

# UFO

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CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH  
ROD B. DYKE

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McCURTAIN DAILY GAZETTE, Idabel, OK - Jan. 6, 1989

#### Skywatchers Say

## Something's Out There

On clear, cold nights in December and January, people often will see more stars, shooting stars and airplanes than they can see at other times of the year.

But several McCurtain County residents say some of the things they've seen in the night skies recently don't look or behave like stars. And it wasn't as though they were looking for them, either.

Several such sightings have been reported in the Redland area, east of Idabel.

One night (actually early morning) Wilburn Dollarhide was traveling from his home in east Idabel toward Redland when he saw a large glowing light to his right, about a mile east of Mud Creek. Low in the horizon, the bright light appeared to be about the size of a satellite dish.

Dollarhide told his wife, Bobbie, later that it remained close and moved in parallel with him as he drove east past Redland Store to pick up a fellow worker.

Heading south from Redland, enroute to Douglasville, Texas, where Dollarhide was working as a timber clearing contractor, the object seemed to move in the same, or parallel, direction as Dollarhide's car.

Dollarhide told his wife the object — or whatever it was — appeared to be following him all the way to the work site, and could even be seen for awhile there after daybreak.

Other sightings of bright lights that were not readily identifiable, seen in the Redland area, were reported to the *Gazette* but the reporting persons didn't want their names to be used.

One was described as a bright red light that would go on and off, would move side to side and up and down, and made no noise.

This sighting, also by more than one person, was in the northern part of Redland community, near Little River.

Both incidents have been within the past two weeks.

A late October report of a different

type of bright light — possibly an extremely bright shooting star — comes from County Commissioner Aubrey Thompson.

Thompson said that he was on old Highway 21 between Haworth and U.S. 259, about 2 1/2 to 3 miles southeast of Haworth, when something bright lit up the sky "right over me."

The brightness, enough to light up the inside of the cab in which he and his wife were riding, remained only a few seconds. Immediately after the brightness effect, Thompson's wife saw something moving south to north. "She thought it had green, red and white colors to it."

Some other sightings that have been reported to the *Gazette* by reliable persons include a cylindrical beam of bright light, going up into the sky and stopping (in the Eagletown area); a nighttime sighting 10 miles north of Foreman, and a daytime sighting around noon south of Foreman.

Most of these sightings have come within the past month.

## Foreman Sightings Occurred Year Ago

It was almost one year ago that sightings of bright, glowing or pulsating objects around Foreman, Ark., were initially reported in the *McCurtain Gazette* and *Little River News*.

These reports drew widespread publicity, broad speculation and throngs of spectators driving into the southwest Little River County rural area in hopes of seeing a "real UFO."

Actually, those sightings began earlier than Jan. 19, the date that three Foreman area women reported being pursued by a huge orange object, with lights pulsating other colors as well.

That incident and later reported "strange encounters" were experiences that residents of that area south of Foreman (around Wallace community) haven't forgotten.

While the interest that peaked at that time has waned, remaining "regulars" in the (unofficial) Little River County Night Sky Watching Corps attempt to be as scientific as possible as they set up their observation posts to watch the skies on clear winter evenings.

They use compass readings, binoculars, cameras and telescopes, make detailed notes on everything they see, when and where seen, and enlist the help of professional astronomers and physicists to try to check out every plausible explanation before labeling what they have seen as UFOs (unidentified flying objects).

Within the past several weeks, a number of McCurtain County residents, some in the rural area near Redland have seen objects exhibiting similar characteristics to those seen around Foreman. Also a few sightings have been made both south and north of Foreman within the past four weeks.

The most common traits are (1) glowing or pulsating appearance; (2) hovering not far above the horizon; (3) exhibiting both vertical and horizontal movements; (4) unusual traits not usually identified with stars and planets such as larger and lower than normal, erratic movements, lights appearing to appear and reappear (sometimes reappearing some distance from where initially seen), and (5) no sound detected in association with the objects.

These are standard characteristics in UFO reports worldwide, generally seen in waves of sightings in the United States and other countries for a century or more. And although scientists frequently attribute most to explainable natural phenomena, some cases don't lend themselves so easily to being explained away.

Bob Taaffe, who is one of those who investigated the night sky sightings around Foreman last year, believes that at least some in that series of sightings last January are yet to be adequately explained.

But he and others are trying their best to find explanations.

