

UFO

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Close encounters of 5T kind

UFOs sighted here



By HARRIET LESSER

The thing hovering in the sky above was large, oval in shape and surrounded by flashing white lights. The young couple spotted the strange object from their car in Valley Stream and chased it down Sunrise Highway into Gibson where it disappeared into the night...

The wife, a former Five Towners who does not want her name used, is convinced that she and her husband saw an Unidentified Flying Object that summer eve two years ago. They rarely speak about it however, for fear of being called weird, strange or even crazy.

Many people would agree that the idea of UFOs over the Five Towns area is a little difficult to accept. Not so, says

John Ford, co-founder of the recently formed Long Island UFO Network, Inc.. Ford will tell you that Lynbrook, the Rockaways and large stretches of Sunrise Highway are hotbeds of UFO activity in Nassau County. He refers to documented information stating that on Sept. 8 and 9, of last year, three "very large objects" were seen by witnesses over the Rockaways. He adds that an oval disc came down in the Queens sky, hovered for a while and then took off with tremendous speed.

Ford paints a picture that is more "War of the Worlds" than "E.T." The alien beings that appear in the Network report's investigations are anything but friendly, even to abducting children and adults and

mutilating domestic animals and pets. He says that he himself saw a brightly-lit flying object on April 16, 1988, but his interest in the subject goes back at least 20 years.

In December, the eight-month old LIUFO network, a non-profit research corporation, began its Operation Skywatch "to alert the public on Long Island to the presence of objects of unknown origin in the night sky..." An organization spokesman says that the sessions are being conducted at selected sites of known UFO activity to photograph and record strange things happening in the skies.

To date, the organization has investigated 144 reported sightings--and because of the accumulated evidence, the Network "can now publicly state that there are emerging patterns of UFO activity on Long Island."

Ford is quick to point out that the members of the organization are anything but fly-by-nights. Ford himself is an officer of the Suffolk County Court. He says that he attended Long Island University and St. John's University and holds both bachelor's and master's degrees. Richard Stout, co-founder of the Network, is a former Marine who now works as a heavy equipment operator for the Town of Brookhaven.

The group has some 100 members, including 18 full-time volunteers, Ford says. They are scientists, pilots, engineers and police personnel, "...people who don't believe in wild

stories. Everything can be backed up. We have video tapes, audio tapes and we're willing to play them for the press in the presence of witnesses."

Right now, the LIUFO networks is following through on two major concerns--the animal mutilations and kidnappings of children and adults on Long Island. The children are taken away and brought back, Ford says. Some of them continue to report visits from aliens. In one case, out on the East End, the Network claims to have turned up evidence of radiation, sure fire indication that out of this world beings have been there.

Ford and the other Network members believe that the U.S. government plays a role in the UFO drama. There are three possibilities, he says. The government may be hiding the facts because they are already in contact with the aliens...an exchange of information may be going on even now...or, the U.S. may be up in the air like everybody else.

Ford says that mutilations of animals are increasing on Long Island despite government attempts to cover them up. There have been cases in Manorhaven, Patchogue, Manorville,

Southampton and Brookhaven hamlet. They began in February, 1988 and are continuing into the present.

After one such report broke in a weekly newspaper last year, government helicopters began to appear in the sky over the area, he says. The ships may have been armed with missiles and machine guns. In the American southwest, a farmer claims that he saw humanoids carrying one of his animals across the fields. The creature was later found dead and bloodless and investigation of the area turned up low level radiation readings.

Ford says he has no idea where the aliens are coming from. "We're still operating on a theory." He does believe that they are here for their own purposes and are "interested in us as a species."

Hostile or benign? Saviors or slayers? Ford will not commit himself...except to say that something strange is going on in the friendly skies above Long Island.

If you would like to report a UFO sighting, or are interested in more information about the Long Island UFO Network, contact the organization's hotline number at 286-3212. All calls will be held in strictest confidence.

A victim's story: abducted by aliens

Many of the alien abductions reported to the Long Island UFO Network have factors in common. The victims describe bright blinding lights and being carried off to some unknown place where they are examined by little gray men with large black eyes.

Here is one of the accounts as reported by John Ford.

It happened on Nov. 23, 1978. The victim was driving on Montauk Highway where it intersects with Sunrise Highway in Oakdale. Suddenly his car was enveloped by a white light. The driver saw people walking toward him. They were not human, but stood about 4 1/2 feet tall, with gray skins and enormous dark eyes.

The creatures dragged the man from his car and he found himself sitting in a chair in some unknown place. He was not tied, but he could not move.

The aliens passed a wand of white light over his head and a transparent screen dropped down. He was able to see sections of his body on the screen.

He was then made to march through an Arctic scene with snow and ice. He felt the wind and his heart stopping cold. He was sent next through a desert with searing heat. Both experiences were followed by examinations.

The man remembers little else after that. He woke up in Ronkonkoma at 1:37 in the morning. His car was there, but there were no tire tracks--and no indication as to how the vehicle could have driven onto that section of the roadless, overgrown terrain. The man was later picked up some distance away by a passing motorist who described the place as woods consumed by fire.

EAGLE, Butler, PA - Jan. 18, 1989 CR: E. Plaisted

Investigators of the Unexplained Visit Butler after UFO Sightings

Investigators from the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained were in Butler yesterday collecting data from several residents who saw strange lights in the sky Monday night.

Stan Gordon, director of the volunteer association based in Greensburg, said he has received several reports about sightings in the Center Township area on Monday night.

Several volunteers have traveled to Butler to interview people and track the reports, he said.

Lights in Sky
Among those who reported sightings was Laura Smith of Center Township, who said she saw an unidentified flying object as she drove home from work along Route 308 on Monday. She and several other drivers stopped to watch the lights around 10:15 p.m. about three miles from Clearview Mall, she said.

Since Smith reported her sighting, the PASU has received several other reports, Gordon said.

A youth from Center Township also reported seeing strange lights

in the sky around 8:45 p.m. Monday in the same area, his mother says.

The boy was looking through a pair of binoculars when he reportedly saw a ring of blue and red lights in the direction of the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

The ring then suddenly turned into a vertical white light and disappeared, his mother said.

Can Call Hotline
Gordon requests that anyone who saw the lights or other unexplained phenomena at any time call the PASU 24-hour UFO hotline at 838-7768.

He also asks that a brief summary, with an approximate date and time, and a sketch of what was seen be sent to the PASU, 6 Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg 15601.

Gordon noted that his group has been receiving an increasing number of such reports from throughout Pennsylvania over the past year.

He describes his group as a volunteer scientific clearinghouse that conducts studies into UFO sightings and other phenomena in the state.

jumped to 38 percent in 1987, driven up by a sharp increase in reports that began in August 1987 and continued all last year, he said.

Paul G. Johnson, a chemistry professor at Duquesne University and head of his own Center for UFO Research, said he received 270 reports in the past year, about twice the normal number. He said most of the reports came from Beaver, Allegheny and Westmoreland counties.

About 30 of his cases remain unsolved, including one from the fall in which a Beaver County woman saw an object the size of Three

Rivers Stadium cross the sky.

Both investigators said a hot spot for UFO and Bigfoot sightings is Chestnut Ridge, a heavily wooded mountain range running from West Virginia into Indiana County. Many reports come from the section of the ridge between Derry and Ligonier in Westmoreland County, they said.

State police barracks in the area don't keep records or take reports of UFO calls, instead referring them to Gordon.

Gordon said he also has received a number of reports about UFOs hovering above power stations.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Jan. 15, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

UFO, creature sightings reported

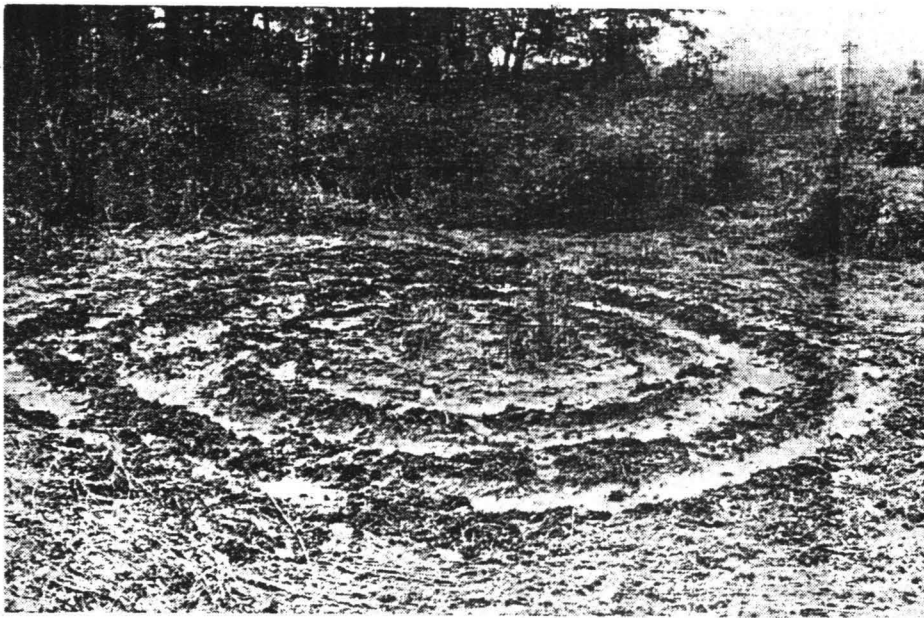
PITTSBURGH (AP) — More than 600 people in Pennsylvania reported seeing unidentified flying objects or strange creatures last year, according to two UFO researchers.

Nearly 44 percent of the 350 cases reported in 1988 to the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained remain unsolved, said director Stan Gordon of Greensburg.

Most UFO sightings usually can be explained by natural phenomena or aircraft in the area at the time of the reports, he said.

In 1986, 22 percent of Gordon's cases were unexplained. That

Histories of UFO sightings in western Michigan



LANDING SPOT? — This photograph shows a "strange spot" found in a remote area near Schoolcraft in Kalamazoo County last year, one day after a UFO was reported seen in western Michigan. UFO hunter Virginia Tilly believes the spot could be a landing site for a UFO.

From files of Virginia Tilly, state section director for Mutual UFO Network.

April 6, 1981: A Lake Michigan Beach resident reported seeing a huge circular object with red lights hovering over a field near the Famous Service Station on U.S. 33 North. After hovering, the object flew west over Lake Michigan. The witness's son, who lived near the service station, reported seeing an object land in a field, then take off. Burned out vegetation was found at the landing site. Authorities believe the object was a helicopter. CASE OPEN.

Aug. 21, 1984: Two unidentified flying objects were observed in the early morning by a Berrien Sheriff's deputy and a Buchanan policeman in Buchanan Township. The

objects had red, white and green flashing lights and did not appear to move for about a half-hour. Possibly could have been a star, but not enough information to make a determination. CASE OPEN.

Aug. 12, 1985: A Watervliet woman reported seeing a very bright object in the star field to the west. The object exhibited a fluttering movement and was not seen on subsequent nights. The sighting was reported at the height of a meteor shower. CASE OPEN.

Nov. 2, 1985: Four people, one of them a police officer, witnessed a "fireball" south of Grandville, Mich. The object was very bright, quite large and traveled low, and witnesses thought it was a plane in distress about to crash in a swampy area. The object disap-

peared, but there was no explosion. A television news helicopter searched the area that night and the next day, but no damage or debris was found. CASE OPEN.

Jan. 4 and April 1, 1986: A teen-age boy living east of Benton Harbor reported that on two occasions he was home at night and felt an urge to go outside. When he was outside, he saw a bright object with several colored lights to the south. He remembers hearing a sound, and then remembers nothing else until he re-entered the house later in the evening. A possible abduction case. CASE OPEN.

Aug. 1, 1986: Two young men fishing on Banksons Lake in Van Buren County saw a large object with red and white lights approaching from the south-southwest at a low alti-

tude. The white light suddenly made a brilliant flash and went out. The men later reported suffering eye damage and one needed medical attention. According to witness reports, the object was later seen in the Kalamazoo area, then tracked to Glenn, where it disappeared over Lake Michigan. More information has recently been received on this sighting and a report will soon be released. CASE OPEN.

Oct. 16, 1986: A woman in St. Joseph reported seeing a fireball that appeared to be an airplane. The witness said the object had an orange glow and it seemed to be crashing toward Lake Michigan. She went to the area where she thought it had crashed but found no sign of a crash. She did see a light out on the lake, however. Another witness to the north of the area also reported seeing a light out on lake. The U.S. Coast Guard was called, but refused to put a boat out on the lake. A Berrien Sheriff's deputy investigating the incident also saw the light and called the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard sent out a boat, but no wreckage was found. CASE OPEN.

July 14, 1987: Two unidentified flying objects were observed by two teen-agers and an adult in the St. Joseph-Stevensville area. One boomerang-shaped object with a row of lights on its inner edge was observed traveling due east to west. It was first thought to be a satellite, but looked to be too low and too bright. Another boomerang-shaped object appeared traveling west to east, and was being followed by what appeared to be a U.S. Air Force jet. CASE OPEN.

Aug. 5, 1987: Two men in the Kalamazoo area were standing in a field watching the stars when they saw a very bright object flying very low and making some noise. One of the men reported that it looked like an airplane in distress. As it passed by, the noise appeared to sound like the wind rather than an engine. The men reported seeing the object on two other occasions. CASE OPEN.

Oct. 3-4, 1987: A young couple was traveling on Interstate 94 near Battle Creek in the early morning on Oct. 3 when they saw a very bright, pyramid object hovering over some trees. The husband thought it might be an experimental aircraft from Fort Custer. A number of cars had pulled off the road to watch when the object suddenly dropped straight down. There was no crash noise and no fire.

The next day, a Kalamazoo area man reported a "strange spot" that appeared to be a landing site in a remote area near Schoolcraft where he and his wife were looking at some property. The spot was composed of three concentric circles, with the vegetation swirled and broken in opposite directions in each of the outer two circles. The vegetation in the inner circle was mashed but not broken. The site is very swampy and it would be difficult to bring in any heavy equipment that could make the marks. The spot is still visible today. CASE OPEN.

May 25, 1988: A Royalton Township woman watching a baseball game on television looked out a window and noticed a light straight east. She assumed the light was an airplane coming in her direction, but the light never moved. All of the sudden it flashed a brilliant blue-white light. The woman got in her car and tracked the light to a grove of trees near Michigan 62 and Michigan 140 near Eau Claire. The object appeared to be about 200 feet in the air, had a number of colored lights and a large bright light. The light suddenly vanished and the object was gone. None of the area police agencies had any report on such an object. CASE OPEN.

Aug. 19, 1988: Three teens in Paw Paw reported a sighting which lasted about 20 minutes. The boys said they saw an unusual light formation above a transformer, then saw a disc-shaped object hovering over a swimming pool. The object over the pool shot straight up, and several smaller objects appeared. There are some unknowns to the case, but state police are skeptical of the witnesses. CASE OPEN.

Ex-Sun staffer writes New Age book

A former employee of the *Snowmass Sun* has self-published a work of New Age fiction concerning UFOs, titled *Intimate Abduction*.

Ann Carol Ulrich got the idea and began the novel while working as a typesetter and circulation manager for the *Sun* from 1980 to 1984. The impetus for the novel came from a feature article she wrote which appeared in the Nov. 18, 1983 edition of the *Sun*.

The article concerned the UFO Contact Center, which is based in Seattle, but with a center in Glenwood Springs. Ulrich said she became friends with the center's director and began having more UFO sightings and memories of childhood UFO encounters.

Ulrich is now an associate director of the UFO Contact Center International, a non-profit organization devoted to helping UFO contactees.

She lived in Aspen and El Jebel for six years and at one point in her life, the UFO phenomenon became overwhelming. To get away, she said she moved to Oregon to get a fresh start. But the contacts

continued, so she returned to Delta, Colo., where she also edits and publishes a monthly newsletter for New Agers, called *The Star Beacon*.

Ulrich said she kept "revising and revising" the manuscript for *Intimate Abduction*, while continuing to send it off to trade publishers. However, no one accepted her novel, so she began considering publishing the book herself.

The idea of self-publishing appealed to Ulrich, she said, because of her background in typesetting and publishing.

"I've always kept the idea of publishing in the back of my mind," Ulrich said.

Approximately a year ago, Ulrich said she took the plunge and entered the world of self-publishing with Earth Star Publications. Her first publication was a book of essays by Paonia author Julian Joyce, titled "Fought," in November 1987.

Joyce, Ulrich said, was primarily interested in distributing the book to friends and relatives, but the production of the book got her ready for her own novel, which is due back from the printers in a cou-



Ann Carol Ulrich

ple of weeks.

"I really learned a lot with that first book," Ulrich added.

With self-publishing, Ulrich said she is able to oversee every facet of the production of the book. Also she said she is able to keep costs as low as possible in order to obtain more profits. There is an extra bonus, she added, in she gets to keep more of the profits.

The biggest challenge in self-publishing the novel, Ulrich said, will be marketing. She said she has done very little marketing and a small publisher

like herself can't advertise. There are only 500 copies of the book being printed, she said, to keep costs down, and she hopes to have some copies in Aspen bookstores.

Intimate Abduction is a science fiction novel, interspersed with romance, which contains heavy overtones of esoterism. It concerns a talented young woman musician who has lived a protective life under an overprotective brother. She is abducted by a UFO and taken to a planet colony where advanced beings breed with humans to acquire their talent and artistic abilities.

Ulrich said she is already working on the sequel, titled *The Man In The Black*.

Earth Star Publications, Ulrich said, in addition is getting ready to sign two more people to contracts for non-fiction books about UFO con-

tact. One of the authors is from Canada and the other is from the Midwest. She added one of the books is "bizarre" and will be a controversial blockbuster. Ulrich didn't provide any more specific details, as she hasn't signed the contract yet.

For the newsletter and Earth Star Publications, Ulrich said she has a desktop computer, which is IBM compatible, and a laser printer.

"It just keeps growing," Ulrich said of Earth Star Publications.

Ulrich's book is a 5.5 inch by eight inch paperback, with a colorful cover scene by Kelly Donovan. It is 184 pages long and is available for \$6.75, plus \$1.25 postage and handling and 20 cents tax for Colorado residents, by writing Earth Star Publications, PO Box 174, Delta, Colo. 81416. The phone number is 303-874-4673.

Airplane search turns up nothing

By LORI D. ROBERTS
Staff Writer

The Civil Air Patrol teamed up with Spartanburg County emergency and fire officials yesterday to continue the search for a plane that is believed to have exploded out of the sky near Arkwright two days ago.

But their relentless second-day search turned up nothing more than a cold crew and more people who said they saw the fireball fall between Sims Chapel Road and S.C. Highway 295, and others who weren't sure what they saw.

"We were depending largely on the Civil Air Patrol today with their ground and air

search, but they turned up nothing," said Bill Hall, assistant director for the Spartanburg County Emergency Preparedness office.

The captain of the Civil Air Patrol team called in from Greenville yesterday morning agreed, saying they launched two air searches in the target area during the day, but "picked up absolutely nothing."

An airplane from the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department was scheduled to conduct an air search yesterday, but rainy weather delayed early morning plans and air patrol units flew yesterday afternoon, Hall explained.

About 150 people participated in

yesterday's ground and air searches. Along with emergency preparedness officials and the air patrol, ground searches were also conducted by firefighters from the Arkwright, Croft, Glenn Springs-Pauline, Una, Roebuck and Converse fire departments.

The search was called off at about 6 p.m. yesterday because of diminishing light. "I'm not taking any more firefighters out there in the dark if I can help it," Waltrip said as the sun set.

But Civil Air Patrol Capt. Terry Gantt added that the search will continue this morning with the hope that the morning sun will shed better light on the area.

"We will launch aircraft (tomorrow morning) because we will get a different light angle with tomorrow's sun," Gantt said.

If an airplane has not filed a flight plan, he said, it could take days to determine the plane is missing. "So, theoretically, it still could be a missing aircraft. It takes quite a long time if there is no flight plan," he said. "If there is a flight plan, it happens a lot faster."

A flight plan would include expected arrival time and therefore would alert airport officials and friends of the pilot that the plane did not arrive as scheduled, Gantt said.

No calls concerning missing aircraft had been reported to the Downtown Memorial Airport last night, according to airport officials.

Despite the lack of concrete evidence and speculation that the flash in the sky could have been a meteor shower, more than 20 eyewitnesses told officials the same story, pointed in the same direction and described the same sight and sound.

Eyewitnesses called in reports of a downed aircraft or a ball of fire in the sky Tuesday at about 5 p.m. Others in the Arkwright area told emergency officials that they saw a plane crash. The *Herald-Journal* also received calls about the falling object. Most of the witnesses described a small, yellow airplane trailing flames and dropping from the sky. Some only saw the flames, not the airplane itself.

"Some of the people that called (Central) Communications were very sincere," said Jerry Waltrip of the Arkwright Fire Department, adding that witnesses were of all ages and that some of them live miles apart. "People in different areas couldn't have teamed up and called in a plane crash."

Fred Thomas, who owns a local business near the search area, said two of his employees said they saw the orange flash of light. Their story, which Thomas called "reliable," convinced him to volunteer to help with the search.

"If you're sure you saw something, let's put on our boots and go find it," he said he told the employees yesterday. "That's what we've been doing since about 11 o'clock this morning."

Thomas said he and four others waded through swamps, thickets and shrubbery.

As a new witness told his story to searchers yesterday of an airplane that appeared to be in trouble, another witness said she may have seen a parachute fall, not an airplane.

Dave Jennings told Arkwright fire officials that he thought the plane he saw may have been trying to conserve fuel because the engine kept going on and off.

But Jeanette Burgess said she's not sure whether the "big white thing" she saw while visiting Arkwright was an airplane or a parachute.

"For the time being, I still believe it was a downed plane from the information we received," Waltrip said. "I believe we're searching in about the right area, but it (the search) will be extended by land and air (today)."

"Everything is so dense. The trees are so thick that part of an airplane could be stuck in a tree," he added.

But the search will end today if no evidence is uncovered and no new information is obtained.

"If they don't turn up anything (today), we're going to have to call this thing quits," Hall said.

Twice last year emergency officials searched for what was reported as downed airplanes in the Pauline and Glendale areas but did not find anything, Hall said. "The search was not as extensive search because only one or two people reported the incident," he added.

Herald-Journal staff writer Mike Koziatek contributed to this article.

PROGRESS, Clearfield, PA - Dec. 2, 1988 CR: S. Gordon

Reported Explosion, Area UFO Sightings Under Investigation

By Marian Fahr
Staff Writer

The large explosion widely reported across Clearfield County early Saturday morning remains a mystery and, along with recent unidentified flying object reports, is being investigated by the Pennsylvania Association for the Unexplained.

While the reports of an explosion at about 1:50 a.m. Saturday were at first written off as resulting from an earthquake in Quebec about 6 p.m. Friday, Charles Langston, Penn State professor of geophysics, said university monitoring equipment did not register any earthquake activity or aftershocks at that time. He said he doubted the explosion sound reported was connected to earthquake aftershock and said it was more likely an explosion.

Brian Witherow, Clearfield County Emergency Management director, said despite searches by fire companies and some area police and a check with the Federal Aviation Administration, there were no explosions to be found or missing airplanes that

might have crashed.

