to the side of a residential street, surrounded by split-level homes and well-manicured lawns. He turns off his lights. Flicks off his tape deck. Then, in the darkness, he waits. Sometimes he waits for hours, searching the shadows of suburbia for this mysterious beast known as Bigfoot, listening for any long, mournful screams that might pierce the night air — and hoping like heck nobody stops and asks him what in the world he's doing.

ROBERT WELCH is a columnist for the Bellevue Journal-American who keeps a very tight bolt on all his doors. His most recent contribution to Northwest Magazine was a story on the Oregon State University football team known as "The Giant Killers." ERIC LARSEN is a Portland commercial artist with the firm Art Farm.

NEW ZEALAND HERALD, Auckland, New Zealand
July 5, 1988 CR: R. Collins

Planet Finds Excite Experts

NZPA-AP

United States and Canadian astronomers have found 10 planet-like objects orbiting distant stars, a discovery that intensifies speculation about the existence of life beyond the Earth.

In reports yesterday at the International Astronomical Union assembly in Baltimore, astronomers from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory said they have found "what might be a very large planet" orbiting a star 90 light years away.

In an independent study, an astronomer from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, said he had found evidence of planets orbiting nine stars, and suggested that as many as half of the stars in the Milky Way galaxy might have "planetary companions."

Mr Bruce Campbell, chief of the Canadian team, said his result "showing that the majority of stars in the galaxy perhaps have planetary systems could be interpreted as a sign that there are also earth-like planets suitable for life, but we have no evidence of that at all."

Mr David Latham, leader of the Smithsonian team, said: "It makes it easier to speculate than it was a few years ago when there were zero planetary candidates. We can start to speculate now about how often life evolved."

Both teams of astronomers made the discoveries by analysing the colour shift of light collected from stars. Light from a distant source changes colour slightly if the light source is moving. It shifts towards red if it is moving away,

and towards blue if moving towards the observer.

By carefully measuring this shift, the astronomers are able to detect wobble, or movement of the stars. This movement can be caused only by the gravitational effect of a nearby body, and the velocity of the movement allows the scientists to calculate the size of the object.

Mr Latham said the planet-like object he found is about 20 times the size of Jupiter, and is orbiting so close to star HD 114762 that it would be "much hotter than an oven."

"It's not a place you would go to look for life," he said.

Star HD 114762 is 90 light years — about 840 trillion kilometres — from Earth.

Mr Campbell said he and his Canadian group used a technique even more sensitive than the instruments used by Mr Latham and were able to find nine planetary objects after studying just 18 stars.

The clearest data, he said, showed that a large planet orbits a star called Tau Ceti.

"We see in the star the effects of a companion sized on the order of Jupiter," he said.

Eight other planet-like objects were found about other stars, he said, but the team was unable to make a precise measure of their size.

All of the stars studied by the Canadian team are bright, about magnitude 4. They all are similar in size to the sun, and all are within 100 light years, about 930 trillion kilometres from Earth.

TIMES ADVOCATE, Escondido,
CA - Sept. 30, 1988

Expert to teach course about Bigfoot

FRESNO — Fresno's own Bigfoot expert is going to teach a class on the legendary manape creature. But with the two-day extension course just a day away, he is somewhat nervous.

"This may be the last time I do this, for good reasons," said Roger LaJeunesse, an anthropology professor at California State University, Fresno and a Bigfoot skeptic. "If you get this classroom full of believers who can't be shaken, you're in trouble."

LaJeunesse has shied away from teaching a course about Bigfoot for many years, he said, because of sensationalism surrounding the creature, which is also known as Sasquatch.

He did not even want a newspaper photographer to take pictures of him with casts of alleged Bigfoot prints because, he said, people automatically think, "This guy's a little off."

Despite worries about lectur-

ing from a skeptic's viewpoint, LaJeunesse decided to teach the class after many years of urging by his students, who learned of his expertise from occasional class lectures on the subject.

A professor at FSU for 14 years, LaJeunesse said he has become knowledgeable about the legendary creature through his 20-year friendship with renowned Bigfoot researcher Grover Krantz of Washington State University.

JOURNAL, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada - June 25, 1988

Limerick hens had to squawk: sky was falling

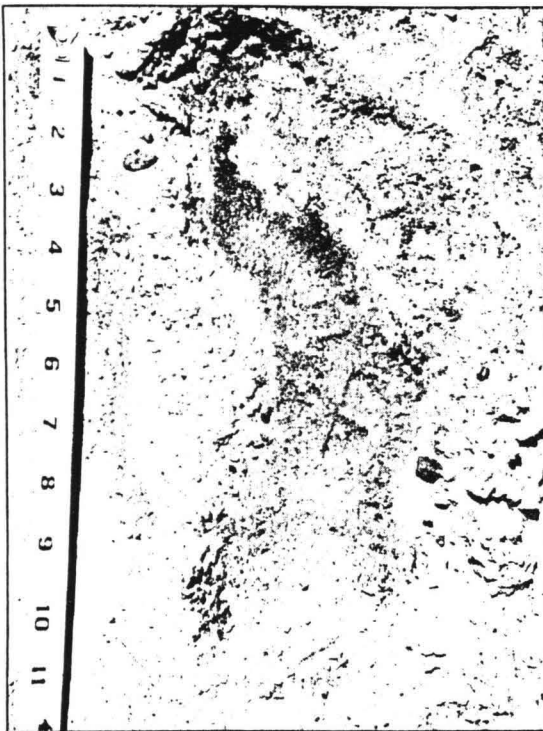
LIMERICK, Ireland (Reuter) — An Irish farmer's henhouse was obliterated by a chunk of blue ice that is believed to have plunged from a transatlantic airplane.

Limerick farmer James Culhane

at first thought a meteorite had struck.

Engineers at nearby Shannon airport said the ice which struck the henhouse apparently formed as result of a leaking valve in an aircraft's lavatory room.

NEWS, Newcomerstown, OH - May 25, 1988 CR: M. Francis



FOOTPRINTS FOUND

Don Keating, president of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Study Group, took these pictures of footprints during a recent "Bigfoot" expedition in southern Coshocton County. Keating said he wasn't saying they

were prints from a Bigfoot creature but said he thought it "strange" there were barefoot prints in the area.

Bigfoot expedition reports activities

Don Keating of Newcomerstown, president of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Study Group, said a recent expedition by several people resulted in sightings of an unidentified "creature."

Keating said that from April 2-10, a group of Bigfoot enthusiasts traveled in southern Coshocton County. The expedition included volunteers from Eaton, Youngstown, Kettering, Cleveland, and Weston, W.Va.

On the first day, there was a possible sighting by a woman from Eaton, Keating said, who saw a "tall, dark form walking upright" on a cliff above them. The group could not find an access to the area to check the sighting.

On April 4, Keating said footprints were found in approximately the

same area. While the footprints were not necessarily large, Keating asked "who would be walking around without shoes?"

On April 5, a man from Kettering reported seeing a light-colored torso and head on an embankment at two different times and a couple from Eaton reported "extremely heaving walking" in the underbrush, Keating said.

Keating emphasized he was not saying the footprints were from a Bigfoot creature but said he thought it "strange" that there any barefoot prints in the area at all.

He said he wanted people to report any suspicious events to him and that all information would be confidential. Keating can be reached by calling 498-8110.

Siberia alive with reports of creatures

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 yesterday.

The official news agency Tass said fishermen from the Siberian city of Yakutsk discovered a 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 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 search 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 extreme western Mongolia.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - Aug. 19, 1988 CR: B. Robbins/COUD-1