"We try to be so conservative in everything we see and report and talk about. If it's really something unusual, we check out every possibility."

"We have scientists working with us that if we give them the information, they check it out."

"Several reports of lights seen recently are being checked out. We're trying to come up with something. One thing we're looking into is how far away the lumens of airplane landing lights can be seen."

Reports have come from both the southwest Little River County area in Arkansas and the McCurtain County area in Oklahoma.

However, Taaffe says there has been nothing he knows of reported that is comparable with the more spectacular sightings around Foreman last January.

The publicity attending those sightings brought all types of "reviews" — ranging from a sensational tabloid article that made witnesses to seem ridiculous, to an in-depth report in an Arkansas magazine that described the conscientious probity of those trying to discover more about the things seen in the skies.

Since then, Taaffe said this group has asked other interested people in the neighboring counties around Little River County to also report information.

He noted some of the things the group attempts to do in gathering a network of information:

One is to pick a hill or higher elevation for a watching point, high enough that the tree line doesn't interfere with viewing the horizon.

Watchers need to take a compass and get a heading, use binoculars, record time accurately. He suggests a heading somewhere from 220 to 260 degrees (south is 180), and starting to watch in early evening (6:30 to 8:30).

While sky-watching continues in the southwest corner of Arkansas, Taaffe also has been approached by people from the general area telling him of seeing hovering lights and other sightings — things they never reported to anyone before, out of fear of ridicule.

It seems to have opened up the subject and centered outside interest on this geographic area known as the "four states corners" region.

Atmospheric conditions this time of year — cold air and clear skies — are cited by some who study night sky phenomena as one reason many people see and report unusual things. They may be unusual only because at other times they aren't seen.

Stars and other objects appear brighter than at other times of year, and take on an appearance of changing and pulsating colors. Last year, a Little River astronomer said what was seen around Foreman might have been Venus, although the witnesses rejected that as not fitting the circumstances and location.

Trained investigators generally believe the vast majority of sightings are readily explainable as natural phenomena, but that there are a small percentage that have remained officially unexplained.

Some have speculated about top-secret government experiments as offering a logical explanation. Others disagree.

Some who study the puzzle aren't ready to rule out the occasional claim of alien craft probing earth. In a few known cases, persons have told investigators of experiencing extra-terrestrials visiting earthlings — and vice versa.

But to date, reputable scientific conclusions on these more sensational cases is lacking, and it remains the stuff of movies, books and headlines in tabloids seen at checkout counters.

McCURTAIN DAILY GAZETTE, Idabel, OK - Feb. 1, 1989

## Residents Report Valliant Area UFOs

VALLIANT — A dazzling array of unidentified objects put on a spectacular show in the skies around Valliant Tuesday night with an audience who today were defending their sanity.

More than a dozen people gave almost the same version of the hour-long Star-Trek story which included not one, but six luminous objects dashing through the sky in patterns described by most witnesses as "more like formations."

Melia Bivings, her husband Paul and children Jamie and Brenda watched the objects for more than an hour. "Paul got his gun and brought it outside with him. I don't know if scary is the right word or not because the scene was so amazing we didn't really have time to feel frightened," Mrs. Bivings said.

She described the objects as two large ones, diamond or triangle-shaped, with red, blue and white lights, accompanied by four or five other bright objects trailing in formation.

Another witness, Mrs. Hershey Capps, said she and her two sons Shawn and Marty, drove from their home south of Valliant to the Bivings residence and watched the fireworks for more than 45 minutes.

"I don't believe in UFOs and still don't, but I know what I saw and I saw it ... we all saw it," Mrs. Capps said as she described the swooshing movements of the lighted objects.

"You're not talking about making turns like airplanes or moving across the sky like anything else ... I mean 'swoosh' and they're there from here to wherever they stopped next," Mrs. Capps added.

Coming from the north, Mrs. Bivings said they observed the objects in formation as they hovered at tree-top level, dashing around together and the smaller ones making individual moves around and about the two larger diamond-shaped objects.

"They maneuvered around for a while then all darted toward the paper mill (just west of Valliant) where they disappeared for a while. We all thought they might have landed around there," Mrs. Bivings said.

"In the meantime Hershey and her sons got out here laughing and kidding us as if we were playing a joke. Then 'zip' and here they all are again, just like they were when they disappeared," she continued.