Coincidentally, Elk County communications reported an outhouse exploded and burned down at a camp in Lake City at 1:50 a.m. Saturday.

In Clearfield County, two police officers, one from Clearfield Borough and another from Lawrence Township, saw a tremendously bright object streaking through the sky over Hyde just after the reports of an explosion began pouring into Clearfield County Control. The officers reported the object kept traveling across the sky for a long distance and even after it went behind the clouds the bright light could be discerned.

Stan Gordon of the PASU said the association, which investigates UFO sightings, can't make a definitive opinion on the strange activities in the skies over Clearfield County but will continue to investigate to try to find an explanation.

"We didn't get any other reports on aftershocks in this area. Of course, we're not an agency that would receive that," he said.

He doubted it was space junk, as one police officer suggested, adding if so there would have been lots of reports from a large area, normally several hundred miles wide.

He said an extraordinarily

bright fireball called a bolide, a large meteor usually seen over a widespread area, can produce a sonic boom. The question is why it was only reported locally in this county, he said.

Mr. Gordon also said five persons reported seeing a large spherical, extremely bright object over Goshen at about 6 p.m. Friday. The PASU has been receiving reports of strange lights in the sky since a Lanse resident a week earlier reported a UFO along Interstate 80 in Graham Township.

Mr. Gordon said it takes time to try to differentiate between what's natural and what's not. He said the association, made up of volunteer professionals, will follow up and try to make some sense of what area residents have been seeing and hearing.

But, over the years he said when there have been localized UFO flaps, for several weeks there are reports of large objects hovering and also reports of mysterious explosions.

"I can't say for sure what's happening here, but it sounds very familiar," he said.

All of last weekend "was crazy with reports from other areas of the state," he said. At 2 a.m. Sunday in the Harrisburg area 30 to 40 lights were reportedly zigzagging across the sky.

Mainly bright lights are being reported in the sky, he said, but

there were several cases in the past week of three or four daylight sightings of large, long flat objects. In the past year and one-half there have been many UFO reports across the state, including several objects of the same description as reported here over 1-80, he said.

The October issue of *Carrier Lines*, a Pennsylvania Electric Co. publication, noted a wave of UFO reports during the past year in the Johnstown area and most recently at Homer City, where Penelec has a generating station. It reports residents saw "slow dropping fireballs" and large dome shaped objects resembling a helmet with legs and lights on the bottom.

"As far as we know if anyone is up there watching, we're too busy to see them," Ron Lantzy, station director, was quoted as saying.

In connection with the Clearfield County UFO reports, Mr. Gordon also said historically there have been reports before earthquakes of luminous spheres in the sky, such as the one described in Goshen. There are a lot of theories on it, including that it results from gases due to pressures within the earth.

He said a lot of what is being reported here is similar to reports of cases that PASU has not been able to explain.

RECORDER, Porterville, CA - Oct. 28, 1988

UFO sightings across Valley

By RICK ELKINS

A Terra Bella family was among the hundreds of valley residents that saw objects in the nighttime sky Wednesday that some believe were visitors from outer space.

Shellee and John Finney were sitting in the back of their pickup truck with their son at the Porterville Drive In when they spotted the two large objects heading in a northerly direction over Porterville.

"I could see them pretty well. It wasn't like they were far away. They must of been really, really huge," said Shellee.

Valley residents are still buzzing over the sightings that were reported from Porterville to Oakhurst. The objects appeared most visible over Dinuba and Kingsburg.

The Finneys believe what they saw were not aircrafts, but unidentified flying objects. Porterville resident Paul Kerrigan also saw the objects, but he believes they were two low flying jet bombers.

"We could see individual lights. Each ship was V shaped with one a little ahead of the other one. Red and white lights were along the Vs, with a large red light at the back of each object," said Mrs. Finney.

"I've never seen a ship like that," she said, adding her husband, who served in the military, also said it was nothing he has ever seen before.

"There was a series of red lights behind the main object. I'd say three lights," said Jim Lindholm of Kingsburg. "When it flew in front of the moon, there weren't any wings. 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."

Others speculate it was the top secret Stealth Bomber under development by the Air Force and Northrop Corp. Northrop is slated to unveil the plane Nov. 22 at its Palmdale plant.

Northrop officials deny the Stealth was flown Wednesday night and officials at Central California military bases say none of their aircraft were airborne at the time of the sightings.

The sightings over Porterville were reported between 8 and 9 o'clock.

The Finneys noticed the planes just as they were overhead. Shellee said they were not moving too fast and that they appeared very low. One witness said they were at an altitude of between 5,000 and 10,000 feet.

"It seemed like they were out of sight pretty quick," she said.

She said the objects made a very faint sound. "Not enough sound for what was up there. More like a hum."

Kerrigan said what he heard was definitely the sound of large jet engines. He too saw four red lights,

but he is convinced the objects were aircrafts, not spaceships from space.

"I firmly believe it was two planes heading for Castle," he said. Castle Air Force Base is located just north of Merced and the B-52 bombers fly out of there.

"They looked huge, but not larger than a low-flying bomber might appear," he said.

In Dinuba, police officers on patrol were told to look up to see the objects.

Dinuba policeman Ken Holcomb was among those who saw the objects.

"I'm not ruling a UFO out, but I'm skeptical," said Holcomb. "I believe it was some military-type thing."

Neither the Porterville Police Department nor the Porterville sheriff's office substation received any calls about the objects Wednesday night. Porterville Commander Hugh Hogan said it was probably some secret aircraft from the Air Force.

Coincidentally, it was Oct. 31, 1980 that The Recorder carried a story of strange objects being sighted in the foothill areas above Porterville.

Recorder reporter Terry Winkler quoted unnamed residents saying they had spotted brightly colored objects flying above the foothills that they said could not have been aircraft.

Eglin base has no record of UFOs

By JENNIFER TUCKER
Tribune Staff Writer

GULF BREEZE — Directly east of Gulf Breeze is a military installation of mind-boggling proportions.

It includes 724 square miles of highly instrumented ranges with "probably the biggest variety of flying aircraft in any wing of the Air Force in the U.S.," says Lt. Col. Sam Giammo, director of public affairs at Eglin Air Force Base.

Giammo says Eglin has no record of the Gulf Breeze UFOs — no strange radar blips, no unusual activity — and the base has received fewer than two-dozen calls about UFOs in the last two years.

He vehemently denies public reports of Air Force planes in pursuit of the spaceships, and he says Eglin personnel are not secretly studying the Gulf Breeze incidents.

Nevertheless, Giammo says, people could mistake the lights from an airplane or flare for something else. "We normally operate in the daylight hours, but some systems need testing at night," he says.

Eglin's primary task is to test and develop munitions and the aircraft that carry them.

Consequently, Giammo says, the Air Force has access to air space blanketing the Florida Panhandle and 85,000 miles over the Gulf of Mexico.

Among the base's sophisticated radar is Phased Array Radar, which tracks objects in low Earth orbit — such as the shuttle *Discovery*.

Giammo says he "isn't aware of it being used to track UFOs ... and I personally have not seen anything I could not identify."

Likewise, the Pensacola Naval Air Station reportedly has not made — or received — any formal reports of UFOs. Diane Shepherd, media liaison for the base, says the base's assignment is basic and intermediate naval training, as well as aircraft repair.

Covering 5,800 acres 11 miles southwest of Pensacola, the naval base is rarely active after dark. Few pilots fly at night, Shepherd says, and then it is primarily to practice "constant altitude approaches."

And air-traffic controllers at Pensacola Mu-

nicipal Airport "only identify craft that we are working with," says supervisor Earl Pitts.

Gulf Breeze residents, however, were mystified by the sudden appearance of paramilitary equipment in 1987 and 1988.

Two large vans, emblazoned with NASA logos, were parked in various Panhandle cities during 1988. According to NASA spokesman Jeff Vincent, neither was there to monitor UFOs.

Both were mobile displays — one of NASA aeronautical programs, the other a satellite-aided tracking system used in search and rescue maneuvers, he says.

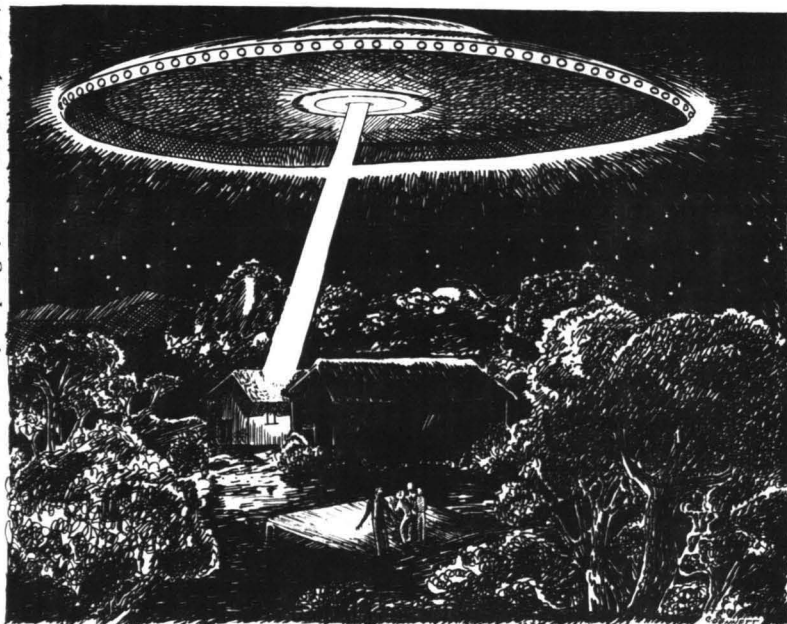
The public also was surprised to see a military ship, the *Jan Tide*, in Pensacola Bay.

According to a Coast Guard spokesman, the *Jan Tide*'s mission was classified, but he surmised "it was undergoing testing for the Army."

The *Jan Tide* got people talking, he says, because it was equipped with a large, helium dirigible called an "aerostat" and nicknamed "Miss Piggy."

When launched, the radar balloon remains tethered to the ship but is visible 20 miles away.

UFOs OVER TOPANGA



ORIGINAL ART BY CHRISTIE DENNETT

BY PRESTON DENNETT

Most everyone understands what UFO means—Unidentified Flying Object.

And back in 1973, a Gallup poll established that the majority of Americans believe in them. That majority seems sure to have grown even larger as the years pass by.

Still, there are millions who are not convinced—and even those who are don't take each and every UFO report seriously.

I myself was a UFO sceptic, until a series of incidents in Topanga Canyon started me on an investigation I never meant to follow

It all started when I was watching the news one day, and heard about a UFO in 1986. sighted by Captain Kenji Terauchi of Japanese Air Lines over Alaska. The UFO report received international media coverage, and was confirmed by radar.

I was sure that the UFO report was provoked by a reflection off the ice, ionized exhaust, or an ice cloud, but it interested me enough to pick up a book on the subject. In the book, I expected to find that UFOs were easily explained as misperceptions or hoaxes. I found the opposite. I couldn't believe the stories I read, so I read every UFO book I could get my hands on. But I still couldn't believe in UFOs. Space-ships? Aliens from

outer-space? No way!

That was when I figured if UFOs are as real as the books say they are, then I should know at least a couple of people who have seen them. So I asked everyone I knew that key question, sneaking it in at any opportune moment, "Do you believe in UFOs? Have you ever seen one?"

The responses I received from family and friends dealt a fatal blow to my life as a UFO skeptic. Some of them (even friends of friends) began to tell me UFO experiences that they didn't tell me before because they knew I wouldn't have believed them. And they were right!

So far, I have investigated four solid UFO incidents in the Topanga area, with the possibility of several more. I have also uncovered evidence in other UFO books that UFOs have visited this area.

Topanga does have a history of UFO sightings. In a used book store I found a shabby old UFO book published in 1954: Harold T. Wilkins' *FLYING SAUCERS ON THE ATTACK*. In it I found this amazing quote by an engineer, Mr. Frederick G. Hehr, of Santa Monica:

"Three-quarters of an hour before sunset, on a June day in 1953, I had a unique experience. Twice in one day I saw saucers, and witnessed a whole squadron of them go through various maneuvers, lasting ten minutes."

A few pages later in the same book, I found the following paragraph which astounded me:

"...Freda owns a house in Topanga Canyon. One night, she was waked by the flapping of the blind. She got up, looked out, and saw a silver bar hanging in the sky, quite near, with a pendulum movement, a slight

movement. It hopped around, here and there. It would vanish, then return, as if quartering the neighborhood, looking for something... A number of people have seen a round object showing different lights and colors, moving fast through the clouds, by day or night."

In Raymond Fowler's book, *THE ANDREASSON AFFAIR: PHASE TWO*, I found the following short piece of information:

August 15, 1957: Woodland Hills, California / Disk hovered for six minutes. Rocked from side to side.

In Richard Hall's excellent book, *UN-INVITED GUESTS*, I found the following disturbing report:

July 25, 1979; Canoga Park, California. Features: Vehicle encounter, time loss, abduction, physical exam. Shari N. a housewife and cocktail waitress in her 30's, was driving the short distance home from work when she saw an object that she thought was a plane crashing. She arrived home unaccountably late.

Under later hypnosis she described getting out of the car and approaching the object. She recalled being examined while lying on her back; her back was hurting. She was bound around the stomach, and a being (not clearly described) probed her shoulder and stomach, inserted something in her leg, and dabbed her eyes. Finally she was returned to the car.

Although I have been unable to locate the source, I remember very distinctly reading about two scientists who were measuring geo-magnetics on Mulholland, when a UFO appeared over the horizon.

The two men had a movie camera and were able to take a good amount of footage—which they promptly turned over to the Air Force. The film was never returned.

Reports in the books go on and on, spreading throughout Los Angeles. In fact, an entire book has been written about a series of dramatic UFO encounters in Tujunga Canyon. The book, by Ann Druffel and D. Scott Rogo entitled *THE TUJUNGA CANYON CONTACTS*, reveals many sightings in the Los Angeles area.

One of the earliest is outlined in Timothy Good's book *ABOVE TOP SECRET*, where in 1942 a UFO was sighted by thousands of witnesses. The object was the target of a massive artillery attack by the 37th Coast Artillery Brigade. Three people were killed, three died of heart-attacks, and homes and buildings were destroyed as "...the object eventually proceeded at a leisurely pace over the coastal cities between Santa Monica and Long Beach."

The book even provides a photo of the object as it hovered over the Culver City area, bombarded by 1,430 rounds of ammunition (according to General George Marshall, Chief of Staff, Washington, D.C.) for a period of five hours as search lights covered it from the ground below.

Only a few of the UFO incidents I have investigated have taken place in Topanga. Some of the most dramatic took place right in the middle of the San Fernando Valley. Unfortunately, I only have room to discuss the four Topanga incidents.

UFO OVER DIX CANYON

The first case occurred around 1973 or 1974 near the top of Fernwood Pacific at Saddlepeak. The sighting occurred at around nine or ten o'clock at night, and there were two witnesses: Topanga resident Sylvia Walters, and her girlfriend D.G. I'll let Sylvia describe what she saw in her own words:

"This happened a long time ago. I was about fourteen at the time. D.G. and I were in my room and we heard this humming noise. We looked outside and there was a very bright, oval-shaped light that seemed to be floating and moving down, and going over—not over, but down behind the ridge...It was a yellowish light. It was oval...It was moving fairly slowly...I'd say it was about two or three miles off...And I could hear it...It was like a steady rumble or hum...kind of like a low dial

tone or something like that...At the time I was going, Wow! That's a UFO! and D.G. was saying 'No, no, no, it's not a UFO. It's a meteorite.'"

Did Sylvia and D.G. see a UFO? It's hard to say. It surely couldn't have been a meteorite. Meteors don't make humming noises like a dial tone. And further, the light Sylvia and D.G. saw was moving much too slowly to be a meteor. It probably wasn't any airplane or helicopter, as the description of the object—both in sight in sound—match neither. Unfortunately the sighting was of short duration, at the most five seconds long. So it's hard to make any firm conclusions.

UFOs OVER MULHOLLAND

This UFO Incident occurred on the north side of Topanga, about six miles east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard on Mulholland, a dirt road. The incident occurred in 1982 at around one or two a.m. There were two witnesses, Mark Grant and his friend R.H. Here is Mark's description of what he saw:

"Well, basically a friend of mine and I were driving around on dirt Mulholland late one evening, and we had parked to stop off at the side of road and what-not, and look at the view. And we were both kind of looking out towards the sky and saw some lights. It was very strange because they were in like a triangular pattern. We observed the lights and watched them for, I'd say, maybe fifteen minutes or so. At which time, you know, we had been talking about it, looking at these lights, and we thought it was maybe helicopters or something like that."

"About fifteen minutes after we first observed them, they started coming towards us all at the same time. And the two at the bottom looked like they went like straight at us, around our periphery. And at the same time they looked like they were going away too. They just kind of disappeared."

"...The colors—there were colors when they were moving. And as they were steady, they were very bright, but like a white on bottom to top, in that order. And they kind of changed colors as they moved. They seemed like they changed colors—almost streaked, I guess because they were moving so fast, I couldn't catch it with my eye or something. I guess that's why they were moving so fast or whatever. They could have been lines of light, or just moving so fast, I couldn't catch it with my eye or something. I guess that's why they were going towards us and away from us at the same time. It was very strange."

This sighting is very hard to explain away as a misperception or hallucination. Mark was deeply impressed by what he saw and admits that he was frightened by the incident. He said that he had the feeling they were being watched, but he didn't know what it was, or who to tell about it. He admits he didn't tell anybody about it for three years.

UFOs OVER ENCINA

Encina is a side street off Entrada, and is divided into upper Encina and lower Encina. One summer night in 1986, at about eleven o'clock at night, three teenagers, Gabe Aldort, Vadja Potenza, and A.W., were walking down upper Encina when they spotted two UFOs high in the sky above them.

Here is Gabe's description of what he saw: "The first one I saw was with Vadja and this other guy named A.W. And we were walking down—I think we were just walking around at night. It was about eleven o'clock. We were playing like 'dodge from the cars,' and I guess we were looking at the sky or something. And we saw these two—they looked like stars, you know, and they were going fast, too fast to be a plane. They were going really fast. They didn't have any lights on them. They weren't blinking or anything. And they came together and then they stop-

(continued on page 5)

ped. And then they circled—it's like they circled around each other, like in a circle. And then they both just went pahewww!!!—took off really fast. It was really weird, and I knew planes couldn't do that. They just stopped, like they looked at each other, and then they circled around each other, and then they just split. They just took off...It was pretty freaky. We thought they were going to land or something. It was really weird that that happened, because I've never seen anything like that before."

Gabe is obviously convinced that no plane or helicopter could perform the maneuvers he witnessed. He further described the objects as being about as bright as the brightest star in the sky. He estimates the sighting lasted about thirty seconds. Vадja reports seeing essentially the same thing as Gabe. Here is Vадja's description of the event:

"I was with two of my friends, A.W. and Gabe Aldort. And we were walking down Encina I think—it's up Entrada. And we were just running around. It was nighttime. We were just running around, and I was looking up because there were a lot of stars out. And I looked over, and there were two things that looked like stars that started moving together and rotating around. And I said, 'Oh look! And they looked up and said, 'Whoa!' And these two star-like things came together, rotated around each other, and then separated, and then just sort of disappeared off into the distance...They were moving the whole time. I mean, when they rotated around each other, it was kind of like in one place. It was like they were both attached to an axis or something. And then they just split...I didn't think it was a plane, because I'd never seen any plane that could do that."

Both witnesses are convinced they saw something very strange, something that convinced them that some of those crazy stories they had heard about UFOs just might be true.

UFOs OVER OLD CANYON

Just a few miles up Old Canyon Road from Topanga Canyon Boulevard, an amazing incident occurred. It was a summer evening in 1987, and four persons became witness to an event they'll always remember. They saw a veritable fleet of UFOs.

As many as five unidentified flying objects were sighted, including one very large one with colored lights coming quite close and shining down a beam of light next to the stunned witnesses. The four witnesses were Gabe Aldort (who saw two UFOs over Encina), John Heldman, Ivan Eason and Leif Eason. Each of them were interviewed separately. Here are their descriptions of what they saw.

Gabe: "This one's really weird. You've got to bear with me. But this was in Topanga too. And I was with three other people. It's on Old Canyon. We were at their house, this guy's house, and I was with a guy named John, and a guy named Ivan, and his brother Leif. And we were sitting on his porch, and uh...this is really weird...we saw a star. We were looking up in the sky and we saw a star in the distance. It was going about as fast as the first one I told you about, you know. And it looked like a star.

Then suddenly it came. It's like it was really far off in the distance, and then it just came really fast. It came like over the sky, and it came right over this guy's house, not right over it, but up in the sky. And it passed overhead. It was just so far away it looked like a star, and then suddenly, whoosh!!! And it came right up and just went right over this guy's house.

All I could see was just a shape. It was like it wasn't a saucer or anything. It was like...sort of like a weird-looking sports car shape. I couldn't see, I could only see a shadow, you know. But it looked like that. I could draw it. I've drawn it before when I told other people about it. But that was only one of them. I saw four more at the same time.

"And then, oh man! And then two more came right next to each other and went right over his house and went by. They were just like the one that just passed, and went over his house. They didn't have—they didn't sound like engines, but it just had like a low buzz. And they went by.

"And then—I think this is what I think it is—the mother ship came, okay. Trip out on this. This thing came and it was BIG! It was so big. And it came, and it wasn't a saucer or anything. I don't know. I'd have to draw it...Alright, listen to this. It didn't have any lights on the bottom. All we saw was a shadow. It came over, and it came like right over his house, like really, really close, like when you're on the beach and one of those news helicopters fly by. It was like about that high. And there was a huge shadow. And it had that same sound, mmmmmmmmm... And it sort of, it went by, and it was going slowly. And his house, his mom is an artist and she has a studio, an art studio that she works in. It's like a separate part of the house. And this thing, a beam came down, a light beam like in CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND. And it came down right on this studio

and the beam, it came down and it moved across this particular part of the house, but it was still. The beam came down, moved, mmmmmmm..., and then it stuck back up again, vpppp! And then that ship went by really slowly. It left, mmmmmmm...

And then one ship followed it...and the one that followed it had a spinning thing on the bottom. It was like that sort of square shape—a circular thing on the bottom that had lights all around it. And it was spinning. And it went by. And that's all we saw."

John: "Well we were just sitting outside, and we were kicking for a little while, and we saw this little kind of circular object, I guess, with one big light on top of it. It just kind of flew over toward us, and then it stopped. And then it flew away. Then another one came, and it was a bigger one. It had little lights on the outside of it, all the way around. And then it shined like a beam down on to the house...and then we all kind of got freaked out, so we hid under like the side of the house. And then it just flew away. And another little one came after that, and it flew away. An then we were just sitting there going, 'What?'"

"...On the first one there was a light on the top...and then another one came, a bigger one. I just saw on the side—it had little teeny lights around it. And then it shined a light down...that (the last one) was just a little one. I didn't really get to see it, because I was kind of scared...(it was) just like one teeny little light. But it moved fast, they moved fast. We couldn't figure out what it was because they moved so fast that it couldn't be a helicopter or something. It moved really fast, like jet over here and jet right back—you know, back and forth."

Ivan: "It was just like a little ship, or not like a little ship, but like a light far away. And it came like over the hill. And then we looked away or something. Then, all of a sudden, it was right there. And we were all just, 'Oh, what is that?' And then another one came, and there were two of them. They were just sitting there with their lights and stuff, and they zipped away really fast. But then this big one—this big old one came over with lights on the top and stuff. And it shined this light on us, and just kind of went over, and then just kept on going. Then this little one came afterwards, but it was all fast. It just flew by.

"They (the first ones) were small, but they had lights on top...like blue, red, yellow, and mostly white...They were like—I don't know, I couldn't tell. It was too dark. You couldn't really see the thing except for all the lights. And then it just kind of flew over...Maybe about two minutes, and it was gone. It was just poof! It was neat. The little ones came over the hill, and we weren't paying attention to them, we just thought they were airplanes. An then, all of a sudden, they were right in front of us. We're all just, 'Wow, what is that?' And Gabe was just all 'Wow!'...That was the weird thing. It was quiet. No noise at all, except for like a—well most people say like a low hum, but it was pretty quiet. It was like you couldn't really hear anything."

Leif: "We were with—I think there were four people. Four people, and we were outside on my patio, and there were no houses around. And we were looking up, and this like—this light—like this fast light came by. I mean, it was a little like a ship and it came. All I remember is the big ship actually. This big one is what I remember. It was just like a big—it wasn't going totally fast, but it was really quiet and just coming. And it came, and it just shined like this light. It was like this, you know, it shined a light like about fifty to a hundred yards away. And we were just looking at it, going, wow, that's a space ship! And then it went. It just like—the light came off, and then it went. It hovered over the house and went away.

"...I remember they looked a lot different than any normal plane...I think a few of them had colors on them...We were just looking at it. Well, actually I thought we were getting invaded by Mars people. Like LA, I thought they'd invade LA. The next day I was going to hear about all these like Martians in LA. I mean, because if I heard it, I would have been all, 'No way!!!' Because we saw these things...It was a quiet noise. It didn't sound like a jet. Jets are pretty loud. It was like something—a motor that was like a hovering noise, that could go slow and fast if it wanted to."

And so we close the events of that fateful night. Although there are variations in the witnesses' testimonies, all agree that there were at least two small UFOs, and one very large one, which shined a solid white beam of light, about ten feet wide, down onto the roof of the house.

The objects looked strange, they sounded strange, and they moved strangely.

There was a general agreement that the small UFOs were the size of a van or a bus. All agree that the large UFO hovered very low over the house. The estimates of its size vary, but the average estimate is about the size of half a football field.

It's difficult to say what exactly was in the sky that night, but whatever it was, it made a deep impression on the memory of the four witnesses. I am convinced they are telling the truth.

As with most of the sightings in Topanga, the witnesses were most impressed by the high degree of maneuverability displayed by the objects, as well as their strange shape and an almost total lack of sound. Whatever the explanation, it is not hoax, hallucination or misidentification. These are honest people who seem to have witnessed truly incredible events.

CONCLUSION

It is difficult to convince the UFO skeptic. Despite the fact that there is voluminous evidence all but proving UFOs such as: eyewitness testimonies of UFO sightings; testimonies of abductees; testimonies of retired military officials involved in UFO crash retrievals; radar returns; UFO effects on animals; medical effects on witnesses (radiation burns); metal fragments; landing traces; sound recordings; photos; moving films; over 2,500 pages of declassified United States Government documents from such agencies as the CIA, FBI, NSA, and the USAF. Many people reject the stories outright, without even examining the evidence.

UFOs have been seen in Topanga and continue to be seen.

To date, I have heard of two more sightings in Topanga. The first sighting involved four witnesses, one who remembers colored lights moving too fast to be a helicopter, and another who remembers just lights. Unfortunately, the incident occurred too long ago, and the memories of the witnesses are too vague to make any conclusions as to what they saw.

There was also possibly another sighting in the Trippett Ranch area on Entrada, but the witness has declined to be interviewed. I have interviewed more than thirty other people who have had UFO experiences in the surrounding areas, am writing a book on the subject.

Aside from alerting Topanga of events occurring in its skies, the major purpose of this article is to obtain more information about UFOs.

If you have had a UFO experience in Topanga (or elsewhere), and you would like to talk about it, please call me at (213) 455-2227, or write to me, c/o The Messenger. ■

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Preston Dennett is a member of the gifted Dennett family which relocated to Topanga from Chicago in 1971. His father Jim is a production manager in the movies. Preston, 23, graduated from CSUN last year with a B.A. in narrative writing.

UFO? She won't say Residents wondering what's behind strange lights in the night sky

By DENNIS HILL
Sun Staff Writer

Several McCracken County residents have been looking for answers to an unusual object they saw in the sky Monday night, but so far, they have come up empty.

"I hesitate to say anything," said Suzanne Goehman, who lives on Lovelaceville-Florence Station Road. "People will probably think I'm crazy, but I know what I saw."

Goehman said she isn't claiming she saw a UFO, but what she saw was extremely unusual and she would like to know what it was.

Goehman said the incident

began about 9:40 p.m. Monday. "I looked out my kitchen window and noticed a bright object in the sky, with lots of all different colored lights. At first I thought it was an airplane because they fly over here all the time, coming and going from Barkley Field."

Goehman said the object appeared to be stationary. "The more I watched it, the more curious I got, so I went and got my binoculars."

Goehman described what she saw as dome-shaped, outlined by a white glow, with multi-colored beams of light emanating from its bottom.

Goehman called a neighbor, Sharon Settles, to come over and look at the object with her.

It was after Settles arrived that they discovered a second object, identical to the first, hovering some distance from the first.

"They seemed to be together," Goehman said both objects appeared to be moving at a very slow speed away from them.

Settles described the objects as "umbrella shaped" with the colored beams shooting periodically in different directions. She said at the center of the colored lights was a white light.

Goehman said at one point, an airplane approached one of the objects and it became much brighter. "It just lit up for a few seconds."

At one point, Goehman said, two more of the objects approached the two they were watching from the east, slowed, then turned south abruptly and disappeared to the south.

Goehman and Settles both watched the objects until nearly 1 a.m., she said.

"We didn't know who to call, or what to do," she said. "I called my uncle who has a telescope, but he wasn't at home. But his wife and their children went out and looked at it, and they were as baffled as we were."

Settles also called the tower at Barkley Regional Airport, where she reached air traffic controller Jim Wasson.

"I remember talking to the lady," Wasson said. "I saw something in the sky, which I believe was a planet, probably Jupiter. Monday was an exceptionally clear night and you could see a lot of things in the sky you don't normally see, if you take the time to look."

Wasson said the variety of colors, which he didn't recollect seeing, could have been light refracting between the planet and earth. But he said he saw only the one object and is as sure as he can be that it was the planet Jupiter.

"Maybe they saw some aircraft. Flying objects can play tricks on your eyes at night. If they are flying toward you, they appear to be standing still, and if they turn, it can appear they suddenly accelerate in the direction they turn."

Bill Burnley, professor of astronomy at Murray State University was in the campus observatory Monday night with a class, watching Jupiter and Mars through a large telescope.

"I didn't see anything unusual, but we were focusing pretty closely on the two planets. That doesn't necessarily mean something wasn't there."

Burnley said he left the observatory shortly before 9 p.m., 40 minutes before Goehman and Settles made their observations.

Capt. Russell James, public affairs officer at Fort Campbell, said the army was conducting no night flying operations in the area on Monday night.

Ray Williams, official-in-charge of the National Weather Service in Paducah, said weather balloons were released Monday, but it is unlikely they could have created the impression described by the women.

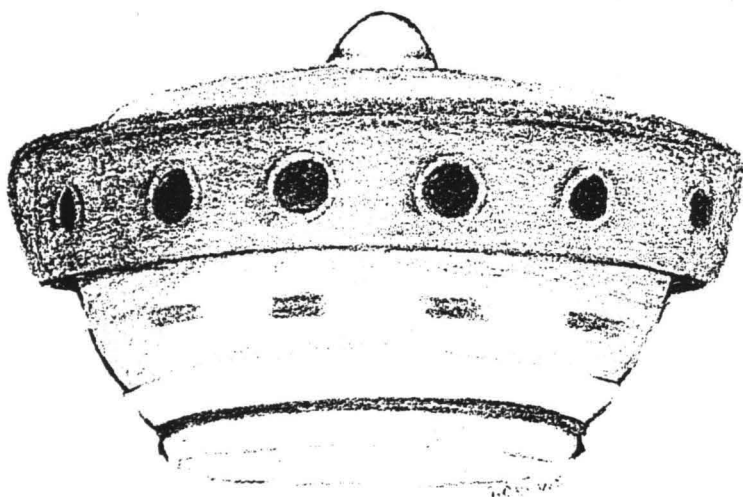
He said the balloons carry a flashlight-size light on the bottom.

Feature Story

The Gulf Breeze UFOs

A Dimension Of The Future

By Patti Watson



Once in a great while, the opportunity presents itself for man to reevaluate his perceptions of reality. Such an opportunity has been part of the experiences of residents in Gulf Breeze, Florida during the past year.

One year ago, November 11, 1987, flying vehicles other than any built by man, made themselves visible to Gulf Breeze residents. These vehicles allowed photographs to be taken.

"As of June, 1988, there have been 68 cases from the Gulf Breeze area that we were unable to identify as either caused by natural phenomena or man-made objects," stated Donald Ware, State Director of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc.

Since that November evening, 135 witnesses have come forward, and over 40 photographs have been taken.

"Of those 135 witnesses, four reported seeing alien beings, six reported blue beams coming from the ship, and twelve reported periods of missing time," said Ware.

The story of the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings began when the editor of the Gulf Breeze Sentinel, a weekly local newspaper, received 5 photographs of a UFO. Although the photographer did not identify himself, he did send a note with the pictures. He explained that he had seen these "ships" outside his house and had taken the pictures. He asked that anyone who might have seen the "ships" contact the Sentinel.

The reaction to the Sentinel article was immediate and long lasting. Over the next year, numerous witnesses to UFOs contacted the paper. Several of them had also taken pictures. Witnesses came from every arena of the Gulf Breeze community. A prominent businessman, a medical examiner and his wife, three children, a city council representative, a newspaper editor and his wife, a teacher, a chemical engineer, and many more saw the unusual phenomena in the skies.

The Gulf Breeze incident

could no longer be interpreted as the active imagination of one man. The boundary between the real and the unreal, the existent and the non-existent, the visible and the invisible had been crossed. The perceptions of Gulf Breeze residents were challenged beyond comprehension in what some believe will be one of the most important documented cases of UFO sightings in all time.

The Gulf Breeze incident is extraordinary for several reasons. Robert Reid, a retired Air Force colonel, has an avid interest in UFOs, and he has devoted much time to UFOs and related research. In regard to the significance of Gulf Breeze, Reid states: "First, there are not many cases of multiple sightings. Secondly, Gulf Breeze represents an educated, upscale community. I hope that doesn't sound wrong, but the general attitude of the people was one that could accept such ideas as the existence of UFOs. Also, there are many professionals and retired servicemen in the area. Their involvement in the Gulf Breeze encounters lends credibility to the whole incident. Thirdly, the pictures that were taken are unique in that they offer great detail and clarity of the craft."

Walter Andrus, International Director of Mutual UFO Network, commented on the significance of events in Gulf Breeze. He said, "After interviewing the photographer/witness and examining each photograph taken since November 11, 1987 and continuing through January 16, 1988, it's my opinion that the details in the photographs are incredible. This is one of the most amazing UFO cases I have investigated in the past 30 years."

Says Florida MUFON Director, Donald Ware: "One man and his family had 22 encounters with 18 photo sessions in a five and a half month period. When asked why, I have only one general statement. It is because someone wanted this

man to take those photos. Their technology may be hundreds of thousands of years ahead of ours!" he added.

Donald Ware retired from the Air Force January 1, 1983, and one year later, he became director of MUFON for Florida. MUFON is dedicated to the scientific investigation of UFOs. "I became involved with UFOs on July 26, 1952, when I personally saw 7 objects in Arlington, Virginia. That sighting made headlines all around the world. The UFOs were seen by three radar sets, and they were chased by Air Force interceptors," Ware stated.

He continued, "It took me two years to come to the conclusion that some UFOs are vehicles controlled by a more advanced intelligence. It took me another ten years to conclude that somebody in our government has known that for a fact since 1947."

Says Retired Colonel Reid: "There are no accidents in these matters...." "The intelligences have wanted humans to become gradually aware of their existence. Possibly, the government is not progressing fast enough with the exposure so the aliens are taking matters into their own hands."

Other repression seems to be evident. Says Reid: "In the early 1950's, a U.S. government panel that included scientists and CIA types reviewed the evidence and recommended the government do everything it could to discredit the UFO phenomena in order to prevent public panic."

"Even today it is apparent that there are organized efforts by or through the media to keep the knowledge repressed. It may be that certain men know the incredible value and power of the knowledge."

Both Reid and Ware hinted at the possibility that there may be public disclosure by governments in the near future.

"The only time you have a window in which a head of state can make a statement is

when he will no longer be in public office. The press wouldn't leave him alone before that. So we might see some public statements made soon. Some of them may be in the form of leaks. Some of them may be international in nature," said Ware.

"There is some thought that before Reagan leaves office, our government will release a part of its close held UFO information," said Reid. "He (Reagan) has already made three or four casual references in public to the idea that to meet aliens would radically change how we view our ideological differences here on earth," Reid continued.

"The phenomena exists, and there is not much use in being afraid of it. Fear should not be one of the things that drives the world," added Reid in closing.

The nature of reality has been explored by man ever since he has been on earth. The fine line that is drawn between that which we see and that which we don't see is constantly being challenged. The line between what is and what seems to be is still unclear. The fact remains that we are limited by our perceptions, by our fears, and by our categorization of events upon this blessed earth. These limitations restrict our ability to learn from the experiences made available to us.

We live in truly great times. It is the age of computers, of spaceships, and of moon landings. We are standing on the precipice of times and things unknown. If those times and things can take us to a consciousness that is more concerned about loving our fellow man and understanding the glory of nature, then it is a good thing; and it must and should be heard.

Gulf Breeze is helping to usher in the 21st century. It is not over yet. So in late December afternoons, don't forget to look up into the eyes of the future.

By James Lileks
Staff Writer

Want to see a UFO? Here's the best way: Drive on a deserted road, late at night. High noon on I-94 won't do it. Backing out of the garage at sundown won't do it. Read my antennae: deserted road, late at night.

Take the case of a woman who attended a recent UFO conference at a suburban Holiday Inn.

"I was driving home around 11 o'clock, in the middle of nowhere," she said. "All of a sudden, the car was sort of whirring. I thought the wheels were spinning on the snow. Then the radio went static, and the car filled up with bright light. I heard a voice say, 'Look in the mirror.' I saw two spotlights, and I thought it was a truck. Then the lights went up, rose straight up in the air. And then the radio returned."

The woman did not want to give her name — people who see lights and hear voices generally wish to keep the experience to themselves, lest the psychiatrists show up with an economy-size barrel of Thorazine. But she is adamant about the veracity of her story, convinced it was not a trick of her mind:

"I had just been visiting two friends who were astrologically connected — people who talk to the stars. I thought maybe they had put a suggestion in my head, but I asked them, and they said they hadn't."

She told the story in the hallway of a Bloomington Holiday Inn, where a UFO conference was about to begin. Inside the meeting room, a gentleman was examining a National Enquirer article on the weight of a human soul, while a row away, two teen-aged girls talked in low, nervous voices about UFOs, the opposite sex and other uncertain phenomena.

The organizers of the conference, St. Paul hypnotherapists Linda Deer Domnitz and Connie Williams, stood at the door and greeted new arrivals. Others milled around, exchanging new stories of sightings, theorizing on dark governmental conspiracies, waxing rhapsodic on the wisdom of the aliens.

It was a small crowd — 30 people — but the purpose of the conference was special. This was not about whether UFOs exist; that was a given. This was about what they are up to — specifically, why they are beaming people up to their ships.

That, too, was taken as a given.

In 1987, two reputable authors published separate books detailing stories of abductions by UFOs. "Intruders," written by Budd Hopkins, told the story of an Indiana family so regularly taken upstairs by UFOs that the reader wondered if they received frequent-flier bonuses; the other, "Communion," by novelist Whitley Strieber, described the author's own harrowing abduction by leather-skinned, almond-eyed Gumbys From Beyond.

After the books came out, each author was besieged by stories from those who thought they, too, had been spirited away by UFOs. According to Hopkins, hundreds of people have come forward with tales of abduction. Reports of medical exams are frequent; evidence that the aliens represent any known HMO has not yet been advanced.

But the reports all agree on one thing: The aliens have come to Earth, and they're not just browsing. They're wrapping us up and taking us home. If it becomes any more common, abduction by aliens will soon be a legitimate, union-recognized excuse for missing work.

There are two ways to look at this: Either they're describing reality or they're not. Wherever you fall on the issue — and, according to a Gallup Poll, 68 percent of Americans believe in UFOs — the following will not dissuade you from your belief. But whatever you choose to believe, there are those who are already convinced that abductions are taking place.

Those believers are here in Minnesota, and they're ready to help you.

Yes, you. You may already have been abducted.

"If you have a dream of a ship," says Linda Deer Domnitz, "you have been abducted. The point of the hypnotherapy is to help you to deal with that."

Now, wait a minute. I've dreamed I was on a spacecraft, one that happened to be staffed by the crew of "Star Trek." But I no more expect that to be the truth than I expect I can walk into Whitney Houston's house and demand conjugal rights because I once dreamed we were married.

If a person comes to a hypnotherapist and says he once dreamed of being on a spaceship, isn't the sensible approach to judge the merits of the claim?

"We don't judge," says Connie Williams, Domnitz's partner. "The people I have worked with know that these are not normal dreams. They are completely different. I have them recall the dream, analyze the dream itself. Most people don't know they've been on a spaceship. They know they had a strange dream, and that it didn't fit with anything that had happened to them."

Domnitz and Williams have been in this business of dream analysis of UFO abductions since September. Both honed their hypnotic skills in California. Domnitz, who holds a degree in social work from the University of Iowa, recently moved to Minnesota from Arizona. In St. Paul, she teamed up with Williams, a Minnesota native and certified hypnotist who shared her interest in UFOs.

"I had a man who was working on self-confidence," Williams says. "In the middle of the suggestions, he said, 'Stop, I have something to tell you.' He'd been on a ship, and he described it as cigar-shaped, with many windows, many colors. He proceeded to tell me that this happened when he was walking on a street in Washington, D.C., and suddenly was somewhere else. This was in 1970. I didn't know what to do with it."

Times have changed; someone in Williams' position is more apt to know what to do today. The growing acceptance of non-traditional spiritual phenomena, a movement grouped under the rubric of "New Age," has given legitimacy to schools of thought once dismissed as nonsense. But the New Age welcomes the fringe; indeed, as it has no central tenets of its own, everything has equal weight. The fringe is the center.

Tarot cards and faster-than-light vehicles would not seem to share believers, but they do. The New Age emphasis on vague, metaphysical powers — the energy of crystals, the energy centers of the Earth, astral projection and other psychic phenomena — finds a perfect ally in the UFOs. No longer are they inscrutable terrors from the inky deep of space, but higher manifestations of the shining cosmic gristle to which all

living things belong.

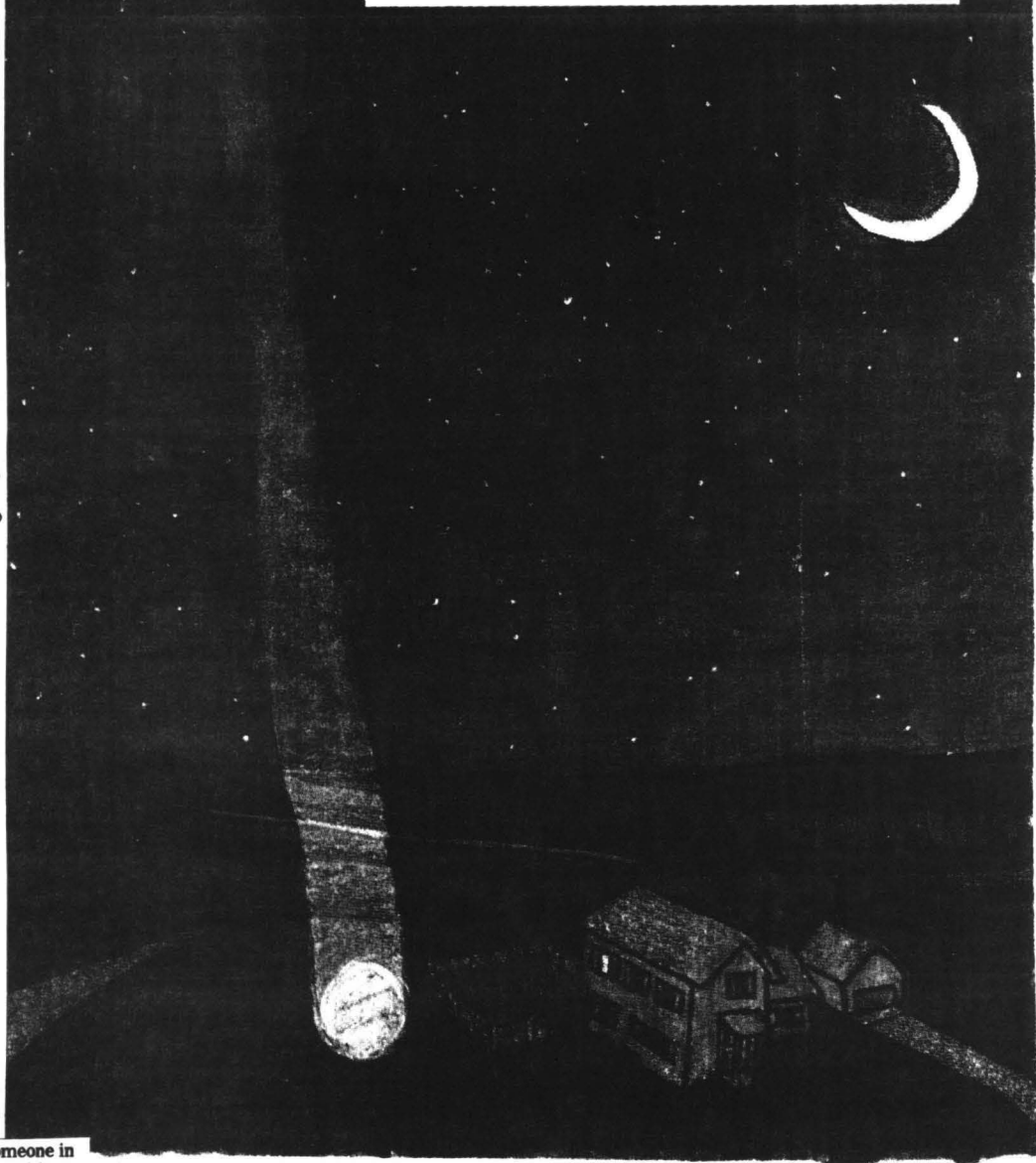
"The positive ones," says Domnitz, speaking of the aliens, "are the forces of light here to help the planet. We are facing a possible pole shift, earthquakes, the greenhouse effect — we're in various precarious positions. The highly spiritually advanced planets want to help us, want us to see peace."

Fine. So where's the help? Enough of this ringing-the-doorbell-and-running-away, already.