"Then we all saw one of the little lights come zipping toward one of the big red, blue and bright crafts and somebody yelled they're gonna crash. The little object went right through the big one, coming out the back where the trailing light like that of a shooting star was coming out. The little one just zipped right on through and on it's way," Mrs. Bivings smiled.

"One of the little girls was frightened, so she was just running in an out of the house, afraid to look and afraid to miss something," Mrs. Capps remembered.

Other witnesses were Nell, Pam and Kenny Craig who live in the vicinity.

The UFOs were reported to have taken a zipping path to the east toward Idabel about 9:30 p.m., after entertaining the earthlings for more than an hour.

Mrs. Capps said this morning she and her husband Mickey retired for the night and she remembered his final statement to her after describing the spectacular show. "You're nuts," he was quoted.

"I'd think the same thing if I didn't know we saw what we saw. Paul didn't have his gun out because we were all hallucinating," Mrs. Capps semi-jokingly summed up the evening's encounter.

### Gazette Offers UFO Reward

The *McCurtain Gazette* today offered a \$100 reward for the first usable photo submitted of a UFO that was witnessed by two or more people.

For the past year, sightings have been reported throughout southeast Oklahoma and southwest Arkansas.

# Butts Says Tabloid Betrayed Her

## —Claims Extra-Terrestrial Story Distorted

By IRENE H. JEPSEN

Privacy exploded for two families, one in Russell County and the other in Ottawa, Kan., when anonymity was promised, and then not honored, in an article appearing this week in a national tabloid.

The two key figures involved have co-authored a book, soon to be published, describing their extra-terrestrial experiences spanning the last four years. Their book, they said, will have documented proof of who, what and where extra-terrestrials are, what their purpose is, and world government involvement.

When Donna Butts, 36, of Russell, and Dr. Scott Corder, 37, of Ottawa, granted a telephone interview to the national publication some time back, they were told their names and their locations would not be revealed, although Dr. Corder granted permission for his name to be used. They were told, however, direct quotes would be repeated.

A written and completed manuscript of the telephone interview was to be received by both Butts and Corder for approval prior to publication. Weeks passed, and the manuscript never arrived.

The couple made repeated phone calls to the interviewers, only to be told, "the reporters are out on assignment."

Then, Bingo!, the article appeared.

It hit the news stands with sensationalized headlines, and distortion of relevant facts. Ironically, just the day before, a retired NASA physicist, and UFO researcher and author, talked with Mrs. Butts for five hours at the Pizza Hut in Russell. It is the interest of research and valid

publication that drew the physicist and Dr. Corder into the realm of Mrs. Butts' story.

It began for Donna Butts in 1984 when a man, appearing to be about 60, with silver blond hair, fine features, six-foot tall and well built, normal in looks to any

other male, pulled up beside her in the Klema Plaza parking lot. "He was driving a maroon Rolls Royce," Mrs. Butts said, "which is why I first noticed him."

While waiting for her son to come out of the store, the

REPORTER, Tavernier, FL - Jan. 12, 1989

## KEY LARGO 'ABUZZ' AFTER UFO SIGHTING

### EARLY MORNING APPARITION PROMPTS QUESTIONS

If you were out in the pre-dawn hours Monday morning, you may have been eyewitness to an alien invasion. The Florida Keys, long known as landing site for Haitian and Cuban refugees as well as a favorite drop-off for drug smugglers, played host to a mysterious early-morning light show. Some are calling it a UFO sighting.

The apparition started out as an ominous cloud of luminescent smoke hovering over the ocean off Key Largo, but witnesses said it performed a series of aerobatics that would explain-away it being a natural phenomenon. Tavernier photographer Bill Rigby managed to take a series of photos of the apparition, but they don't show conclusive proof of an alien invasion. Also early Monday morning, several Tavernier residents contacted *The Reporter* with their sighting reports.

"It's nothing of ours," said a spokesman for the U.S. Air Force at Homestead AFB. And agents of the U.S. Customs Service, while not revealing the exact whereabouts of their aircraft Monday morning said it was "unlikely" that they were responsible.

Accompanying the large cloud-like object were several moving points of light. Witnesses said that the patterns were uncharacteristic of any aircraft. Copies of the photographs will be examined by Air Force officials. In the meantime, no immediate plans are being made to start an alien welcome center although officials of the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce said Tuesday that the word about Key Largo has spread farther than anyone thought.