"We're not ready for it. The 'E.T.' movie helped; it shows that they're here to help us. People have to accept the possibilities, not discuss if it's real or not. That's a foregone conclusion," Domnitz said. "What we do with these conferences is figure out how to work with them."

ENCOUNTER CULTURE

Minnesotans abducted
by aliens from space?
They thought it was just
a dream, but it was real!
That's what believers say.



Tim Van Ness/Staff Artist

The conference begins with a prayer "addressed to whatever God concept you choose." I choose a bagel, for it is early and I am hungry.

The day's agenda is announced: a movie, "UFOs Are Real," followed by some UFO-sighting stories. Then everyone will be hypnotized, and if anyone's subconscious is still clutching a boarding pass to the mothership, we'll hear about it.

Before the movie, however, people stand and describe themselves. Everyone falls into one of two categories: Have Seen or Have Not Seen. Most have not seen, but express a desire to see one; seven have seen a UFO.

One woman reveals that she had some past-life regression and, in another life, she was in a ship; her tone of voice asks, "Does that count?" It does.

Another man, dressed in a suit, looking like the chief loan officer of a prosperous bank, says he hears a voice. "It says, 'You're not ready yet,'" he says. He is here at the conference to get some answers.

A woman in her late 30s, her voice uncertain, tells the room that she had been kicked in the head by a horse and believes now that she is being contacted by aliens. She, too, is here for answers.

The film is shown. Through photos and interviews, it makes a fairly compelling case for UFOs. A flinty, Yeageresque pilot tells of his sightings; Jimmy Carter's sighting of a UFO is described (of course, Carter also believed in a second term); there is an interview

(continued on page 8)

with Betty Hill, the New Hampshire woman whose 1961 story of abduction by aliens made her the mother of the encounter culture.

Betty and Barney Hill, so the story goes, were abducted one night while driving down — all together now — a deserted road, late at night. Betty, heretofore a standard-issue middle-class citizen with no interest in UFOs, became convinced she had been abducted and took her case to the media. The film also details the efforts of Hill supporters to reconstruct the star map Betty drew, based on a map she had been shown by the aliens.

The film quotes liberally from a Hill supporter who claimed to find a perfect match and locate the stars from which the aliens hailed. (About Carl Sagan's efforts to locate the stars, which used computers and yielded no such match, the movie is silent.)

The film ends up with a tub-thumping endorsement of UFOs and a warning that we had better take care of our planet so that we'll deserve to meet these guys. Up with the lights.

Several members of the audience now come forward to tell their stories. Helen — a medical secretary who greets people with a hug and departs by placing a kiss on their third eye — is first. She tells of a sighting in 1956 — an electrically charged apparatus that fused the wiring of her car.

Next is Phyllis, who did not exactly see a UFO, let alone remember going up in one. She did, however, vanish from the face of the Earth for a while. On a retreat in Arizona with Domnitz, she had been out in the desert, meditating with a group. As Domnitz tells the story, when everyone opened their eyes, Phyllis was gone.

"I figured she was out around the rock, smoking a cigarette," Domnitz says, grinning. "Then, all of a sudden, she was there again."

"I felt a sort of cold energy," Phyllis says. "I remember I was in meditation, just floating. I was not afraid." She smiles. "There was a tremendous feeling of love."

There is a question from the audience.

"I mean no disrespect by this," inquires the questioner, "but have you had a head injury lately? Blows to the head seem to make people more responsive."

Phyllis says no, her head is fine.

"Iwould sooner believe Santa and his reindeer are abducting people than extraterrestrials." So spoke Phillip J. Klass, former senior editor at Aviation Week, UFO investigator and author of "UFO Abductions: A Dangerous Game."

Klass has been shooting down UFO sightings for 22 years, and he says he has yet to investigate a sighting that cannot be explained as an earthly or natural phenomenon. He has a standing offer of \$10,000 to the first person whose abduction claim is backed up by an FBI investigation. No takers so far.

"Until a couple of years ago, claims of UFO abduction were relatively infrequent. Maybe one every three or four years. When the Hill story was shown on TV, that created a rash of reports, but then it quieted down. Even those in the UFO movement found the abduction stories a bit too much to swallow," he says.

The advent of such books as "Communion" and the advance of the New Age movement, however, softened public attitudes, and abduction stories increased several fold. Klass' book details his versions of the famous abduction stories, pointing out what he thinks are the flaws, the telltale signs of fakery. But while some are telling their tales for attention, he says, others have different reasons for believing the abduction stories. And not entirely healthy reasons, either.

"It is becoming a cult," Klass says, "and a dangerous one. In my opinion, most of the people who previously claimed to have been abducted were telling a conscious falsehood. They could essentially forget it and throw off their stories; they were free to abandon them. But when people who are psychologically disturbed go to abductionists, when they undergo hypnosis, they allow these amateurs to implant their own fantasies about UFOs."

So they believe in saucers. What's the harm?

"According to Hopkins, if you were abducted once, your chances are good that you'll be abducted again, and that when you marry, your children will be abducted. And their children will be abducted. Hopkins has talked of dealing with children who supposedly were abductees and were contemplating suicide."

"There was a woman in England who stabbed her children for fear of abduction by UFOs," Klass says. "These are disturbed people, and when they join up with a UFO abduction cult and allow themselves to be hypnotized, they are extremely susceptible."

Let's be clear on one thing: Klass is not describing Domnitz or Williams. For starters, neither is an amateur, and neither implants suggestions. Nor are they scorned by fellow professionals as amateurs. Michael Kelly, a member of the Society of Medical Hypnoanalysts and a man known to exorcise misusers of his craft, is open to abduction stories himself.

"I've had a couple, more than five in the last 10 years I've been practicing. It's unusual, but not unheard of. The ones I've worked with weren't psychotic or out to lunch — they were normal people."

Did he believe them?

"If they believe it, it's true in their mind. My concern is with helping them resolve any problem they have with it," he says.

What about Klass' charge that abductionists are planting falsehoods in the minds of the

vulnerable?

"I trained Connie (Williams) in hypnotherapy," says Kelly, who practices in Edina. "She knows not to suggest. Some amateur hypnotists don't always realize what they're doing, but that's not the case here."

Some who believe in the UFOs ascribe darker purposes to their visits. Conference attendee Walter Moe, a retired engineer and a member of the Minnesota chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, is not convinced that the aliens are here for our benefit.

"We don't know why they're here. That has to be studied. There's evidence that they're studying us, trying to collect information."

Author Budd Hopkins goes further, postulating that the aliens are crossbreeding with humans to replenish their genetic stock. He sees them as unconcerned with the trauma and pain they may produce.

But leave aside their motives for a minute, even the contentious issue of their existence. Klass may be overstating the case by calling it a cult, but there are religious implications in the belief in UFOs.

UFO belief is almost a theology in itself: The UFOs, the aliens who drive them — they play a Godlike role, and when Domnitz talks about "the brothers and sisters of light," it's hard not hear the word "angel" resonating behind her ideas.

It is impossible to argue on these terms; when the aliens can do everything, represent any object, event or myth in human history, it is impossible to disprove them.

Yet, proof is not needed. As with all religions, faith above all is required — the faith that survives without hard proof, yet sees the shadow of proof cast by everything.

It is an extraordinarily hopeful religion, but it, too, is weighed down by original sin. Although they do not say as much, disbelief is sin, and it keeps us from the truth. When asked why the aliens don't land, play Peace Corps and help this race of sluggards take its place in the cosmos, Domnitz says we have to ask for help. They cannot interfere; we have to believe and extend an invitation.

"Most people don't ask for help," she says. "They get upset and frustrated, when they should be asking for help."

We are, in other words, stuck in our sinful ways.

There was a man at the conference who was holding forth in the hallway, decrying evolution. He said it couldn't possibly explain the diversity of life on Earth; no, this was a project of the aliens. They put us here, they were seeding the Earth.

"It's just like a garden," he said. "They are tending us, just like a garden."

That's not a new way of looking at it; the Earth has been called a garden before. This time, however, we haven't been kicked out. Yet.

times bigger than a star. He said they didn't move. Moyer said his observation was made probably Nov. 1, 2, or 3. He wasn't sure. He summed up his experience as something "hard to explain."

Pam Guthrie reports that she was coming home from Quincy to Pleasant Hill last Saturday and about 6:50 p.m. saw four lights over the bluff near Atlas.

Unlike the other reports is one from Mrs Howard Reed of Hull, who says that on Nov. 3 she was taking her usual evening walk on a field road north of their house on U.S. 36 three miles west of Hull and five miles east of Hannibal at the Sny Bridge, 200 feet north of the highway.

Coming back, and in sight of her home, she heard a "swishhhh" and there was an extremely bright illumination directly back of her



Joe Rossi/Staff Photographer

"Most people don't know they've been on a spaceship. They know they had a strange dream, and that it didn't fit with anything that had happened to them."

Connie Williams
St. Paul hypnotherapist



Joe Rossi/Staff Photographer

"The highly spiritually advanced planets want to help us, want us to see peace."

Linda Deer Domnitz
St. Paul hypnotherapist

Strange lights continue to be seen locally

Continued reports of strange and unexplained lights in the sky are being received at the Pike Press office.

Observations reported this week are somewhat different from accounts carried the previous two weeks in that the latter reports describe "streaks of light" rather than stationary lights.

Ed Hoos reports that Sunday, Nov. 20 about dark he was driving a pickup truck through a farm field between Barry and Pittsfield when he saw streaks of pink, green, and orange lights about a quarter mile long and lights in his rear view mirror that were about two feet in diameter, resembling traffic lights or "big balls of fire."

Hoos says the streaks of light later descended in their path and appeared to explode near the ground.

Dallas Patterson reports that on Nov. 2 (the same date as other sightings) he saw lights in the sky south of Beverly that looked "like Roman candles."

Mary Beth Little reports that she was driving home one night about midnight in mid-November from her night shift nursing duty at the Veterans Home in Quincy when she and her companion, Karen Saxbury, saw strange lights about two miles north of Barry on the blacktop road. She described the light as looking like a falling star except it was blue in color and in her opinion was definitely not a meteor.

More reports of 'lights in the sky'

Reports continue to come in from Pike County residents of strange and unexplained lights in the sky.

Steve Mueller reports that on Nov. 16 he saw a light that looked "just like" those illustrated in last week's Pike Press between 7 and 7:30 p.m. northwest of Pittsfield. He said it lasted about 10 minutes and then went out "like a candle," leaving no trace. There was no sound.

Shorty Rowe reported that on Nov. 23 his outdoor dusk-to-dawn light went out for more than two minutes when something that

looked like a lit-up mini-bus was in the area overhead, sounding like a helicopter. He said the light of a neighbor, Bob Baughman, also went out when the area was lit up.

Bryan Moyer of Nebo says he saw three lights in a row with one fading and then another at intervals. Later there were five lights and he judged their behavior as some kind of "code or signal."

Moyer said he observed the lights to the northeast from his farm between Nebo and Pearl. He said they appeared to be "real far away," round in shape, and three

Close encounters of the Calvert County kind

by Holly Chamberlain

Jeanette Babcock has gone one step beyond encounters of the third kind with alien life.

Babcock, known to friends as Jan, is still sorting the pieces of an event which occurred at her Huntingtown home.

"I am what we call an abductee," she said, adding that she wouldn't wish the experience on anyone.

Her encounters with alien life began in 1967 while she and a friend were traveling through the desert near Reno, NV. An excerpt from her diary recounts the episode.

"Suddenly, I noticed two round, glowing red objects flying about 1,000 feet in the air. They were moving very slowly and stayed close to the two mountains ahead of us. The objects appeared to be about 25 feet in diameter and pulsed a luminous red as they moved in unison. They were not small blinking lights as I had seen on most airplanes."

She and her companion pulled off the road to watch. After the lights disappeared, she asked her friend had he any idea what they had just witnessed.

"He told me he had never seen anything like them before," she said. "Since he worked at Travis Air Force Base servicing the aircraft, I figured he would know."

And hours later, her first experience with public denial and ridicule began—from her companion. Sitting with her friend in a small town cafe, she asked the waiter if he had heard of any strange sighting reports. Her companion asked what she was talking about.

"I was shocked," she said.

Twenty years and two other sightings later, she had an encounter of the fourth kind while sleeping in her bed in Huntingtown.

"I became aware of a strange light shining through the window over the bed. I tried to turn my head toward the direction of the light but realized I couldn't move.

"Suddenly, a piercing white light began to penetrate my head. Just as I struggled to free myself, I began to feel my stomach tightening up, as if I were going up in an elevator. I know I remained conscious while going up and became aware that something was happening to me. I remember the feelings of terror, anger and confusion, but I cannot remember what happened."

Another abduction occurred several months later. This time, her abductors made a visit, allowing her to see them.

"I'm not trying to convert anyone nor would you need converting if you had experienced these sorts of events," she said. "Logically, I'd like to say 'UFOs don't exist. I just hallucinated.' But I can't. If you could convince me of it being due to a chemical phenomenon that produces these sights and sensations, I would love it."

But just getting anyone to acknowledge these experiences or people is like finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. Most abductees suffer post-traumatic syndrome with denial, anger, why-me emotions and a choice of either acceptance or shutting down mentally, physically or both.

She thought carefully about going public in this, her first interview. "I

decided I have to take a stand. The only proof is us...the ones who see it. I haven't done anything to be ashamed of."

To the contrary, she feels these events have been thrust upon her unwillingly and she is angry with her feelings of helplessness to control the events.

"If I don't come forward," she said, "who will?"

Babcock is a member of the UFO Foundation, a Washington, DC-based organization supported by public and private funds. Her wish is to establish a support group for Calvert County residents who may have had encounters ranging from the first (sighting lights) to the fourth (abduction by aliens) kind.

Forming a support group and allowing people to feel free to talk, question, recount experiences and feel accepted is a major accomplishment, she said. "I refuse to shut down and cower. We don't have the answers—there are no textbooks to follow. We take it just one step at a time and in an age of instant coffee, that's hard to do," she laughed.

"The Foundation can only say, 'yes, you are one of many' you've got to decide from there to take responsibility for yourself. This beats the hell out of running scared. I felt like I was in the back seat before. Now I'm in the driver's seat with the brakes on."

Through her association with the Foundation, Babcock has learned of the federal government's knowledge of UFO reports. Under the Freedom of Information Act, she said, some things have come out.

Taken from a document which Babcock said had been listed by the government as "top secret" are the following comments.

On July 1, 1947, a New Mexico rancher reported the crash of one of the nine disc-shaped aircraft that had plagued the western United States since late June 1947. It happened 75 miles northeast of Roswell Army Air Base (now Walker Field), NM.

"On 7 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one-week time period which had elapsed before their discovery."

A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. The wreckage of the craft was also removed to several different locations. Civilian and military witnesses in the area were debriefed and news reporters were told that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon.

"I suppose they consider it safe now to let these [documents] out" since the investigation is closed, Babcock said. "Most of the documents, though, are all pages blacked out with ink. And you must accept the risk of being put under Federal investigation for requesting to access to such documents."

Since the federal government has not publicly supported UFO research, the burden of studying and discussing UFOs has fallen onto groups like the UFO Foundation, the National Investigative Commit-

tee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and Mutual UFO network.

Babcock herself is becoming an investigator for NICAP, working as the organization's credibility checker. Investigators take the history of a possible abductee who has contacted the organization. Investigators may interview them several times, suggest hypnosis by a doctor or licensed hypnotist and refer them to support services.

Babcock herself went through the same investigation when she first approached NICAP.

The problem for the investigator, Babcock says, is not to "get sucked down by the stories you hear. I've heard some pretty ridiculous things. I just try to stick with facts."

Babcock says she tries to put these events in perspective with her overall life. She doesn't take them as the entire meaning for her existence.

"What these experiences have done for me is made me take responsibility for my life," she said. "I stopped thinking other things are going to make me sad or happy, or give me excuses for not going on with my life the way I want to."

Her advice is the same for any other people who have had encounters with aliens.

"You've had an encounter. You've changed—good. Now, take responsibility for your experiences and your life. Become independent—don't let this be an excuse to not take charge of your life. Seek help, put it in perspective and get on with the things you can control. Keep both feet on the ground," she said.

To join the group or ask further questions, contact Jeanette Babcock, 257-6212 or Elaine Douglas and Associates, UFO Society, 1801 Clydesdale N.W., Suite 501, Washington, DC 20009, 202/232-2410.

Jackson families see UFO

Professor believes in phenomena

By Dana Swoboda
News Guardian staff writer

No sightings of Santa Claus crossing the night sky were reported on Christmas Eve, but an unidentified object traveling the winter skies that night startled at least two Jackson families.

A muffled boom reportedly was heard then a light, like that of a spotlight, was seen moving across the sky. Within a split-second, the light disappeared only to later return and vanish once again.

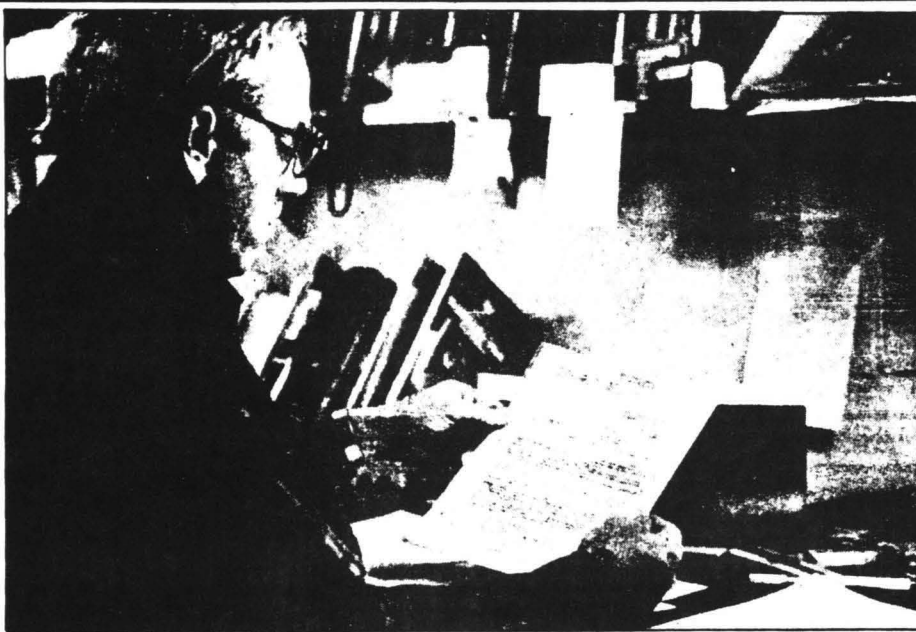
The Christmas Eve sighting was classified as an unidentified flying object (UFO). According to Harley D. Rutledge, a physics instructor at Southeast Missouri State University, the sighting was just one of numerous sightings in the area.

Rutledge has studied UFOs for more than 15 years. During that time, he has seen 163 UFOs himself. Most of those sightings occurred between Piedmont and Farmington.

Rutledge's interest in UFOs was aroused following reports of alien craft hovering over the streets of Piedmont. Rutledge and his wife, accompanied by another couple, went to see the phenomena students and newspapers had cited.

Their first night in the Piedmont area, Rutledge saw what he and his wife term a UFO.

On a return trip a month later, the skeptical Rutledge had an experience that altered his views of alien beings forever. The experience occurred while he and three students were traveling in an aircraft just before dusk.



Staff photo by Dana Swoboda

Harley Rutledge, professor of physics at Southeast Missouri State University, studies aerial research of UFO sightings reported at

the Kirtland Air Force base in New Mexico. Rutledge has studied UFO phenomena for more than 15 years.

"We were flying with the lights off on the aircraft over Clearwater Lake heading north at about one mile high," Rutledge said. "We had already seen low beams of light go across the sky at low altitudes."

"Seated in the co-pilot's chair, I began scanning the sky through a binocular. After three or four sweeps across the windshield, a light came on out of the blue. It pulsed at about one beat per second. Before it was over there were nine lights altogether."

"It thrilled the hell out of me even more so than getting married and dropping my ring on the plate four times. All of a sudden, I had to accept the possibility of UFO existence."

Rutledge said most UFOs appear as beams or spherical lights glowing

in colors of orange, amber, red, green or white. Those UFOs he said oftentimes transform from lights to crafts then back again or simply disappear without trace. He added that UFOs can adopt any shape apart from the saucer made popular through fiction novels and movies.

Rutledge said he has seen only nine alien crafts out of 163 UFO sightings. One of those crafts he believes was observing him through his office window at the university.

"It was hanging in the sky in view of my office window. When I looked at it, it responded to me with a flash of light then took off."

While both the governments of West Germany and the United States have experimented with the creation of speed projecting flying saucers for military purposes, Rutledge

believes UFOs are extraterrestrial.

"God only knows what they are," Rutledge said. "There have been different types reported. I don't discuss aliens much. I know there has to be an intelligence."

Rutledge has been unable to substantiate his sighting with airport radar because he said alien craft tend to fly beneath radar detection. He has, however, authored a book titled "Project Identification — The First Scientific Field Study of UFO Phenomena" in which he details his study of various sightings he has witnessed. The book is now out of publication.

A second book addressing the origination of alien craft and beings is on the horizon.

NEWS-RECORD, Miami, OK
Dec. 11, 1988

Woman reports sighting of UFO

BAXTER SPRINGS — A Galena, Kan., woman reported seeing an unidentified flying object early Friday over Baxter Springs.

The woman said she was driving toward Baxter Springs from Galena around 6:45 a.m. when she noticed a bright light in the south. The light, she said, was on an L-shaped gray craft which was slightly larger than a private plane. The woman proceeded on to her workplace in Baxter and said she watched the craft as it flew north at a low altitude over the city. She said it was perfectly smooth, with no windows, and no noise.

The Baxter Springs police received no other reports of such a sighting.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA
Feb. 15, 1989

ALABAMA

FYFFE — Reports of UFO sightings last Friday remain unexplained, despite Air Force, NASA, Weather Service probes. Residents claim they saw glowing object hovering over ground. Sheriff's car gave chase, object disappeared.

Donald Keyhoe, Last of the Pioneer UFO Researchers, Dies

Donald Edward Keyhoe, a retired Marine Corps Major, writer and pioneer UFO investigator, died in New Market, Virginia, Nov. 29 of pneumonia and cardiac arrest. Keyhoe was 91, having lived a rich life that included serving as aide to Admiral Byrd and Charles Lindbergh, and becoming the first independent writer with a solid background in aviation to tackle, from the late '40s on, the nagging question of flying saucers.

Indeed, the UFO problem changed Major Keyhoe's life; he became the leading critic of the Air Force's UFO probes, wrote five books on the subject — some of which became international bestsellers — and led for 13 years the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). Keyhoe is survived by his wife Helen, a sister, two daughters and a son. For the past several years the Keyhoe family lived in Luray, Virginia.

Keyhoe is one of the last of the original pioneers of the UFO movement to pass away. Astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek, former advisor to Project Blue Book and founder of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), died in 1986, as did Jim Lorenzen, director of the first civilian UFO group, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). Lorenzen's wife Coral, who founded APRO back in 1952, passed away in Tucson last April. They authored together many books about the phenomena.

The founder of yet another UFO organization, New York City police detective Peter Mazzola, director of the Scientific Bureau of Investigation (SBI), passed away in 1987 at a still young age. Unfortunately, APRO, NICAP and the SBI have folded, but CUFOS and other groups continue.

It can be accurately stated that while Dr. Hynek was the father of scientific ufology, and Jim and Coral Lorenzen were the first to take a serious look at close encounters with humanoids and so-called UFO abductions, Donald Keyhoe was the undisputed father of

the government UFO cover-up controversy, one that has endured and grown much since his time. One advantage he had was his personal acquaintance with prominent admirals from his days at the Naval Academy, as well as FAA officials, pilots and military people in general.

Keyhoe was born in Ottumwa, Iowa in 1897. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1919, serving in the Marine Corps as an aircraft and balloon pilot, until he was injured during a night flight in Guam in 1923. Keyhoe retired then with the rank of Major, and became an editor with the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Chief of Information of the Department of Commerce's Aviation Branch (later to become the FAA). He also managed the U.S. tour of Admiral Byrd's North Pole plane, and was an aide to Charles A. Lindbergh during the period of his historic solo flight across the Atlantic. He later published his book, *Flying with Lindbergh*, and wrote numerous articles on aviation and other topics for a variety of publications in the 30s and 40s, including *Reader's Digest*, *The Nation* and *The Saturday Evening Post*. During World War II he served with the Naval Aviation Training Division.

Keyhoe was the first independent investigator with considerable experience in aviation and military matters to look into the new fad of flying saucers. These had gained public notoriety after pilot Kenneth Arnold sighted nine mysterious silvery objects near Mount Rainier on June 24, 1947. The "flying saucers," as a journalist nicknamed the objects after Arnold's description, were soon seen all over America, forcing the Air Force to start an official probe.

On May 9, 1949, the editor of *True* magazine, Ken W. Purdy, sent a telegram to Keyhoe, inviting him to write a comprehensive piece on the saucers. What seemed at first like a casual new assignment for a freelance writer, soon became almost an obsession with Keyhoe, defining his life and career until the early 70s. Keyhoe's landmark article, *The Flying Saucers Are Real*, was published in the Jan. 1950 edition of *True*; it was expanded into a book with the same title in June of 1950 — one of the first two books on the subject published in the U.S. (The other was *Behind the Flying Saucers* by Hollywood columnist Frank Scully).

Keyhoe reached a conclusion in that first article that would remain intact, though elaborated further, in all his future writings and actions regarding the subject. After examining several incidents involving commercial and military pilots, Keyhoe concluded the saucers were real and probably extraterrestrial in origin; he further believed the U.S. Government knew the truth but was hiding it from the American public. In that 1950 seminal article, he wrote, "it would seem wiser, if space visitors are suspected, to tell Americans the truth. Having survived the impact of the Atomic Age, we should be able to take the Interplanetary Age, when it comes, without hysteria."

The government, of course, had a different idea of what the public should be told, as we can now see from numerous declassified memoranda from various military and intelligence agencies. For a short period, however, Keyhoe had cordial relations with the people at Project Blue Book, particularly during the early 50s when it was headed by Captain Edward Ruppelt. The UFO point-man at the Pentagon was then Major Dewey Fournet, whom I had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing at a UFO Conference in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, early this year.

"I had enough respect for Don and his background as a Marine flying officer to give him what I wanted him to get, which was factual information," said Fournet during our interview. Reporter Al Chop of the USAF's Public Information Office was instructed to give Keyhoe full access to the Blue Book files. The result was Keyhoe's second book, *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*, published in 1953. Chop even endorsed the book, praising Keyhoe as "a responsible, accurate reporter," in a letter with Pentagon stationery published in the book's back cover.

In 1953, however, the Blue Book policy was changed as a result of a secret scientific panel convened by the CIA, which launched a policy to debunk UFOs. Two years later, Keyhoe published his third book on the subject, *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, which combined credible sightings by competent witnesses — often pilots — with an expose of the official policy of denial and ridicule. His books had wide impact worldwide and inspired many young ufologists, but were not sufficient to fight what Keyhoe often called "the silence group."

The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) had just been formed in the Washington area in 1956 by inventor Townsend Brown and others, when Keyhoe was asked to assume its leadership. The Major jumped on it with great energy, calling on important former classmates at the Naval Academy to back it up, in order to give credibility to the organization. NICAP gained soon considerable prominence because it included retired top brass on its Board of Directors and advisors. These included Admirals Hillenkoetter, first Director of the CIA, and Farnhey, former head of the Navy's missile program. Keyhoe persuaded Major Fournet, Col. Joseph Bryan and other retired USAF officers to help NICAP as well.

NICAP's early efforts were centered on having Congressional Hearings on UFOs, where the Air Force policy could be probed. This was a period of intrigue



UFO PIONEER and USMC Major (Ret.) Donald Keyhoe wrote five books about flying saucers and led the group NICAP.

and antagonizing the USAF and other government agencies, which led to some scrutiny from some of these same agencies. A declassified FBI memo dated September 26, 1958, for instance, reports that "Keyhoe has been known to the Bureau since 1935" as "a freelance writer," and that in 1951 Director J. Edgar Hoover had instructed that "we should not get involved with him."

Eventually, Congressional Hearings were held in 1966 and 1968, but were not what Keyhoe and NICAP expected. By this time, the Air Force was maneuvering to get out of the UFO business through the University of Colorado's Scientific Project on UFOs, later known as the Condon Report. NICAP itself was floundering as an organization due to increasing financial problems. Fournet told me in the interview, published in the November 1988 issue of the magazine *UFO Universe*, that in the late 60s he was contacted by the Board of Directors, which had decided to retire Keyhoe. "Since I was the one that knew Don the best, they put the kiss of death on me to go ahead and call Don and tell him as gentle as I could" the Board's decision, explained Fournet. Yet under the new director John Acuff, NICAP slowly receded into obscurity, disappearing in the late 70s.

In 1973 Keyhoe published his last book, *Aliens From Space*, which has been in print more or less ever since. It is undoubtedly his best book, the one where he presents the cream of the UFO data collected in a period of over 20 years of active involvement in the field. Although there are certainly many new developments since its publication, it is still a good introduction to UFOs and to the governmental machinations to investigate and suppress the evidence.

In fact, some of Keyhoe's revelations regarding censorship and control have been corroborated in recent years by once top-secret documents, now released under the Freedom of Information Act. Although the scope of the UFO conspiracy is still subject to debate, certain actions and policies are now a matter of historical record.

"If the public is not informed of all the facts, fear of the unknown may prevail," wrote Keyhoe in one of his books. "That can lead to the most dangerous kind of panic."

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

UFO Fancier Says They're Still With Us

George Fawcett, the UFO guru

from Lincoln, says there were 11 UFO sightings in 10 locales in North Carolina during 1988.

Fawcett, assistant state director of the Mutual UFO Network, a co-operative of UFO buffs, records N.C. sightings and issues an annual report.

The most recent sighting, Fawcett said, came Dec. 14 in Lincoln, when a furniture company employee spotted a UFO during an early-morning work break.

The pearly white, diamond-shaped object was judged to be 65 feet wide, and said to hover about 150 feet off the ground.

Fawcett said all those who reported sightings "appeared to be playing with a full deck of cards."

No one reported seeing "UFO" printed on the side of a craft, he said. On the other hand, no one reported "Made In USA," either.



Allen Norwood

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - Jan. 26, 1989 CR: G. Fawcett

OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - Jan. 27, 1989 CR: M. Robinson



PHIL STANFORD

Do you know how much a light-year is?

"Yeah, it was the same kind of night as this," says Michael Patterson.

Michael, his girlfriend, Theresa Scott, and I are standing outside their modest ranch-style home, looking at the stars. It's Wednesday night, about 8 o'clock.

Half a mile or so to the south, beyond the rooftops of the subdivision, we can make out a tree-covered ridge. Beyond the ridge is Sirius, brightest star in the sky. And to the east of Sirius is the constellation Orion: the sword, the jeweled belt.

The stars are between 10 to 50 light-years away.

A light-year is 5,878,000,000,000 miles.

We are standing on their driveway in Wood Village, on the outskirts of Gresham.

"It was clear like this," says Theresa. "Why didn't you tell anyone?"

I say that because we're talking about something that happened four months ago.

"Well, we did tell a few people," Michael says. "But when you tell people they think you're nuts. They say you must have been loaded. You get tired of hearing that sort of thing."

So that's why they didn't call the newspaper or TV stations. They were afraid everyone would think they were crazy.

As a matter of fact, they still are a little worried. But after I heard about their story and tracked them down, they agreed it was worth talking about.

Michael, who is 32, is a carpenter. Theresa is a data compiler for the government. And, for what it's worth, they seem at least as sane as most of the people I work with every day. You'll have to make your own decision.

It was the night of Oct. 30 — about 7:40 p.m., says Michael — and he was inside the house playing with his synthesizer, waiting for Theresa to bring her 10-year-old daughter, Tiffany, home from a ballet lesson.

He heard the car drive up and went outside to meet them. Something drew his attention, and he looked up.

"Tiffany saw it first," says Theresa. "I stopped the car and let her out to open the garage door. Next thing I knew she was back, banging on the window."

"Look! Look!" she was saying.

Theresa got out of the car. "And there it was," she says. "At first I said, 'Oh, it's just an airplane. There was a single light in the middle and two on either side.'"

At first all Michael could see was a large shape — something directly above the garage — blotting out the stars.

"What's going on here?" he said.

And then it, whatever it was, turned on its lights, and they could all see it clearly.

It was a large disc-shaped object, says Michael, hovering about 20 feet above the garage. It was 30 feet in diameter, and it was made of some material that seemed to absorb the colors of the night sky. If it weren't for the bright lights that played around its edges, it would have been almost invisible.

What made it so eerie, though, Michael realized immediately, was that it was completely silent. It hovered above them, not making a sound.

"What is it?" yelled Theresa. But by now they all knew what it was. And somehow, after an initial rush of fear, they realized there was nothing to be afraid of. They were, in fact, overcome by a sense of joy.

The three of them stood there, shouting and hugging each other.

After about three minutes, Michael started across the street to get his neighbor, Ken. But by the time he had reached the middle of the street, he stopped — because the strange disc-shaped object was starting to leave.

"Oh, no. Don't go yet," he said to himself.

But it was on its way. Rising above the garage, it dipped at a 45-degree angle, and then slowly, very slowly, it headed south toward the tree-covered ridge. For a while it seemed to follow the ridge and then it was gone.

For a while, the three of them stood there. Then they went inside to talk about what they had seen.

The next day Michael told the story of what they had seen to Ken, and Theresa told a woman at work. But after they saw what the reactions were, they decided to keep it to themselves. That was Oct. 20.

Four days later they heard on the news about some UFO sightings in Washington County, 30 miles to the west. The experts said they were really meteors, but Michael and Theresa knew better.

It was a clear night, they say. Just like this one. They know what they saw.

Bellville senior citizen recalls 1926 UFO sighting

Editor's Note: Alma Hughes is 78 years old, but she hasn't let her age be a factor in accomplishing goals she establishes for each day. One of these is her creative writing exercises. She was born in Winnfield, La. and raised there until she became a resident of Dallas in 1968. She now resides in the Colonial Belle Nursing home and says she loves every minute of it.

An avid reader, TV program watcher (only game shows and comedies) she also enjoys other activities the home offers such as bingo and cheese and wine parties.

Besides this story she has written, Alma writes poetry and has had one lovely poem entitled "Rafi" published in the Pine Hill Panorama Column of the Shreveport Times under her pen name, Alma Victoria Byrnes.

By ALMA HUGHES
as told to LINDA DU FOUR

I sat watching the *Card Shark's* game show on Friday, Aug. 26, when I heard Bob Eubanks ask this question: "How many congressmen interviewed lately believe the United States Air Force knows more about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), than it is telling?" The correct answer was "45 congressmen."

Back in 1926, believe it or not, I had an encounter, or to be closer to the truth, near-fatal attack by a UFO myself. I was a senior in high school in Winnfield, La. and it was something a 16-year-old could never forget!

I was spending that particular night with a classmate named Ella Lea Jackson, who now lives in Houston with her family and who can confirm that this is a true story.

The night was bright with a full moon, so bright it seemed to glow eerily, as Ella and I decided to go for a drive about town. Since she didn't like to drive, it was I that backed the Model A Ford out of the garage and took a left turn to drive up the two blocks that took us onto Main Street. From there we drove through the small business district — about 10 blocks — where Main became a dead end, then taking a left, drove one more block where

we took a right onto Maple Street and kept driving east.

The full moon was directly over Maple now and I remember commenting to Ella that it looked like it was coming toward us, but I continued to drive for at least two more blocks. It was not until we reached the one and a half story, ancestral Long house with its half-circle porch that we realized the moon could not possibly travel that fast! Ella screamed suddenly then, as the "moon" seemed to be coming down upon us!

I quickly turned the car around and drove as fast as I could with the moon-like object following us.

At the end of Maple, I turned left and switched off the car lights, turning right onto Main, leaving them off until I reached the business part of town. But it was so hard to see, and I thought I would surely get a ticket, so I turned them on again and slowed down.

Suddenly, to our right but still in line with Maple, the object began gaining on us again. How could this be happening, my stupefied mind wondered, but I knew this was no time for that kind of question, for there was no one to help us, as the streets were completely deserted. We would have to take a right directly under the object's path to get to Ella's house, I realized.

I turned off my lights again, hoping that this would distract the object and drove into the driveway. But I made the mistake of turning on my lights again and this time the object began to actually swoop down on us. We could hear the distinct sound of a motor — like that of an airplane — as we jumped out of the car.

There was a door in the rear part of the garage and that's where we headed, desperate for escape!

The object's occupants must have known we were still in the garage for suddenly we heard a hissing sound above the motor, and we realized they were spraying the roof of the garage. It became very hard for us to breathe suddenly as we were still huddled by that back door, so through the fumes we attempted to go out that door and cross the small yard toward the screened, side porch of the house.

"They" spotted us as we ran up the steps, just as Ella's mother opened the door.

Ella looked back over her shoulder at the object, but I shoved her inside in time, but too late for me. They managed to spray my entire left side just before I squeezed through the same door. The liquid felt cold and left me trembling.

Once inside the house, though, the total realization of this dreadful incident hit me. I felt that if the UFO could have crossed that yard and sprayed the house's roof, it surely would have done so. The occupants had no guns; apparently if they had, I know they would have killed us! That feeling was very real inside of me.

When we opened the door slightly, a little later, to see if the object was still there, we heard two men, or whatever they were, talking. One of them possessed a gruff voice and his tone sounded angry, but we could not understand the words. Then before we knew it, they were speeding away toward the west.

With my mind a little clearer now that the danger seemed to be past, I tried to analyze this whole incident. I remembered how all the way from Maple street to the driveway, the UFO had flown almost in a straight line from east to west, and stayed in the direct beam of the moon in the east as if using it for a guide, then from the drive-way to Main (two blocks) and from Main to Maple (one block).

Therefore, from that distance, the air corridor between the parallel line of Maple and the parallel line of the driveway was less than 90 feet, the only variable the UFO seemed to be able to maneuver. And what was the purpose of its visit? Was it sending back messages to its home base? And with what was it sending back those messages? Where was the object's home base? All these questions pounded over and over again in my mind as I went to sleep that night.

The next morning, which was Saturday, I went home early. Around noon, I decided to take a walk in my yard, still mulling over all that had happened to me that previous night. The sun was burn-



Remembering 1926

Alma Hughes, 78, is now a resident of Colonial Belle Nursing Home in Bellville, but she has vivid memories of an earlier time in her life when she and a friend experienced contact with an unknown being in Winnfield, La. *Banner Press Photo by Linda Du Four*

ing brightly directly overhead when suddenly I felt a painful sensation in my arms, and looking down, saw that my skin there had turned fiery red.

Quickly I walked back into the house, not knowing what else to do, when the phone rang. It was Ella and she told me that the roof of her garage had just caught fire and had burned completely away before the fire trucks had had a chance to come out to save it.

That's when I told her about the burning on my arms and face, and that's also when the other terrible thought struck me. The liquid that had been sprayed on the roof seemed to become spontaneously combustible in the direct rays of the sun. If I had worn the same dress I had on when I had been sprayed, I would have probably burned up like the roof!

Our parents reported the vicious attack of the UFO to the Baton Rouge police and even to Washington. Calvin Coolidge was president at that time, but if he received the report, we never knew, because no one ever contacted us.

In 1927, Charles Lindberg flew across the Atlantic to Paris, France. His "Spirit of St. Louis" could fly in any direction. The 1926 UFO could not.

Lindberg's plane could not

hover like a helicopter because it had not yet been perfected in the United States. The 1926 UFO could, however. In 1926, the U.S. had yellow phosphorous crystal flakes which they burned for smoke screens in World War I, 1918, but did we have a cold liquid which became spontaneously combustible in the direct rays of the sun? The 1926 UFO did.

Was it possible the "creatures" in the UFO were flying at night because they knew the direct rays of the sun could affect anyone they sprayed the next day in the same way as had happened to me and the roof?

In my opinion, the U.S. should pinpoint Winnfield, La., which is at about 32 degrees east-west longitude and run a straight line due west-east around the world and back to Winnfield. Then they should ask the countries bordering that longitude if they have any 1926 recordings of UFO sightings or attacks. It might begin to unravel all those long-awaited UFO mysteries.

I think also, that the nations of this earth should stop fighting each other and join together in a space program effort to find out what is really happening out there. Forty-five congressmen must know something!

BULLETIN, Latrobe, PA - Jan. 9, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

Number Of UFO Reports In State Unprecedented In '88

During 1988 Pennsylvania experienced an unprecedented number of unidentified flying object sightings, sightings which remain unexplained, according to a Greensburg group which investigates such occurrences.

"In 1988, during every month of the year, cases were reported concerning sightings of unidentified flying objects that can't be explained away so easily," according to Stan Gordon, director of Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained. "During the year, PASU investigated many hundreds of incidents of an unusual nature."

"While the majority of cases involved UFO's, other cases included sightings of strange creatures including numerous reports of encounters with the legendary Bigfoot, and observations of mountain lions, and black panthers," Gordon said. "Other events included reports of giant footprints, unusual geological finds, beams of light from the sky coming downward from no source, fireballs, and strange animal killings. The number of events being reported show a clear increase in activity over past years."

PASU received information of unusual incidents from 26 counties in the commonwealth and it also investigated a number of incidents

from the neighboring states of Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey. UFO sightings were reported by people of all walks of life including police officers and pilots. While PASU is normally able to explain a high percentage of UFO sightings and misidentifications of natural objects such as bright planes and stars, meteors, space junk re-entries, searchlights or an occasional blimp passing through, many dozens of UFO cases from 1988 remain baffling, according to Gordon.

"In recent years, the typical saucer-shaped UFO is rarely reported. Many witnesses claim to have encountered large, mostly silent, metallic, elongated cigar-shaped objects, as well as large triangular and rectangular-shaped devices."

Many of the cases during the year involved multiple witness observations of large objects seem at very low altitudes, and associated physical effects were also reported. A number of UFO observations occurred during daylight hours. Gordon says. PASU has no explanation for the intense increase in sightings, but has been monitoring the situation closely.

PASU indicated that this wave of reports is a continuation of a series

of UFO sightings that actually began in August of 1987, but has never ended. Some of the cases involve local power failures, reported landings or near landings of the objects, some with physical traces left behind, and physiological effects to a witness who was very close to a hovering object. The current activity in the state seems to indicate that the objects have an interest in energy sources as there have been numerous reports of the objects hovering over or near power generating stations or high tension power lines.

UFO sightings even though reported from scattered areas, also seemed to concentrate on specific geographical areas for a period of time. For some reason, Cambria County had an extremely high number of unexplained UFO incidents, Gordon noted. This same pattern also occurred in sections of Westmoreland, Indiana and Clearfield counties.

PASU also investigated a number of claims by state residents who felt that they had been temporarily abducted aboard a UFO where they were physically examined then released.

PASU is made up of specialists from many scientific and technical

fields. Among the volunteer staff are professional scientists, medical doctors, engineers, technicians and former military officers who donate their time to conduct open-minded investigations into these mysteries. PASU utilizes many types of scientific research equipment to gather information and handles reports on a 24-hour basis. It attempts to send field teams to the site of an occurrence any time around the clock if the case warrants an immediate response. Physical traces from cases are collected for laboratory analysis.

PASU exchanges information worldwide with responsible researchers so that comparisons can be made on this international phenomena, transmitting updated case information via computer and amateur radio to other researchers across the country. PASU works closely with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) based in Seguin, Texas, the largest international UFO research organization. PASU takes no stand as to what these unexplained incidents might represent.

In regard to the unexplained category of UFO's, Gordon feels that the sightings could represent more than one type and origin so that no one explanation could represent this perplexing phenomena.

PASU encourages the public to contact them when they experience something of the unusual kind. Names of the witnesses are kept confidential. Cases that involve any kind of physical evidence should be reported immediately so that specimens can be collected for laboratory study. Free information on where to obtain UFO literature is available by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to PASU, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601. The 24-hour UFO hotline is 838-7768.

SOME 1988 CASE

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Feb. 10 — in a 10-mile area that borders Cambria and Somerset counties, numerous independent observers between 7:45 and 8:30 p.m., sighted a 60-foot long object with several rows of lights that was

(continued on page 12) 11

(continued from page 11
- BULLETIN, Latrobe, PA -
Jan. 9, 1989)

described by some as looking, "like a small cruise ship in the sky." The object passed over cars and trees at times at an altitude between 50 to 100 feet above the ground. The object which emitted only a slight humming sound, at times projected bright multiple beams of light towards the ground.

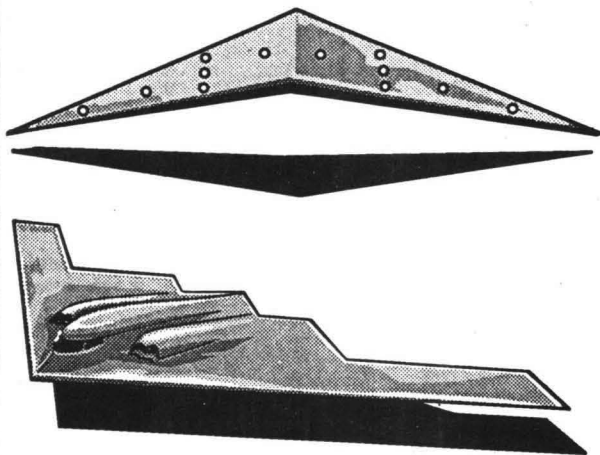
July - During the month of July, numerous UFO reports were reported in Indiana County and in the vicinity of the Homer City Power Plant. For several weeks residents were reporting slow dropping fireballs and strange sounds. On the night of July 17, several witnesses observed two objects with red and green flashing lights make two close criss-cross passes near the facility. Later one object dropped from the sky and made two passes about 200 feet above the ground. The object was circular in shape and about the size of a large car. It had four leg-like structures protruding from the bottom that had lights on them. A hissing noise could be heard as the object passed closely.