The Air Force later announced that a Trident missile had been launched from Cape Canaveral moments before the Key Largo sighting. It is unknown if the UFO was, in any way, related.

stranger got out of his car, walked into the store, and returned. He opened a package of Juicy Fruit gum, smiled at Donna Butts, and left. The next day he reappeared at a laundromat and even helped her carry her laundry to her car.

Then, much to her dismay, he began to telephone her home and attempted visits. She and her husband thought he was a lunatic.

The man, Peter, in the initial conversations, did not reveal to Donna Butts who or what he was. It was several months before he told her. And, Donna Butts was astounded by what she was told.

Peter explained that between the years 1945 and 1955, 1,000 pregnancies were "engineered," and the children of these pregnancies were "coded." Of those 1,000 births, only four persons remain: Mrs. Butts in Russell, another in Russia, one in Peru, and another elsewhere in the United States.

"Only four remain of the original 1,000," Mrs. Butts said, "because they were mentally strong, but physically weak," a trait, she says of extra-terrestrials, causing early death or accidental death.

When Peter told Donna Butts she was one of those genetically coded, she stated this was "news to her."

Since that time, Mrs. Butts has come to know who the other three persons are, has visited with two of them, and said, "it is amazing the similarity of our experiences."

Mrs. Butts wrote a letter to Cufos (Center for UFO Studies) about Peter. The Center contacted Dr. Scott Corder who, Dr. Corder said, had expressed to this organization that he would be willing to be an investigator when needed. Upon Dr. Corder's request, Cufos sent him Mrs. Butts' letter, and with his interest in UFOs, he chose to contact her.

Through Cufos and Dr. Corder's urging, Mrs. Butts agreed to a psychiatric evaluation. Tests

were sent through the mail, completed by Mrs. Butts, and returned. The diagnosis: Normal, with traits of cynicism and impatience.

Dr. Corder began to see Mrs. Butts, and throughout the years as a family practitioner, continued in-office mental evaluations. Certain medical tests also were performed on Mrs. Butts at Russell Regional Hospital, upon Dr. Corder's recommendation.

"It took me six months to believe in Peter," Dr. Corder stated. Mrs. Butts had written a book, which, she said, was censored for publication, and two years ago she sent a copy to Dr. Corder.

Then, Dr. Corder had his first glimpse of Peter. While he and his 3-year-old son were eating at an Ottawa drive-in, a car drove up. The driver, a man, leaned forward, head cocked, smiled at Corder, and nodded. "I immediately thought, 'Peter!'" Dr. Corder said. As the man drove away, Dr. Corder looked at the car's license plate. It was "out of county." Dr. Corder saw Peter one other time, but chose not to elaborate.

Both Mrs. Butts and Dr. Corder have a story to tell. They would have preferred that their identities and full story have been revealed through the publication of their book, and, in view of a promise not kept by the national publication, both are naturally reticent about talking in depth to reporters or those connected with the media.

How Peter communicates, what extra-terrestrials seek or hope to give, and when they will reveal themselves, is all part of what the co-authors want to tell.

But both, however, say that "Peter totally supports the Bible and the teachings of Christ."

"And," they add, "he has a sense of humor."

"And," they conclude, "anyone can see their spaceships, if they just look up into the sky at the right time."

## 'Visitors' transform fiction into fact

### Transformation

By Whitley Strieber, Beech Tree/Morrow, \$18.95, 256 pp.

By GEORGE W. EARLEY

Until recently, Whitley Strieber was best-known as a writer of frightening fiction. In such novels as "Catmagic" and "The Wolfen," he mined the same vein of grue as Stephen King, Clive Barker and other horror writers.

Then came "Communion," a frightening tale all the scarier for Strieber's insistence that the events it recounts — traumatic encounters with small, gray-skinned, bit-eyed alien beings — really happened to him.

He was kidnapped, he wrote, rendered totally helpless, taken right out of his home and examined as callously as a mere laboratory animal.

Now, in "Transformation," he tells us those terrifying events that began the night of Dec. 26, 1985, were a beginning, not an end. The "visitors," as he calls them, still plague his life, monitoring his activity, telling him what to do and not to do — orders he often disobeys — and also meddling in the lives of his wife and 7-year-old son.

It's as true as it is terrifying, Strieber insists, describing the many tests — including CAT Scan, magnetic resonance imaging, polygraph and personality profile — he has taken to determine if some unsuspected physical or mental disorder is causing him to imagine his experiences.