Sept. 2 - Ebensburg (Cambria County) On the sunny afternoon of Sept. 2, a gentleman sitting by a pond at his rural residence was startled to see a strange object come out of the sky from the north, and proceed to hover 50 feet away from him at an altitude of no more than 30 feet above the ground. The object which was spherical in appearance, and about 15 to 20 feet in diameter. The upper section of the object was red, and the underside orange-red. The center of the object was divided by a glass-like amber colored window, and the lights could be seen flashing inside. The object which was silent hovered for about two minutes before departing to the north. The object emitted some type of mist towards the ground while it hovered. The object had been stationary over a grass field where the grass was about four feet tall. It was noticed after it departed that there was a 12-foot diameter depressed area of the grass that was swirled in a counter clockwise pattern.

Dec. 4 - The year ended with a classic UFO encounter from Dauphin County in eastern Pa. A law enforcement officer enroute to his facility at 5:25 a.m. noticed a brilliant glow in the sky ahead of him. Going down the four-lane road. The light was so bright that he could hardly see, and he swerved and blocked two lanes. Approximately 150 feet in the air was a 75-foot-long, highly polished silver object that was shaped like an elongated oval. The object was emitting a humming sound and it was casting light into and all around the car. The object moved left and right, then shot straight up in the sky and stopped again, before departing out of sight. The officer said that his eyes hurt badly from the brilliant light, and after it departed he felt ill. The officer suffered from a sunburn-like effect on his face, severe eye irritation and headache and neck pain after the incident. It was also noted that the paint on the car appeared to be dull, and an unusual powder-like substance was found on the car's exterior. Laboratory studies are being conducted on this residue.

The 1989 PASU officers are Stan Gordon, founder and director of Operations; Steve Pelles, assistant director; George L. Lutz, director of information; John Micklow, field investigations director.

UFOs from the U.S.A.?



RESEMBLANCE? - At top, an artist's rendering of an unidentified flying object some residents of New York City suburbs have reported viewing. Below it, the U.S. Stealth bomber.

Stealth unveiling sets off rumors

By Paul Grondahl
Staff writer

It all started with this book, "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings" (Ballantine Books), published last year.

It was an account of an investigation by UFOologists into an unusually prolonged and voluminous cluster of sightings between 1983 and 1986 of the so-called "Westchester boomerang" that was buzzing New York City suburbs - a huge, V-shaped object that flies low and noisily and shines brilliant, pulsating, multi-colored lights.

What lent the sightings a modicum of credibility was that there were reports from several hundred individuals, including those from especially reliable witnesses such as police chiefs, scientists and aviation workers.

The UFOologists didn't reach any consensus on the Hudson Valley sightings, but their theories came down more on the side of an experimental government aircraft than aliens from another galaxy.

And then there was the B-2, the Stealth bomber, unveiled by the Air Force a month or so ago with the kind of hype usually reserved for sightings of Elvis Presley holed up in the Midwest.

No sooner were the wraps taken off the Stealth bomber than it began appearing in advertisements for everything from automobiles to clothing - and the calls started ringing into *The Times Union*.

One of those lovable eccentrics, who expressed particular interest in our earlier story on the Westchester boomerang sightings, put two and two together and came up with the B-2.

He had a theory. We listened.

What if, he mused, the Air Force's top secret defense aircraft designers were skulking around Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh - which happens to be in proximity to the spate of lower Hudson River Valley UFO sightings?

And what if the Westchester boomerang was none other than the Stealth bomber incognito?

Hmmmm, we wondered. Sounded plausible. And those Air Force photographs of the Stealth bomber looked an awful lot like the artist's renderings of the Westchester boomerang in "Night Siege."

It turns out we weren't the only cranks making the connection.

"I'm hearing the same thing over and over and I have to say it is an intriguing notion," says Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, a 12,000-member organization devoted to UFO research.

Rodeghier says the circumstantial evidence begins to pile up.

"It seems very curious that while the Stealth bomber was under development, beginning in 1981, this boomerang object, that looks remarkably like the bomber in profile and could not be spotted on radar, was being sighted continually," he says. "And then, even more interesting, is that the sightings suddenly evaporated just before the plane was unveiled."

Of course, there's a major black hole in the theory linking the Westchester boomerang with the Stealth bomber. Air Force officials steadfastly maintain the Stealth bomber has never been flown.

"Then again, we know we shouldn't trust the government a whole lot on secret projects," Rodeghier says.

When one looks at the statistics on the Stealth bomber, it does give UFOologists and skeptics alike pause.

Consider the B-2's dimensions:

Height: 17 feet; length: 69 feet; wingspan: 172 feet; engines: four General Electric F-118s; design: Delta-shaped flying wing; mission: all-altitude bomber, nuclear-capable and nearly undetectable by radar; cost: classified, although reportedly could reach as high as \$68.8 billion for a fleet of 132 bombers, or about \$530 million apiece.

Philip Imbrogno, one of the authors of "Night Siege," is not dismissing out

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Feb. 2, 1989

Tampa Tribune Presents Series on Gulf Breeze UFO

A sudden rash of UFO-related phone calls Monday from radio stations around the country suggested something major had happened recently on the subject.

Then, late Monday afternoon we heard that the Tampa Tribune had a big story on the Gulf Breeze UFO's in Sunday's edition.

It seems that the wire services had again picked it up and sent it around the country.

It was with mild trepidation that I began to read the *Tribune* account. It has been several months since *Tribune* staff writer, Jennifer Tucker has been here, and she had given no clue how her editors felt about the story.

My fears were short-lived

though, as the first few paragraphs made clear that there was an objective review of the case, complete with extensive quotes from Pensacola witnesses Art and Mary Hufford and Gulf Breeze's Shirley and Fenner McConnell and Brenda Pollak, among others.

Presented as a front page feature in the "Baylife" section with a 5 column by 8 inch color reproduction of photo number one of the first five photos taken by Ed on the evening of November 11, 1987, the story was continued into a four part series daily through Wednesday, February first.

We'll have more to report on the daily segments as they become available.

CR: R. Reid

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Dec. 29, 1988

Special Investigator Seeks To Interview UFO Witnesses

Robert Oechsler, a Washington area based Special Investigator (FUROR) will be interviewing UFO witnesses from Dec. 29 to Jan. 1. He request a meeting with "Believer Bill" and "A Believer" and can be reached at 932-2222.

Mr. Oechsler is an expert in Polaroid film analysis and has studied the Gulf Breeze sightings for nine months. All witnesses who wish to provide the details of their sightings should contact Mr. Oechsler.

of hand the possible double identity of the Stealth bomber.

"It's something that has to be considered," says Imbrogno, who adds that the last sighting of the Westchester boomerang was reported in May 1988.

Imbrogno admits he was intrigued enough by the possibility of a connection between the bomber and the boomerang that he got into Stewart A.F.B. and took a close look around.

"I found no facilities and no suggestions that the Stealth bomber was ever there," he says. "It's unclassified information now and the Air Force says it wasn't there, so I tend to believe them."

What seems to shoot down the linkage theory is the fact that experimental government aircrafts are simply not test-flown over populated areas like Westchester County. Also, witnesses of the Westchester boomerang reported it hovered noisily at very low altitudes, something the Stealth bomber would not be capable of. And the boomerang was reportedly the size of a football field.

"At 20,000 feet, which is the altitude the Stealth bomber would fly, it would look like one of those tiny, little winged kites," Imbrogno says.

"I'm not willing to say some top-secret aircraft isn't being tested at Stewart A.F.B.," says Peter Gersten, a Peekskill attorney who is a founding member of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy and the operator of a UFO Hotline in Westchester County.

"It's very possible a lot of V-shaped objects that are not necessarily the Stealth bomber are being tested," Gersten says. "We do know that a rash of regular Thursday night sightings were pilots in small aircraft flying in a tight V formation trying to imitate a UFO. But those have stopped."

Walter Andrus, international director of Mutual UFO Network, a 2,000-member organization based in Seguin, Texas, says he's certain there is nothing to the bomber-boomerang theories.

"We know the Stealth bomber hasn't been flown," he says, adding cryptically, "lots of eyes and ears are available."

Regardless of the boomerang-bomber quandary, every UFOologist, it seems, has his own theory about the

entire UFO phenomenon and the thinking is continually evolving.

"Up to about a year ago, my opinion was that these were extraterrestrials," says Gersten, the attorney. "Now I think the UFO groups have gone way overboard and people are being led astray by really obsessive fanatics. I see no evidence whatsoever that aliens are coming here. It's all misidentification in the sky. I've become disillusioned with the whole thing."

Says Gersten, "You can't convince the believers UFOs don't exist. UFOs have now become almost a religious kind of cult. People see what they want to see and believe what they want to believe."

Imbrogno says since his book "Night Siege" came out, he's been besieged by UFO fanatics. "The UFO sightings seem to trigger something psychologically in these people," Imbrogno says. "People who weren't interested before are now obsessed with UFOs, like Richard Dreyfuss in *Close Encounters*."

Among the numerous crazy and hairbrained theories Imbrogno has been fed, he has one favorite.

It goes like this: There are several old, abandoned iron ore mines in the vicinity of Brewster, Putnam County, along Highway 84 on the Connecticut border. "There are people who believe there are entrances still open and some kind of alien intelligence is using these as an underground base for their work and they are abducting humans for testing," Imbrogno says.

Imbrogno finds the whole scenario so preposterous as to be undeserving of comment.

As for Andrus at the Mutual UFO Network, he's holding hard and fast to the popular Uncle Sam conspiracy theory. "There's a very real government cover-up that's been going in for 41 years," Andrus says. "Sooner or later, the government will have to come clean and admit they've been lying to us. All I'll say is that the government is very involved with UFOs and aliens and there's more to it than meets the eye."

Imbrogno thinks there are only questions, no answers.

"All you can say in the end," he says, "is that we're left with a mystery that goes unsolved."



WAS IT THE STEALTH? - Theories on UFOs in the Hudson Valley include that the Air Force's B-2 Stealth bomber designers were skulking around Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh, in the vicinity of the Westchester boomerang sitings.

TIMES UNION, Albany, NY - Feb. 2, 1989 CR: D. Wemple



FOREIGN NEWS

UFO COVER-UP

... and a lot more bizarre goings on

A MAN, who says he was abducted after a Christmas party by aliens who stuck a needle in his brain and an "ugly grey object" in his backside, will be in New Zealand later this month.

The man is neither mad, an alcoholic nor on drugs.

He is American Whitley Streiber, whose book, *Communion-Encounters With The Un-*

known, has already topped the US best-seller list.

Streiber arrives here on October 23 to promote the book, a week after the TV programme that claims that UFOs ARE real and that the US Government has been covering up their existence.

It will allegedly show concrete evidence that a UFO crashed in a US desert in 1947 and that the bodies of four crewmen — who ejected unsuccessfully — were found nearby.

Lawyer Streiber, 43, worked in journalism, films and advertising before his "unearthly experience".

In *Communion* he relates the events of December 26, 1985.

That was the night he claims he finished off some Christmas party leftovers, drank an alk-seltzer with lime, locked up his family home and went to bed.

Proof? Flying objects sighted

During the night he was abducted by a team of aliens, who had dark holes for eyes and mouths that moved in lines and circles.

They took him to a small, messy, circular room where they thrust a needle into his brain and a strange object into his rectum.

Next morning he woke in his bed feeling sore.

Later he recalled that the small insect-like aliens spoke good English and seemed to be able to induce paralysis in their victims by thought.

Since then Streiber claims the aliens have been bugging his word-processor.

The first publisher he

went to thought he was nuts.

The second subjected him to psychiatric and lie-detector tests then jumped at the chance to publish the book.

Since *Communion*, Streiber says he has been deluged with letters from people who say they have had similar experiences.

Only two didn't like the book — so he sent them their money back.

Obviously the aliens don't like Streiber's book.

They presumably think it is "too close to the bone".

Streiber says he is "constantly on the run from the terrifying little army" (of aliens).

Streiber's tour will see

him visit Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, Palmerston North and Napier.

His book is very readable — if not completely believable.

And what makes you wonder a bit too are the titles of his previous "best-sellers". They include: *Wolf of the Shadows*, *Catmagic*, *The Night Church*, *Black Magic*, *The Hunger*, and *The Wolfen*.

But we could be wrong. Apparently Streiber's promotion tour of the UK recently "silenced the sceptics".

Well, that's according to his Macdonald's Publishers (NZ) Ltd promotions manager, Sue Ferens.

Bott not kite flying

UFO researcher Murray Bott is convinced Auckland was buzzed by an alien craft the other day.

That's despite the fact two boys claimed the "object" was a kite they were night-flying.

"The feed-back I'm getting," says Bott, "is that there were two objects in the sky that night."

"One may well have been the boy's kite."

"But the other didn't appear till three-quarters of an hour later."

"And it came from an entirely different direction."

"All the evidence I'm getting points to there being two different things in the sky that night."

The object reported to police and aviation authorities when it hovered over the Auckland suburb of Pt Chevalier on the night of September 12 was described as being "bright, orange-yellow and triangular".

It was first spotted by locals at about 9pm hovering at about 1000 feet.

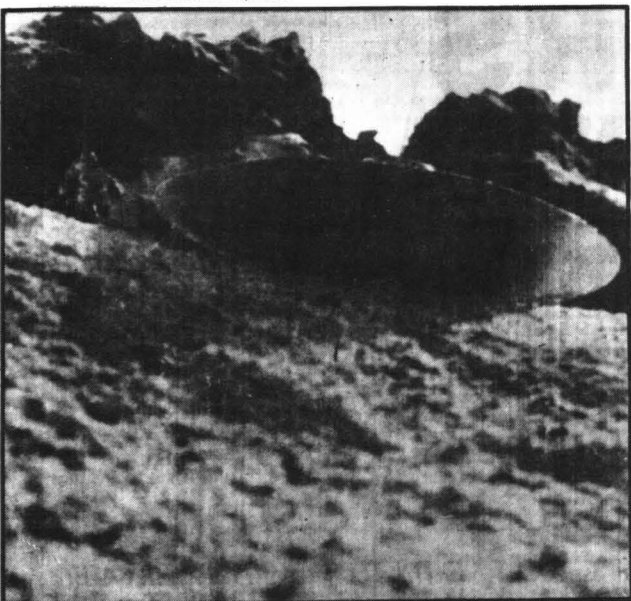
Later two boys phoned an Auckland radio station claiming the object was their kite.

Meanwhile, a South Island UFO researcher John Knapman says we are due for a spaceship invasion any day.

"I can't be 100 percent accurate on this," said Knapman, but they normally make an appearance about every five years.



ZANESVILLE, OHIO ... picture taken by Ralph Ditter on November 13, 1966.



BERNINA ALPS ... picture taken in the summer of 1952 on the Swiss-Italian border.

Great balls of fire

UFO sightings are nothing new in New Zealand.

In fact, the first one occurred more than 120 years ago.

It was reported by a British colonel, St John who had just finished a hard day fighting the rebel Maori chief Te Kooti.

It occurred in the Ureweras. Wrote St John: "Just after dusk I heard a terrific hulla-balloo and rushed out of the where thinking there might

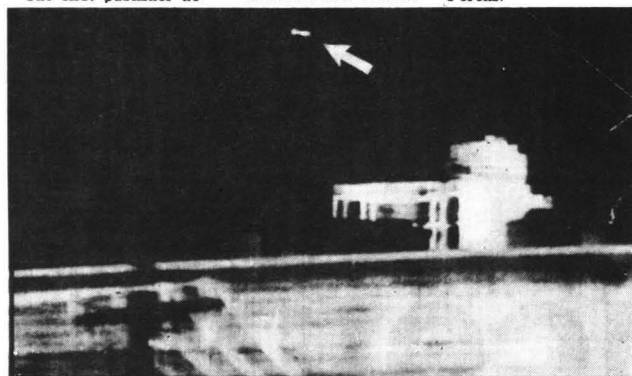
be some new Hauhan move."

Instead he found "the natives grovelling on the ground and singing lustily."

"Near the top of a wooded range a large ball of fire was slowly wending its way down the vale."

Some of the Maoris apparently thought it was one of Te Kooti's secret weapons and that it forecast disaster. It didn't.

St John's force of loyal Arawas went out next day and gave the rebel chief a sound thrashing.



BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA ... picture taken in July 1965.



BAHIA BLANCA, ARGENTINA ... picture taken in July 1965.



HAMILTON, NZ ... picture taken from the local motor camp on Christmas Day, 1960.

'UFO' over the Common

EXETER'S Ian Heaver got a terrible shock when he went for a quiet stroll on Woodbury Common with some friends early yesterday.

For up in the sky lurked a strange rectangular object with white and blue flashing lights.

"It was very weird, there was no sound at all and it stayed stationary for about two minutes so it can't have been a plane. It must have been a UFO," he said.

Mr Heaver and his friends were so unnerved by the extraordinary sight

that they got in his car and drove off right away. But now he is very keen to know exactly what was happening in the skies above Woodbury.

But a check with Exeter Airport has shed no light on the matter. A spokesman there said they had not noticed anything unusual in the skies early on Monday morning.

CR: T. Good

Out of the world

MEL Gibson tells of a disturbing UFO experience at his Beverly Hills home. He spotted strange sights in the night sky which came closer and closer until they were directly over his home. The tough-guy actor rushed to wake his wife and five children but by the time they had tumbled out of bed, the mysterious craft had gone. Wonder what they now think of him?

CR: T. Good

'Second sighting' of a UFO

A MAN has claimed the sighting of an unidentified flying object in the area, just 13 days after reports of a similar incident.

Mr Eric Bailey, of 92 Hillside, Stowmarket told the *Leader* that he saw a strange, bulky shape, just above some tree-tops as he travelled from Bury St Edmunds to Brandon.

A mystified Mr Bailey said: "I was driving along the road by the forest, about three miles outside Brandon, when this big, bulky shape passed across the road from the right to left in front of me. It was flying very low, just above the tree-tops.

My first reaction was that it was flying extremely low, more or less on top of the trees, for an aircraft. There were a lot of red and green lights on it and a great many small white ones. It struck me as very odd, and I thought it must be some type of strange helicopter.

But I'd never seen a helicopter that big. It seemed to be as big as my bungalow! The really odd thing about it was that there was no noise. I had the car window open at the time, and wound it down further to try to listen for any sound. But it was quite soundless."

By
Mary-Ann Hammond

Mr Bailey, who is in his 40's, explained that the incident occurred at about 7.55 pm as he made the journey to visit friends. He said that he makes the trip regularly once a week and has never seen anything like it in the past.

"I don't really believe in UFO's, so perhaps it was just some kind of plane. But then, I've never seen one that looked like that before. And — I hadn't just come out of the pub!" added a bemused, and rather amused Mr Bailey.

Another sighting of a UFO was claimed by 11-year-old Peter Topham of Fornham All Saints just 13 days prior to this incident. Peter, of Tut Hill, said he saw a UFO land in a field at the rear of his home.

Peter said the object had green, red and purple flashing lights.

The following day when he went to the field, he found sugar beet had an 80-metre wide ring which appeared to be scorched.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Dec. 11, 1988 CR: G. Conway

ODD SPOT

DUTTON, Ont. — There was smoke on the water and fire in the sky — but no nukes.

Two Ontario Provincial Police-men were patrolling near Lake Erie one night last week when out on the lake they saw a bright glow with smoke rising from it.

They phoned the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Trenton, Ont., to report a burning boat, but were told the glow was probably coming from the nuclear power plant in Perry, Ohio, across the lake.

The next day, Glenn Heffner, an official at the plant, had this reaction: "That's crazy. Our reactor wasn't glowing last night. Believe me, if it had been glowing, I would've known about it."

UFO visit?

BOLTON had a mysterious visitor last night.

An unidentified flying object hovered over the town before flying off towards Manchester, a number of callers told the BEN.

Mrs Marjorie Johnson of Grosvenor Street, Kearsley, said: "I could see this stationary object floating above Bolton.

Local ufologist Steve Balon is investigating.

Police officers are usually very reliable witnesses when dealing with day-to-day events. So can they be dismissed out of hand when they talk about seeing things from another world?

The testimony of police officers who believe that they have seen unidentified flying objects plays a big part in *Above Top Secret* by Timothy Good (Guild Publishing), which makes an interesting case for UFOs and examines the alleged attempts of governments to cover up their existence.

In a foreword, Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, writes: 'A large number of sightings have been vouched for by persons whose credentials seem to me to be unimpeachable. It is striking that so many have been trained observers, such as police officers.'

The book records the experiences of Sgt Tony Dodd and PC Alan Dale when on duty in Cononley, near Skipton, Yorkshire, in January 1978.

In Sergeant Dodd's own words: 'We were going down a country lane — it was dark. Suddenly the road in front of us lit up. We stopped the car, looked up, and there was this thing coming from our right to our left. It was glowing; like a bright white incandescent glow, and it came right over our heads.'

'It was as if the metal this thing was made of was white hot, and there were these three great spheres underneath, like huge ball-bearings — three of them equally placed around it. There was a hollow area underneath and like a skirt-



WHAT'S THIS?: Farmer Dick Jennings inspects a saucer found in a field near Chippenham, Wiltshire, watched over by a local officer

ing around the bottom, but these things protruded below that.

'It was absolutely awe-inspiring — it was such a beautiful looking thing. It seemed to have portholes round the dome — and what stood out more than anything else was the coloured lights dancing round on the outside of the skirt at the bottom, which gave the impression that it was rotating.

'We carried on along this road and as we got towards the village we could see

these lights coming towards us from the other direction — it was another police car. We stopped and the driver said: 'I've just been watching this damn great UFO and it seems to have come down somewhere over here.'"

During my own police service I can remember three incidents which were connected with UFOs. The first was when a woman reported that her neighbour had been raped. She went on to say that it was no ordinary rape as it had been committed by a Venusian. The man had just appeared in her neighbour's house, said that he had come in a space ship from Venus (and to prove it he plunged his hand into a pan of boiling water). He then had intercourse with her and she was unable to resist. A few weeks later a child had been born which, the woman said 'is obviously not human'.

I regret to say that, after making vague promises to investigate, I forgot the incident and failed to report it. (I hope now that the statute of limitations applies to disciplinary offences.)

As a sergeant I visited one of my constables in the early hours of the morning during what I think was 1967. He was pale and shaky and told me that he had just seen a flying saucer land and take off again in a nearby park. At his request I promised not to mention this to anyone and have not done so until now.

The strange thing was that the following day's newspapers carried a report of a strange object of the same description, observed and followed by two officers of the Cheshire Constabulary.

The last of my stories concerns a newspaper report of a UFO seen in the middle of the afternoon by a man who had drawn the attention of a police officer to it before ringing the press. The officer had carried on observing the unusual-looking object and it finally became clear that it was a large aircraft landing at the nearby airport. The officer contacted the newspaper to correct their report and was threatened with disciplinary action by his chief superintendent.

Returning to *Above Top Secret*, it is suggested that observers of UFOs are officially warned not to disclose the information. WPC Maureen Hall, who reported seeing a hexagonal-shaped object over Chingford, Essex, on September 20, 1978 is alleged to have been visited by a man from the Ministry of Defence and told to drop an investigation she was carrying out for the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association (BUFORA).

The book also relates the following stories involving the police:

On November 6, 1967, Karl Farlow was driving a truck between Avon and Sopley, in Hampshire, when he saw 'a glowing 15-foot wide egg-shaped UFO which moved slowly across the road from the right, moved slowly to the left, then accelerated and disappeared. The object made a sound like a refrigerator and gave off a smell like a drill boring through wood.' A veterinary surgeon driving in the opposite direction also saw this object and the lights on both vehicles failed.