But the tests appear to show, to the limits of their considerable accuracy, that Strieber is sane, in good physical health and not lying.

Tests and his sincerity aside, however, there does seem to be a strain of

paranoia running through his narrative. Consider this: He makes an electronic transfer of all his funds from one bank to another and a computer glitch "loses" the money. For 24 hours Strieber is technically bankrupt. He blames the situation on the visitors, saying they humbled him because he boasted of his financial success to his kid brother.

Strieber demonstrates a curious ambivalence toward the visitors. While clearly fearing them (he is frantic when they briefly kidnap his son) he also writes of feeling love for them. Now Job continued to love God despite his many tribulations, but Strieber's attitude is more reminiscent of Patty Hearst, who was transformed from terrified victim to willing terrorist.

I don't know if Strieber's experiences are real or not, but I do know they're not unique. In his books "Missing Time" and "Intruders," UFO researcher Budd Hopkins documented many similar cases.

If Strieber is right, we may not need huge radio telescopes to communicate with alien beings; they're already here. If he's wrong, then there's a new psychosis abroad in the world.

In either case, thorough scientific investigation, rather than sneering skepticism, seems called for. Strieber, having both determination and the money to go with it, has embarked on such an investigation. I await the results with growing interest.

George W. Earley, a free-lance writer who lives in Bloomfield, reviews science fiction for *The Courant*.

NEWS, Parkersburg, WV - Jan. 30, 1989

## Look, Up in the Sky

### Floridians Sure Photos Prove UFOs Visiting Panhandle Area

GULF BREEZE, Fla. (UPI) — Photographs of an eerily lit cylindrical object drifting through the night sky have scientists debating whether unidentified flying objects are visiting the Florida Panhandle.

More than 135 of Gulf Breeze's 6,000 residents have reported seeing a strange craft hovering in the skies over the past one and a half years, the *Tampa Tribune* reported Sunday.

One resident, asked to be identified only as "Ed" to protect his anonymity, has produced startling photographs of the alleged UFO. Those pictures, showing a cylindrical craft ringed with lights and what may be windows, lie at the heart of a simmering battle between two UFO investigating groups.

The Mutual UFO Network, a 20-year-old group of scientists and layman researchers, believes Ed's pictures are real. But the Center for UFO Studies, a non-profit group founded by the late astronomer, J. Allen Hynek, does not.

The network cites a 90-page study done by Navy physicist Bruce Maccabee. Maccabee said Ed could not have made such perfect fakes, and that the pictures are real.

"A professional magician would have a difficult time doing this," he said.

Maccabee also cites circumstantial evidence in Ed's favor, including sightings by others who described UFOs identical to those in Ed's photos.

The center relies on its own researchers and on Robert Nathan of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Nathan, who conceded he had not studied the pictures as completely as did Maccabee, said the photos show

glaring inconsistencies typical of double exposures.

Mark Rodeghier of the Center for UFO Studies said the Gulf Breeze case had "deteriorated into a shouting match" because his group was forced to play devil's advocate when the network endorsed the pictures. That endorsement biased Maccabee's study, he said.

"Except those intimately connected with the network, 90 percent of serious UFO researchers think Gulf Breeze is a hoax," Rodeghier said.

For many Gulf Breeze residents, what the experts think is beside the point — they know what they saw.

"I was exhilarated," said Brenda Pollak, a City Council member who said he saw a large, lighted craft twice in one night in spring of 1988. Ms. Pollak said she watched the craft hover over Pensacola Bay while, unknown to her, Ed shot pictures of the UFO from only a few blocks away.

"I can tell you now — for every one person who has reported seeing the craft, there are 10 who talk about it but don't want anyone to know," Ms. Pollak said.

"I'm not saying that I believe it's from another planet, but it's something I had never laid eyes on in my life," added Shirley McConnell. Mrs. McConnell and her husband, who is the medical examiner for Florida's District 1, say that last June the craft hovered within 75 yards of their house for nearly four minutes before drifting off.

"People can say whatever they want about me, but I know what I saw. Ed didn't make this up," Mrs. McConnell said.



## Science and the unknown

Private citizens who have reported UFO sightings to government officials sometimes complain of secrecy, frustration and laughter.

Floyd Petri founded the Center for Instrumented UFO Research in Bastrop in part to circumvent such bureaucratic hassles.