Both drivers were taken to Bourne-mouth Police Station for interrogation and then to Christchurch Police Station for interview by a Ministry of Defence official. The following day Farlow was driven back to the scene by the police and saw a group of people investigating the area with instruments, a bulldozer levelling the ground and a man re-painting a telephone booth.

Glowing object

A report was sent to the MoD on December 27 1980 stating that two USAF security police patrolmen had seen unusual lights at RAF Woodbridge, near Ipswich, Suffolk. They found a glowing triangular metallic-looking object in the nearby forest. It was approximately two to three metres across and two metres high, and had a pulsating red light on top, a bank of blue lights underneath, and a white light on the front.

The object was either hovering or on legs and manoeuvred through the trees as they approached. This was apparently confirmed by DS8 branch of the MoD in a letter which was left with Thames Television, witnessed by Det Insp Norman Collinson. The television company later insisted that they did not have the letter and all copies have vanished.

Other reports claim that the object had crashed in Rendlesham Forest, that there 'were two bobbies there', and that before it took off again contact had been made with its crew. The Woodbridge police were notified and are said to have a logbook which shows that this incident occurred on the night of December 25/26. It is suggested that 'the police may have entered an incorrect day in their log-book'.

On November 29 1980, shortly after 5am in Todmorden, Yorkshire, a number of police officers independently reported a UFO in the area. PC Alan Godfrey claims that he came across what he at first thought was a bus which had slid across the road sideways. Then he realised the object was a UFO.

'It was about 20 feet wide and 14 feet high and was a diamond shaped. It had a bank of windows and the bottom half was rotating. It was hovering off the ground about five feet, and it was very frightening — very frightening'. His radio stopped working and he decided to sketch the object on his clipboard. The next minute he found himself a hundred yards down the road and there was no sign of the UFO. During hypnotic regression sessions, he told a story of having been taken on board the craft.

As Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton says, police officers are trained observers and possibly the mystery of UFOs could be explained by reliable reports of such sightings.

After all the recent UFO "sightings" reporter Keith Harris asks:

IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE?

WHAT did happen over Basildon on the night of Friday, September 23, 1988?

ET's made it home but if events on that night are anything to go by his friends could be making a return trip — and specifically to Essex.

All the signs are there. On that night alone more than 32 people contacted the East Anglian UFO hotline with reports of strange sightings.

Clusters of lights forming triangular shapes over parts of Basildon were repeatedly reported.

After two weeks more than 250 calls had been received about strange sights witnessed by people in the area.

UFO investigator Ron West, for one, believes there is

In fact the UFO hotline, based at Leiston, Suffolk, received so many calls it was able to build up a pattern to the sightings.

It was a clear, starry night and sighting that night were not confined to Basildon — they included Southend, Canvey, Billericay and Wickford.

Many times the lights darted and skipped erratically, crossing their own

paths at tremendous speeds.

So what are these strange orange lights, these black, diamond shapes and low humming sounds all about?

Sceptics put the sightings down to aeroplanes waiting for the go-ahead to land at Heathrow.

But UFO investigator Ron West, for one, reckons there's definitely "something out

there".

Such is his faith that he's more than a match for the sceptics who pooh-pooh the notion of little green men travelling billions of light years to visit Earth.

"There are times when there is stacking at Heathrow," admits the 57-year-old. "But aircraft are visible and have easily identifiable navigational lights."

What's more, the man who's spent the last 25



This photo was taken in Leiston, in 1979, by a professional photographer who claims he didn't know the object was on the film until it was developed. The photo is filed with Ron and Brenda.

Husband and wife saw bright light coming straight towards them

DEREK Burnett never believed in UFOs. But that was before his strange and frightening experience in Wickford's Memorial Park, near the end of July.

Derek, who owns a shop in Basildon's Eastgate Centre, was with his wife, Norma, taking their dog Ben for a walk at about 10.30pm.

Norma described the incident: "We both saw a light across the park, it looked like a torch but it was still and shining towards us."

"Then it came straight towards us, getting bigger and very bright, but it didn't shake or bump up and down, almost as if it was moving on rails."

"As it neared us, it seemed to be a lopsided triangle of three lights, very close together," said Norma.

Both Norma and Derek became frightened and hurriedly left for their home in Mount Close. But the episode hadn't ended.

□ □

"While we were in Highcliff Road two big balls of light, one orange and one white suddenly shot up above the houses, over the park," said Norma.

"The white ball floated towards the orange ball and turned orange," she added.

Then they left the two strange lights stationary over the rooftops.



Norma and Derek Burnett, with Ben, where they saw the mystery lights.

years studying reports of UFO sightings, reckons Essex lies under a "window" that's in some way visible to UFO occupants.

Together with fellow ufologist Brenda Butler, Ron believes this is where UFOs enter the Earth's atmosphere.

Backing their beliefs are a series of sightings in the Basildon area.

The most recent began on Friday, September 9 when black rectangular shapes with white and blue lights were seen over Pitsea for five minutes.

Basildon engineer Peter Aldridge of Clayburn Circle saw a "single, large, orange light" on the same night and at the same time heard a humming while out walking his dog at 10.30pm.

He watched it for a minute or two before the light split into two, came together again and then shot off "almost like the dot when you turn the television off" said the 41-year-old.

The following Saturday and Sunday, four separate callers reported a formation of yellow, red, orange and white lights moving quickly across the night sky and triangular shapes were also seen.

On Tuesday, September 13, a middle-aged Laindon woman out walking her dog saw a bright light in the sky.

There was no noise but it "travelled faster than any plane".

On September 23 John Haram of Leigh called the UFO hotline to report a formation of red, white and yellow lights over the sea.

Ron took the call in Clacton and, going outside, he could see three stationary white lights over Southend.

They were later joined by a red glow which followed a course out to sea and inland again before vanishing behind trees.

On September 26 a

REPORTS of UFOs go back thousands of years and occur around the world, though the modern UFOs came to the fore in the 1940s.

During World War 2, pilots of all nations reported being chased by bright objects. These came to be called foo fighters.

After the war British Intelligence discovered papers in Germany revealing the German's belief that foo fighters were a secret British weapon.

The British had suspected foo fighters as being a German secret weapon.

As for the great UFO mystery, often a subject of controversy and always one of covert interest, the questions remain as yet unanswered.

"One day we shall know the truth," say Brenda and Ron.

woman heard frightening, loud whirling noises over her house, went outside but became frightened. The same thing happened the following night.

Finally between 7.45 and 10.30pm on September 30 an observer in Basildon watched mysterious lights over the town.

And Brenda's fully behind Ron's theory of a "window" over Essex.

That coming from the woman who investigated the mystery crash at Rendlesham Wood near Woodbridge air base in Suffolk.

The incident was clouded in controversy as her book, UFO Crash, reveals.

Her involvement with UFOs forms just part of her researches into the paranormal which are

known far and wide including in the USA where she is referred to as Britain's number one "ghostbuster".

But it all stems from a "close encounter" at her father's farm near Aldringham in 1979.

'Two balls of light suddenly shot over the houses..'

ber 30 an observer in Basildon watched mysterious lights over the town.

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Father and daughter saw a bright light hover above fields and next day found the tops of trees burned and bark stripped away as if by intense heat.

Holes were found excavated in the vicinity.

Brenda claims the Ministry of Defence keep files on UFOs but deny such things exist.

In their investigations, Brenda and Ron adhere to a strict code of practice laid down by the British UFO society.

Sightings are listed by type: lit 1 is a light in the sky; lit 2 a clump of

lights; then there's the CEs, close encounters ranging from a distinct shape to a case of abduction by unknown beings.

Other cases of UFO involvement are associated with "dreams", claims Ron.

"We have heard of people who have 'dreamed' of strange events involving UFOs, being chased by them for instance," he said.

But the dreams are real and the dreamer simply believes he has dreamt, says Ron.

Others may laugh, or be genuinely interested, but the two ufologists run their agency with dedication and without funding other than from their own pockets.

"We will carry on getting as much information collated as possible. Eventually scientists are going to want such information and we believe this will be of use," said Ron, pointing to the thick piles of reports.

Ron and Brenda will sift through the many reports of sightings that reach them, choosing ones which seem more worth a visit to the observers and asking other people to send a written report.

Written reports which then warrant further investigation result in visits to the writers by the UFO investigators.

Both would like a grant so they can devote their energy full time to the project, but in the meantime they intend to continue the work by their own means.

They would like helpers prepared to be investigators, visiting people who have called the hotline and taking details from them.

They would also like contacts in local areas who wouldn't mind being called at often late hours to check on a possible sighting.

If you'd like to help, or have yourself seen a UFO, the hotline number to ring is 0728 830757.

Pilots in UFO light probe

UFO investigators are interviewing airline pilots whose jets were

bathed in mysterious light over South East Essex.

And members of the Essex branch of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association are also talking to others who have seen more triangular shapes.

Twelve people at Basildon have said they

made a video of a pyramid-shaped object.

BUFORA in Essex says the airline pilots caught in the light were at 12,000 and 30,000 feet. One was flying from Stansted to Belgium.

The sighting of triangular objects is fascinating investigators.

One seen over Leigh on Wednesday had red, green and blue lights and in another report, two triangular shapes moved towards each other, then separated.

A triangular object was also seen over Canvey on October 31 between 9.45 and 10.45pm.

BIGGLESWADE CHRONICLE, Bedfordshire, England

UFO spotted over town

ARE aliens spying on Biggleswade? It seems unlikely, but could be the explanation for a strange sight spotted over the town on Tuesday.

A woman in Beech Avenue spotted the

nothing unusual on its radar screens, and could only suggest that it might have been an airship.

Did you see anything unusual, if so contact the Chronicle newsdesk on Biggleswade 313479.

There must be a logical explanation, but I can't think of one. "RAF Henlow recorded

CAR'S FUSES BLOWN BY A UFO?

TAXI driver Duncan Brown sparked off some controversy after a Close Encounter of the electric kind blew four fuses in his car.

An unexplained bright orange flash travelling across the sky at speed knocked out the headlights on his car when Duncan, of Drumlemble, was travelling along the Moss Road near Rhoin Farm at six o'clock in the morning, after dropping off a fare.

Baffled at the flash of light, which lasted only a split second, and shocked at suddenly being plunged into total darkness, the taxi driver slammed on the brakes, hoping his car would stay on the road and that he wouldn't hit anything.

"I looked under the bonnet and found four fuses had blown," said Duncan. "Luckily, my hazard warning lights were still working, so I was able to drive home with them on, but had to go slowly as I could hardly see a thing."

Westport

"The light was a bright orange, and flashed across the sky from the direction of Westport towards Machrihanish. It travelled at some rate, going quite a distance in the second or so it lasted."

"I must say, I thought at first it was a bolt of lightning, but it was a fine, dry morning, and not the sort of weather you normally associate lightning with."

Later in the day, Duncan mentioned his strange experience to a US serviceman, who reported the bright light to the RAF base. He thought there may be a logical explanation. The light could have had something to do with aircraft taking off or landing at Machrihanish, or perhaps it had been a freak bolt of lightning, which would have been recorded by the base's Met office.

Enquiries, however, revealed nothing that could explain the bright orange flare in the sky.

Closed

"The Met office was manned that morning from five thirty onwards, and no electrical activity was recorded or forecast," said a spokesman. "The airfield was closed, so there was no traffic in or out."

"We can offer no explanation for this light."

Faced with this news, Duncan was nonplussed. "I don't believe in UFOs," he said. "I was sure the flash had been lightning, but I'm told lightning is never orange. With this news from the RAF base, I don't know what to think, now."

"This is the sort of thing people laugh about. All I know is, it happened."

Encounter of the close kind

A REPORT OF a "close encounter" by a 36-year-old West Wales motor mechanic is being investigated by the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Tony Silvestri thinks an unidentified flying object caused a brilliant light inside his car as he drove home from Lampeter to Ciliau Aeron with his wife and daughter.

"Gwendoline, my wife, and Alana, who is eight, were both scared stiff by it," said Mr

Silvestri who works for a motor accessory firm in Lampeter. "The whole interior of the car was lit up by a brilliant greenish light as we drove past the theatre at Felin Fach."

"It was so bright that I could not see through the windscreen or out of the windows. Fortunately it only lasted for a few seconds."

"It couldn't have been caused by the headlights of other cars because it was too bright and the wrong colour."

"I pulled up and stopped at the side of the road but could see

nothing that might have caused the strange light inside the car."

"Next day I gave the car a complete electrical check and there was nothing wrong with it. I didn't think there would be because the light was too brilliant to be caused by an electrical fault."

Yesterday Mr Silvestri was interviewed by Flight-Sergeant Dave Pengilly, the officer at RAF Brawdy in Pembrokeshire who checks all reports of UFO sightings.

"Each report of this kind is always investigated," he said. "I make checks and then pass it on to the powers that be in the Ministry of Defence who are now looking into this case."

Complaints about low flying aircraft are also dealt with by Flight-Sergeant Pengilly, since many low-flying exercises are operated from RAF Brawdy.

"We don't like unidentified things in our air space," he said. "We have to check that there is no threat to security too."

"We have only two or three UFO reports a year and most of them are explainable."

Strange

"For instance we had a report a few weeks ago from a lady who saw a bright orange light 60 feet above the ground near the M4 in the Carmarthen area. It turned out to be a hot-air balloon trying to land at dusk. But she was convinced it was a UFO and we will never convince her otherwise," he said.

"Strange lighting effects are often produced inside cars by sunroofs and in the case of Mr Silvestri the source of the light must have been external. But we are still looking into it."

Said Mr Silvestri, "My car has a sunroof but that doesn't explain where the brilliant green light came from. I travel along this stretch of road every night and I've never had anything like this happen before."

NORTHERN STAR, Liemore, N.S.W., Australia
Aug. 27, 1988 CR: VUFORS

Drake miners duck a colourful UFO

All that glittered was not gold for gold mine manager Lee Rossetti on Thursday night.

Mr Rossetti is in charge of the Mount Carrington mine at Drake, between Casino and Tenterfield.

As he and construction company manager Mike Goethel drove from Drake to Casino early that evening, they observed an unidentified flying object.

Mr Rossetti, with a scientific and engineering background, is a methodical man who keeps a diary.

He noted later in his records that he and his colleague had seen the object at 6.40 pm.

It appeared to be a whitish-yellow stationary light over Casino, about 1000 feet (304 metres) above the town.

"We were about five kilometres west of Casino when we first saw it and we watched it as we neared the town," he said.

"I stopped the vehicle to watch, and we saw it change shape and colour to an aqua-green ball and it shot up to between 2000 and 3000 feet (609 and 914 metres) and headed west-south-west towards Tenterfield."

Mr Rossetti and Mr Goethel reported the UFO to Casino police, but that was the only report received by the police about the incident.

When Mr Rossetti arrived at the mine yesterday morning, he found that his chief geologist, who lives at Drake, had also seen a bright light in the direction of Casino on Thursday night.

Close encounter

ONE fine summer's afternoon a seven-year-old girl had a close encounter in Halifax with a UFO which has haunted her life ever since.

Now Lorraine Clark is seeking help to throw light on an astonishing experience which is still as vivid as when it happened 21 years ago.

She was playing by herself near Wainhouse Tower when she saw a huge clear-shaped object hovering above some trees.

"It was like a metal airship but I could not see anybody in it or any windows," says Lorraine.

"There was no noise and I must have watched it for several minutes."

"Then it started moving and I waved and ran after it. I was not a bit frightened. I just felt disappointed and a bit mad at not being able to get any nearer to it. 'The object disappeared in a flash over Devil's Rock'."

There were some people near Wainhouse Tower who had been taking pictures and Lorraine thinks some of them must have seen the UFO.

Lorraine hurried home to Gar-side Street, King Cross, and told

her mother, Mrs Doreen Victor, what she had seen.

"She told me not to be silly and said I couldn't possibly have seen what I described."

She did not tell anyone at school in case they laughed at her. "If I had not seen it I would not have believed it."

She left Halifax when she was about 10 but she often thinks about that encounter.

Lorraine, of South Street, Oakenshaw, Bradford, has been back to King Cross to show her husband, Martin, where she saw the UFO.

In search of an explanation she wrote to Jenny Randles, Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association, after reading her latest book.

Jenny, of Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, wants to hear from people who saw the UFO near Wainhouse Tower and anyone who took a photograph of it.

Andy Roberts, of Elland Road, Brighouse, a freelance writer and lecturer with a special interest in UFOs would also like to hear from anyone who spotted this particular UFO.

Robin sights a large UFO

A NORTH DEVON businessman who had a brief sighting of a UFO is wondering whether anyone else has shared his experience.

Antique-shop owner Robin Westcott of High Street, Combe Martin, was driving with a friend to Barnstaple on Friday night at around 7.15pm when he spotted a triangular-shaped object in the sky, illuminated by an orange light.

"It all happened so quickly as we were driving along. My friend didn't see it as we were talking at the time, but I saw it clearly

above the top of the hedges — though only for two or three seconds."

"It was much brighter half-way down the two sides of the triangle and was on the Exmoor side of the road about half-way between Combe Martin and Barnstaple."

"It was difficult to see how large it was or how high in the sky. I waited to see it again as we drove along, but it had disappeared."

Mr Westcott says he is interested in the subject of UFOs but has never before seen one.

New UFO sighting is a puzzler

ANOTHER triangular-shaped UFO has been seen over South East Essex.

It was spotted by 14-year-old FitzWimarc schoolboy Kevin Laker above his house in Derwent Avenue, Rayleigh.

His mother Patricia said: "Kevin saw it about 5.30 on Wednesday night. He described it as a triangle with an extra

side which met at a point. There was a white light and a long red light."

"It didn't make a noise and went off in the Canvey direction."

Triangles are the latest shape in a series of UFOs spotted in the skies of South East Essex.

Did you see the bi-UFO?

UFO investigators want to speak to more witnesses who might have seen a mysterious blue light over South East Essex.

They already have an astonishing sighting by an engineer who was woken by a blue light that bathed his bedroom.

He thought it was a car's headlights but looked out to see a

craft about 1,000 to 2,000ft up coming towards his house.

The craft was round at the front and square at the back. He said a smaller craft detached itself from the parent and went off in a different direction.

A similar object was seen at Canvey.

If anyone else saw the light they are asked to contact the UFO hotline on 0728 830757.



Stalking the little green man

By Janet Ahmasuk

About two weeks before school started (Sept. 6) there was a rash of sighting and close encounters of little greenmen. The sites were on the Nome Beltz Road between Larry Smith's and Martinson's and toward Icy View. A number of the observations were between 2 and 3:00 a.m., some in broad daylight or toward sundown.

This reporter has been fascinated by first person accounts and one set of pictures, so far.

Almost everyone I listened to said the little guys could run fast—something like a story I used to read to my kids where "they ran past—they ran past fast."

The night encounters were described as having an aqua glow around them, but the body could change colors from silver to black but still retain a blue-green aura that glowed. The daytime observers did not mention color but saw a small slim dark figure running fast across the road and then

disappear—no glow on them (like a hologram).

These sightings have sparked all kinds of debate on whether they are isirizaqs. (if a got) Practically every child in Nome has been (or will be if he lives here long enough) scared by an isirizaq story. (As I was writing this I realized I didn't know how to spell isirizaq, so I called Lela Oman for the correct spelling. She has written several books on Eskimo legends. She also told me about Invaqalik—legendary little people who came down the earth to hunt from outer space.)

Indeed local legends and Eskimo lore are replete with stories of little people and little green men. The fact is—the idea that none of this exists is of more recent origin (during the last 100 years or so) than is acceptance of the little (green) man—the stories of which have come down through the centuries.

I have heard little green men stories for as long as I've lived here from reindeer herders, miners, highway camp workers,

village folks, folks that have lived here a long time, and those that just moved here and wouldn't know an isirizaq or an inuaqalik if they shook hands with him.

Stories come from knowledge—

able people and also folks that are in no shape to be knowledgeable. They seem to be part of the as yet unexplained phenomena of this area. Some

of us accept the little fellas and to others it all makes about as much sense as the Jolly Green Giant and Puff the Magic Dragon.

Next week a closer focus of the little green men.

NUGGET, Nome, AK - Sept. 29, 1988

BANNER, Bedford, KY - Feb. 2, 1989 CR: M. Hall

Strange beast tales abounded here

Reports of a strange beast, a gorilla or a big bear abounded in Trimble County in the early sixties. As mentioned in a column last week, the "Thing" as it was called locally was last reported in August, 1962. It was more often described as gorilla-like than anything else.

However, more reports state that the beast was sighted as late as 1977 or 1978.

Steve Jackson, a resident of Mt. Pleasant, has made something of a study of the Thing, after two close encounters with it. "It got my curiosity up," he explained.

Jackson says that in telling others about his experience, several have told him about their own encounters. It was 1962 when he and his sister came close to something that let out a terrible growl, worse than anything they'd ever heard and louder than any usual animal. He was six at the time.

About ten years later, Jackson and a friend were hiking near an area close to the river where they knew a hidden cave to be. "Something had been killing hogs there. The blood was running over the cliff," Jackson said. The cave is up high on a river bluff. When the two got closer, they heard a low growl. One of them threw a rock up to the top and the thing took off in a 20-foot bound. It was crashing over the steep bluff.

The hogs were lying around with their middle parts and entrails exposed. "The strange thing about it was the cows had run off to the barn and the birds had stopped singing. We found a track that had a narrow heel and long toes," Jackson recalled. A local farmer told him he had lost hogs at a rate of two or three a week at about that time.

Two girls, Teresa Wise and Elaine McCutchen saw the thing at night in about 1977 or '78. They were living in a subdivision on Ky. 1492 and told Jackson they saw it standing in some cattails. "They were walking one moonlit night in October. They had some beagles with them that started acting funny. They said it was about six feet tall and had green eyes."

A bunch of local boys were camping one night on Corn Creek when a thing ran them off. "They seen it under a streetlamp. It was like it was trying to scare them," Jackson said.

"People don't like to talk about it much anymore," he said, adding that some people still think it was all a hoax. "There was definitely something that shouldn't be around these parts," he said.



Becky Jackson

Editor

He's been back several times to the cave and hasn't seen anything or heard anything since. He wonders if the thing may have died or left the country.

In about 1980, Jackson said he was in a little town of Rabbit Hash, Ky., and stopped in a store where the storekeeper pointed out a newspaper article about "a gorilla-like thing that was going around shaking trailers so hard the dishes would break." The people there were scared. He said he made a point to stop back by there again. That time things had calmed down enough to where they told him that the police had determined it to be a bear.

Another strange occurrence witnessed by Jackson was the head of a calf found along Mr. Pleasant one snow-covered day. Something had carried the body off, leaving partially-covered footprints up the roadbank and through the fields.

One night in the mid-seventies, two boys were parked along the gravel road near the top of the Bedford hill near the phone building when an inquisitive paw reached in the window. The gray-colored paw seemed to be reaching for the dashlights, but they didn't stick around to find out.

As reported in "Mysterious America," and other books about unusual creatures, descriptions of an ape-like being are remarkably similar, even though the sightings are thousands of miles away from each other. American Indians must have had similar experiences. Their legends include "Giant Indian" sightings and drawings by Indians exist from centuries earlier.

Despite all the footprints, sightings and sounds recorded, no remains or artifacts have ever been found. A blurry picture, blurry film footage and recordings of a horrible sounding growl are all that exist.

BANNER, Bedford, KY - Jan. 26, 1989 CR: M. Hall

Mythic legend of 'The Thing' noted in national books

The legend of 'The Thing' who supposedly turned up in Trimble County in 1962 is noted in several books about strange or unusual phenomena.

For a long time I hadn't thought about the legend of the man-like beast that was sighted along the creekbottoms of rural Trimble County. I had been told by former newspaper editor and Judge Jack Greenwood that it was a made up story. Recent research might make us take another look at the possibility of an unexplained "thing" that several local people claimed to have actually seen.

A couple of weeks ago, out of the blue, I got a phone call from Mark A. Hall, Bloomington, Minnesota. Hall is an author and a forteen, someone who investigates the unexplained wonders of the world.

Hall wanted to know if, after all these years, there had been any "movement" cited from any more strange beasts, locally. He has a new book available, "Thunderbirds," the living legend of giant birds. When I noted that stories of The Thing could have been a hoax, Hall disagreed. He said the "North American Ape" had been reported all over the south. He promised to send a book on the subject.

Last week, I received "Mysterious America" by Loren Coleman. The book is dedicated to Hall and another forteen Jerome Clark, friends of Coleman.

In Chapter 15, it notes that "In 1962 farmer Owen Powell of Trimble County, Kentucky, spotted what he called a 'gorilla,' about six feet tall, black, walking on its hind legs and having front legs or arms hanging down to its knees."

The book points out that apes exist in Southern Asia and tropical



Becky Jackson

Editor

Africa. These primates, which tend to have man-like characteristics, do not travel in an upright posture. But the North American ape seems to have this ability. It's other characteristics include the ability to swim, turning gray with age, usually having green eyes and possessing a strong, musky or skunklike odor.

These beasts are so like humans, and appear so out of place in our world that people who have seen them never forget the experience.

Reports of the legendary "thing" started turning up in the Trimble Banner June 7, 1962. It left footprints at the Delph Estes place. The tracks looked like handprints but the thing ripped up all the canvas on the plantbeds.

Then on June 2, the newspaper reported "There is something definitely very unusual in those 2-3000 acres sprawling over the southwest part of the county." Big tracks were discovered, too huge to have been made by people.

At this point, someone actually came face to face with it. Byrd Varble stated the thing looked

human. He said he had come within ten feet of it. He was going to take a shot at it but "I don't know whether I'd want to harm it or not," he was quoted, because it seemed so human. He said it "had a special way of looking at one," that it was black haired mostly all over, except from its eyes up over its head where the hair was "red-like."

On June 16, a Civil defense team from Louisville searched the area with five trained German Shepherds along with State Police units, the sheriff (Curt Clem), Abe Kemp and Owen Powell.

Later in June, two motorists from Richmond told Roy Burrows at the Bedford Garage that they had seen the thing walk across the road in front of their car in the area of Milton Elementary.

Later in the summer, some calves were brutally slashed in a barn and the thing was blamed for it. Several coarse, black hairs had been found on a window of the barn. Up until this incident, the beast had been peaceable.

Reports of Sesquatch men have indicated that these creatures are chiefly vegetarians, living in families when possible and avoid human contact, occasionally, a lone male will venture forth seeking relief from loneliness.

The next, and as far as we know, the last report of The Thing was in August, 1962. Its tracks showed up down on Poplar Ridge and Mt. Pleasant, according to a report by Oather Lynch. Mr. Lynch said that Oscar Wise and Cleston Rowlett had seen where it had walked around a tobacco patch, leaving large, deep tracks despite the hard ground.

It appeared to have been walking on two feet.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 2, 1989 CR: G. Conway

Judge swears 'sea monster' was for real

By DON HAUKA
Staff Reporter

Larry Eckardt swears he was sober as a judge when he spotted a sea serpent yesterday.

The retired provincial court judge says he saw a real leviathan swimming in Boundary Bay in front of his Tsawwassen home.

"I could hardly believe what I was seeing," said Eckardt, 83. "I've been so nervous and excited I didn't eat all morning."

Eckardt was staring out his window at 11 a.m. when he saw "something snakelike" swimming offshore.

He raced to the seawall to get a better look and observed "a sort of green creature with what looked like moss on its head" writhing in the surf.

Eckardt shouted to his wife to get a camera, then tore off his boots and lunged out into the freezing water after the mysterious monster.

But he didn't catch it and she didn't get a snap.

"It was about 20 feet (six metres) long and 12 inches (30 cm) thick," said Eckardt. "It reminded me of a snake but it was moving up and down instead of side-to-side."

Then, with a bob of its hump, the beast headed east toward White Rock.

As for Eckardt, he plans to take a vacation in Mexico. "I need one," he laughed. "I used to think people who reported seeing the Loch Ness monster were nuts but I believe them now."

Stalking the little green men

NUGGET, Nome, AK - Oct. 6, 1988

Part II

By Janet Ahmasuk

The encounters with the little green men started on or about August 24, on the Nome-Beltz road between the Larry Smith-hisler residence and Icy View.

The entities were observed at close range over a period of five separate nights by more than a dozen local citizens.

The first sightings were by some teenagers out for a drive on the Beltz road after work at Flag Stop. It was approximately 2:00 p.m. They noticed a glow in the rear view mirror as they headed toward Icy View.

The strangeness of it prompted them to turn around and head back toward town. As they drew near the figure, a couple of the guys said their first thought was that it was a lady was on the road walking toward Nome—because they could see legs and feet walking.

Their eyes almost bugged out of their head when they finally realized the whole body had a greenish luminescence and was walking somewhat off the center of the road.

When they pulled up behind it the little green man starting running fast. He was between two and three feet high and appeared somewhat transparent sort of like a hologram. Yet as he ran the boys could see that he possessed a well developed muscular structure like a trained athlete's broad shoulders, and muscular legs.

The kids speeded up the car and clocked the little fella at between 40 and 50 mph, they went past it and in the process ran over it, but they felt no bump or thud. He seemed to float out.

The kids got scared at that point and floored it into town. They picked up friends and co-workers for reinforcements and also to shore up their shaken nerves. Then they went back out there.

The little green man was not where they left him when they ran over him. He was farther up the road toward Martinson's and standing on the side of the road. At that point, the folks who were picked up in town saw him. They stopped and watched. The thing turned from green to silver before their eyes. Every once in a while his feet got darker.

A couple of the boys left the car and started chasing it on foot. The luminescent entity ran off the road, but had not gone far when it turned on the kids and chased them back to their car. It was then that its red eyes were noticed.

The only sound that it made was a sort of dry whistling hiss. There was not a total agreement among the observers on the sound or lack of largely due the fact that by this time most were slightly hysterical.

Everybody made it back into the car, no one else wanted to get out. The little man went somewhere and the carload of folks went back to town.

The second night the observation of one little green man was between 2 and 3 a.m. approximately the same place as the previous night. (This time they (the same group as the previous night), brought the KNOM station manager and engineer with them—plus some other folks.

There were at least three cars out there. One car ran over the little green man. This was observed by the others. It

seemed they said, as if the car ran through him.

The adult witnessed said they couldn't see as much detail on the small figure as the kids could. Indeed, it seemed from the people interviewed that the older a person was the less detail they could see, even though one adult ran his car over the little green

man and was as close as the kids to the glowing figure.

By the third night, a regular rendezvous was established, three little green men were observed between 2-3 a.m. This time one turned silver, one turned black, and one remained green. Even though the color

changed on two of them, some people described the retention of a bluish-green aura.

On the fourth night there was a whole bunch of people at 1:00 a.m. on that same stretch of road. Nothing, but at 2:30 a.m. the little green men made their

appearance. One silver, one black, and one blue-green.

The fifth night at 2:00 a.m. two little men both green appeared to be dancing on the road.

The sixth night nothing—no green men. Folks waited and watched to no avail.

The first three nights were clear and visibility excellent. The fourth night there was a light mist or rain shower for a short time but visibility was good. The fifth night there were clouds but no fog. The sixth night was raining.

Some people observed them all five nights. Some observers never left their cars. Some did. No one described a mouth or a nose. Most descriptions of the night sighting/encounters were the same. A bluish green entity that gave the impression of an outline with an aura. The color could change from green to silver to black and they could run frightfully fast.

No other odd occurrences were seen. They weren't seen taking anything. Dogs were barking and cats prowled the area after the entities left.

Among the people, interviewed were the following: Karl W. Ichoak, Bubba Fagerstrom, Alice Montanez, Harvey Farley, Austin Ahmasuk, Joe Davis, Betty Ann Michaels, Rev. Bill Brooks.

GAZETTE-TIMES, Corvallis, OR - Jan. 17, 1989 CR: J. Deardorff

Couple fears cult in killing of horse

AUMSVILLE, Ore. (AP) — A couple whose prized Arabian stallion was slaughtered and mutilated say they're moving because they fear the possibility that a satanic cult was behind it.

"We love Aumsville. But we can't stay here," said Carey Starzinger. "I'm in total disbelief. We've never been involved in anything satanic. We don't even watch scary movies — they upset us too much."

On Saturday, Starzinger and his wife, Nikki, found the body of their 2-year-old Arabian stallion, Rapid Success. The horse's blood had been drained from his body and taken away, his genitals were surgically removed and a plucked chicken lay near its head.

"It scared the bejesus out of us," said Starzinger, 44, a computer repairman for the state government.

The horse was last seen alive on Friday — the 13th — in the field on the couple's five-acre farm. The rural area is about 10 miles southeast of Salem.

Deputy Vincent Wan of the Marion County sheriff's office is investigating the case as criminal mischief and burglary.

The Starzingers say they aren't taking a chance that something else could happen, and they're keeping a loaded shotgun by their bed.

"Nikki's frightened every time she hears a sound," Starzinger said. "We can't go out and find anything like this again."

TIMES-CRESCENT, La Plata, MD - Oct. 26, 1988 CR: M. Opsasnick

The official state beast?

Monstrous sightings, including 2 in the county, turn skeptics into believers

BY MICHELLE DENNEY

It was a gray, rainy morning in the fall of 1976 when Francine Abell, en route to work, pulled onto the Route 198 exit into Laurel.

Suddenly, about 70 feet ahead of her car, she saw something climb over the guardrail. She thought it was a hitchhiker.

At first,

"When I got closer, I realized that it wasn't a person," Abell said. "I was leaning forward over my steering wheel. When it came into my lane, it stopped and turned to face me."

What Abell saw the next 30 to 45 seconds she later described as a creature about 7 feet tall, olive green or brown in color, that stood swaying from side to side as it stared at her.

"I thought, *oh my God, whatever it is it doesn't know what I am*. Then the realization was—that's not anything human," Abell said. "It made me shudder and grip the steering wheel with all my might."

After a few moments, the creature turned and "galloped" back to the guardrail, jumped over it, and disappeared.

Shaken, Abell went to work. When her co-workers heard what happened, they encouraged her to call the police.

"I asked if any circus animals were loose, like a gorilla or a big ape," Abell said. I said, "I saw this big hairy thing."

Abell decided not to pursue the matter, however. "I didn't want the police putting out an all-points bulletin on me," she said.

At the time, Abell has no name for the creature she saw that morning 12 years ago. This year, however, she joined the list of one of the 250 people in the state who believe they have seen Bigfoot.

Mark Opsasnick, the leader of the Bigfoot Information Project, is a converted skeptic who founded his network in January to gather reports of Bigfoot and ape-like entities sighted in Maryland and other Eastern states.

"I am convinced that [Bigfoot] does exist," Opsasnick said. "Some people put it into the realm of the lunatic fringe with ghosts...It's just an animal that hasn't been found."

Since founding his network, Opsasnick has worked with associated organizations around the country to accumulate information on the creature.

"The main goal of this would be to increase public awareness. I'm not trying to convince anyone of this," Opsasnick said. "We're trying to get the message out that it's an endangered species and should be protected."

Although a believer in Bigfoot, Opsasnick approaches reported sightings with skepticism, questioning reports from second-hand sources or eyewitnesses who claim numerous sightings. He recently investigated reports of an unknown beast in the Clinton area, which was first sighted Oct. 14. Police now say the creature may be a mountain lion or lost dog.

"It's sort of stirred a monster-mania down there...people see something that isn't indigenous to the area," Opsasnick said.

The last valid reported sighting was in December 1982, in Edgewood, according to Opsasnick, who doesn't believe the creatures

have an established population in Maryland.

"With all the deerhunters, hikers...there would be reported sightings everyday," Opsasnick said. The majority of sightings he has documented occurred between 1973 and 1979 in Baltimore, Carroll and Harford Counties.

Jim Holthaus, a police officer in Baltimore County, sighted Bigfoot one night in 1976 while on a stake-out to investigate numerous reports of the creature in the area.

"We [Holthaus and another officer] saw something down there that night," Holthaus said. "It was big, hairy, hunched over, and it was pushing over garbage cans. It stunk, like sulfur or something."

Holthaus said that in addition to reports from citizens of the area, other officers claimed to have sighted the creature.

"I told the other guys, if you ain't saying nothing, I ain't saying nothing," Holthaus said.

Although sightings of Bigfoot have been reported in every state except Rhode Island and Hawaii, the majority have occurred in the Pacific Northwest, according to Opsasnick, who said he shares information gathered in Maryland with contacts around the country as well as on other continents.

"They've been sighted on all continents, in every country. It's universal," Opsasnick said.

Opsasnick believes there are fewer than six in the Eastern U.S., and that those that exist are on the verge of extinction. Today the heaviest activity is being reported in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio.

Charles County has had two reports of Bigfoot sightings. A privately published magazine called "Believe It" reported in November 1978 that there was a large creature roaming the Nanjemoy area during the summer of 1963.

The article said the beast was sighted by a farmer in a truck, and later by two fishermen in a boat.

The Piscataway Indians in Southern Maryland worshipped an evil spirit which they called "Okee." Opsasnick said nobody today knows what Okee stands for, but that the Indians believed this spirit could take many different shapes, and was frequently referred to as an animal-type entity. The belief is similar to legends of "Sasquatch," a name given for "the wild man of the woods," which was believed by Indians of the Pacific Northwest to be an evil spirit.

Physical evidence for the creature—originally dubbed Bigfoot from the inexplicably-large footprints often found near sightings—includes casts taken of the footprints, and limited film of the beast.

Opsasnick has seen 28 casts of footprints found of the creature in Maryland. He said footprints found in the Eastern states have been of a three-toed creature, in contrast to the five-toed footprints found in other parts of the country.

One cast, Opsasnick said, showed a three-toed foot 17.5 inches long by 6.5 inches wide.

One individual in this state claims to have the creature on videotape, Opsasnick said. The man said he was sitting in a truck in Patapsco State Park when a creature walked in front of the truck, stood there for several seconds, and walked away.

"The tape is very blurry. You see a dark black form and its in view for one or two seconds," Opsasnick said. "There's no possible way I could conclude that that was Bigfoot."

Differing opinions exist as to what Bigfoot really is, but Opsasnick believes it is an ape and human-descent mixture. "I lean towards it being more animal-like," he said. "Nobody will really know until one is caught."

To this date no corpse of the creature has been found to prove the existence of Bigfoot once and for all. To 250 persons in Maryland, however, seeing is believing.

Numerous Local Sightings Pose Question:

Does Bigfoot roam Tri-County area??

By Jim Joyner

What secrets lurk along the dark, wooded banks of the Patuxent River? What mysteries roam in the tender fields of the Beltsville Agricultural Center, or around the stark desolation of the Rocky Gorge?

Certainly there is wild life - fish and fowl and hooved creatures call these habitats their home. But are there, too, creatures of inhuman proportions? Fearful giants, perhaps, whose existence thrives on seclusion, and whose only encounters with humans are chance meetings in twilight hours?

• On Jan. 15 of this year, a 30-year-old Scaggsville resident says he spied a hairy, 9-foot-tall creature in his back yard near the intersection of Harding Road and Scaggsville Road. The beast ran away, disappearing into the area of the Rocky Gorge Reservoir.

Alone, of course, the Scaggsville incident in January could be dismissed as a visual error, or even attributed to a post-New Year's party. But it was, in fact, the latest of more than 250 such encounters that have been recorded in Maryland since the early 1900s - including a dozen in the immediate area since 1973 - of what is referred to as the 'Maryland Bigfoot' species.

• At 6:30 a.m. on a rainy morning in the Fall of 1976, 23-year-old Francine Abell saw a huge gorilla-like creature walk in front of her car on the exit ramp from Route 198 onto southbound I-95. The creature was round-shouldered, covered with greyish-brown fur, and its eyes reflected red in her headlights. As her car approached, the creature stepped over the guard rail and ran into the woods.

For Mark Opsasnick, an interviewer with the Prince George's Co. Government, sightings of the Maryland



Illustration By Martin Drake for the Free-Press

Bigfoot are taken very seriously. The 25-year-old Opsasnick says he has been interested in unexplained phenomenon since he was a child and became active in the hunt a few years ago after meeting Robert Chance, a teacher who actively

sought the creatures in Harford County where dozens of sightings were made between 1975 and 1982. Chance's exploits with the Bigfoot species included an incident where one of the creatures reportedly began throwing

boulders at him and other hikers along a trail. At another encounter, Chance retrieved a three-toed, 17" x 6.5" print from one of the beasts' tracks.

Chance no longer actively pursues the Bigfoot creatures, opting instead to teach high school ecology, but Opsasnick picked up the torch in January of 1985, and says, "pretty soon I had so much information I had to start organizing it somehow."

• On Nov. 14, 1978, a Bigfoot creature was seen by several workers near the Laurel landfill at Routes 198 and 197 rummaging through some garbage at about 6:30 a.m. During the late summer and early fall of 1978, several sightings were recorded, including a group of Pallotti High School students that saw a creature near the Rocky Gorge Reservoir; and a sighting in an area thought to be near Brown's Corner. That period also recorded one of the most noted local sightings:

• In 1978 in the Batson Road area, Martha Kelley reported that her son and a friend saw a large, hairy creature with long arms and no neck on the banks of the Patuxent River. Sometime later her son saw the creature again, and this time made a mold of its footprint, which had four toes and measured more than 13 inches long and five inches wide.

Opsasnick works from newspaper clippings, library vertical files, the University of Maryland's Folklore Archives; and with a national network of researchers studying such mysteries - there are Bigfoot sightings on record in every state except Rhode Island and Hawaii.

Last year he published "The Maryland Bigfoot Reference Guide," a booklet explaining some of the research to date and also providing capsule accounts of the state's Bigfoot sightings. With some assistance from Rockville

accounts is that the Bigfoot species is covered with hair, generally brown or greyish, and walk erect. Tracking the sightings in chronological order, Opsasnick says that the creatures are apparently quite migratory, as the incidents seem to have followed a path from southern to northern Maryland.

Despite the area's large population, Opsasnick says Bigfoot has plenty of places to live in anonymity, particularly since 40 percent of the state is covered by open forest land and more than 80 percent of Maryland's human inhabitants live in urban areas, "certainly providing enough room for a number of unidentified species to hide," says Opsasnick.

August, 1982 - In the area of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, a 'gorilla-type' animal was seen running into a corn field. County police investigated, but found nothing. Calls were also received by police about strange nocturnal screams emanating from this same area. Other sightings in the 1980s were recorded in Beltsville by the Christian Brothers Seminary; in Ashton on Olney-Sandy Spring Road; and in Laurel by a group hunting rabbits.

Almost all of the local sightings occurred in the mid-to-late 1970s and early 1980s, a time period that accounts for about half of the state's total reports. Opsasnick believes it was during this period that the species was on the move from areas being developed, and that the migration continued northward in later years to the point that active areas for sightings are now in the western Pennsylvania and northern Ohio areas. Although he doesn't completely rule out the possibility of a few creatures still in the area Opsasnick is doubtful of a local population.

"I don't think Maryland could hold a steady population, and unfortunately I think they're on the verge of extinction. I don't have much faith in the sightings after 1980; there's been so much tearing up of the Washington area that it's hard to imagine them still being out there. But 15 years ago, it was another story."

Sources: Interview with Mark Opsasnick; plus entries from his booklet, "The Maryland Bigfoot Reference Guide."

This 'n' That

By JOHN D. RASMUSSEN, Jersey Shore Editor

Thunderbirds back?

Well, they haven't, according to several reliable authors, ever really gone away! ... The thunderbird phenomena in this north central part of the Keystone State seemed to be reaching a peak in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but that is not to say that there were no sightings of these supposedly mythical flying creatures before that period and after ... For several years, we documented, wrote about, and exchanged information with other thunderbird aficionados, such as the late Robert R. Lyman, Sr., of Coudersport, who detailed a number of sightings both in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the nation in his books on Black Forest legends ... Now, TnT has been made aware author Mark A. Hall, up in Minnesota, has a new book he calls "Thunderbirds, the Living Legend of Giant Birds" ... Hall asks us to "explore the legendary menace and the historical record in the little-known world of giant predatory birds alive today" ... The volume by Hall, 9215 Nicollet South, 104, Bloomington, Minnesota, 55420, includes (1) the thunderbird legend; (2) the big birds in today's headlines; (3) giant owls and monster birds from around the world.

Many in area

The late R. R. Lyman incorporated in his book, "Strange Indeed - Strange Events in the Black Forest" much of the evidence of thunderbirds compiled by TnT with the help of the late Clyde and Anna Mincer, who lived in the 500 block, South Broad Street, Jersey Shore ... Lyman said the sightings of modern thunderbirds seemed to be concentrated in an area bounded by the Black Forest in the north; the Susquehanna River to the south; Kettle Creek to the west, and Pine Creek to the east - although TnT had a number of sightings from

researcher Mark Chorvinsky, Opsasnick has formed the Bigfoot Information Project, a privately-funded clearinghouse for Bigfoot data. Persons who wish to inquire about the project or submit new sightings should write to Opsasnick at 114 Rosewood Drive, Greenbelt, 20770.

• In March of 1977, a NASA employee on his way to work in the early morning reported seeing a huge, dark, hair-covered creature fighting with a dog in the area where I-95 passes under Powder Mill Road in Calverton. The dog persisted in his attack, and the creature finally picked him up, threw him aside, and walked off into the woods.

There are many theories as to what the Bigfoot creatures are and where they came from, some based on logical hypothesis and others myths and folklore. "Science doesn't accept them as actual creatures, but my guess is that they're direct descendants of apes or man," said Opsasnick.

The general consensus in most of the eyewitness

Larry's Creek Valley east to the Newberry section of Williamsport ... Memorable is this Lyman report and its implications: "A Lock Haven man and his wife (not identified) have a camp along the Carrier Road, Robbins Run area. They say they have been seeing huge birds there for the past 10 years (to TnT this would mean the early 1960s to the early 1970s). One day as they were riding in their car they saw one of these birds coming straight for the car. She screamed, 'It's going to pick up the car or smash the windshield!' It swooped down and snatched a dead woodchuck from in front of the car with one claw. She said the claw was 4 times larger than her hand, and its legs as large as her arm. These people say these birds soar very high in the sky" which lets Lyman close with this observation: "These people say these birds soar very high in the sky with a cry like a child's scream. They appear to become active just before a thunderstorm. Perhaps this is a clue as to why they are called thunderbirds?" ... This is probably something more than just perhaps!