"Our purpose is to confirm the existence or nonexistence of the UFO by scientific means," said Petri, a retired police chief.

"Before organizations such as this existed, an individual was nothing more than a UFO buff or a witness. Often, after people made a report to the authorities, that was the last they heard of it. Any physical evidence they offered went up in smoke."

Petri said the 10-year-old center is accumulating equipment and personnel to set up a monitoring station and a field unit, probably in a van. Both will be equipped with devices such as radar, magnetometers, cameras, video equipment, radiation and sound detection equipment, and chart recorders.

"There are many Americans who are funding this kind of research right out of their own pockets," he said. "Just like there are people who spend thousands of dollars a year fishing. This is my hobby. This is where my money goes. There also have been donations and benefactors interested in our research."

The scientific instrumentation — much of which the center owns — sounds impressive. But some of the most fruitful research — retrieving government documents pertaining to UFOs — forces the private UFO investigator to use simpler but equally powerful tools such as typewriters and the mail.

"The Freedom of Information Act is one of the nicest things that ever happened to us," Petri said. "There is a world of information in the hands of government and individuals. If it was gathered, studied and disseminated properly, the information would shed some light on the UFO enigma. Many groups are trying to do that now."

Petri's organization is interested in investigating suspected landing sites and trace materials from all kinds of encounters — from cattle mutilations to indentations thought to be made by saucer landing pods. And the center is involved in the computer enhancement of photos showing UFOs to determine their validity.

UFO abduction cases also draw the center's attention if there's evidence in addition to an abductee's account.

Petri also serves as state section director of Bastrop and Travis counties for the Mutual UFO Network.

The center and MUFON work together to train UFO investigators, discuss cases and plan field trips for investigations. Joint meetings are under the acronym PULSE — Project UFO Landings, Sightings and Encounters — so the two organizations can maintain separate identities.

"The goals are to share information and ferret out bad, distorted information," Petri said. "So the organizations don't mind communicating."

Ten members are training to be field investigators. Three have been trained. Most are professional people with skills such as photography, computers, legal investigation and medicine.

Membership is by invitation. The center seeks people with professional expertise that could be of use in UFO investigations. Though it costs nothing to join, members must subscribe to the MUFON UFO Journal.

"We're not here to make converts but to collect evidence," Petri said.

For information on the Center for Instrumented UFO Research, write to Rt. 1 Box 180K, Bastrop 78602 or call 321-6919 in Bastrop.



# ALIENS

## UFOs showing up in closer encounters

Stories by Carlos Vidal Greth  
Illustration by Sharon Kilday

American-Statesman Staff

**H**umans have always gazed wonderingly at the heavens, struggling to understand unexpected changes of scenery and casting in the galactic play being produced overhead.

Traditionally, most reports of unidentified flying objects were these kind of distant encounters observed from below, usually explainable as manmade or natural phenomena.

At 8:10 p.m. on Jan. 20, for example, hundreds of Texans witnessed a spectacular fireball streak across the sky. The object turned out to be a Soviet rocket body that officials had expected to re-enter the atmosphere.

But lately, UFO encounters have moved much closer to home. They have migrated from outer to inner space, and from the realm of astronomy to psychology.

The trend started several years ago, when a number of books were published detailing stories of abductions by extraterrestrial creatures, most notably *Intruders* by Budd Hopkins and *Communion* by Whitley Strieber.

The best-selling volumes prompted a storm of reports from people who thought they, too, had been visited or kidnapped by aliens. Eerily, many of the accounts

shared certain characteristics, such as:

- Missing time, where folks can't recall what occurred during a period of hours or days — except when put under hypnosis;
- Interbreeding of human and alien species, involving artificial insemination or long-term genetic studies;
- Physical exams, some indicating a positively inhuman absence of bedside manner on the part of alien "physicians."
- Short, slight visitors with almond eyes or robotlike creatures that can be kindly, cruel or dispassionately curious.

No one can say for sure whether the rash of recent UFO encounter and abduction accounts represents the early warning signs of an alien invasion or the tabloid-inspired products of fevered imaginations.

But for many, the abduction experience is charged with spiritual overtones. Hard evidence, of course, takes a back seat to faith in such an environment. One of the most common commandments is: Thou shalt not foul thy planet with pollution and armaments, because the visitors won't stand for it.

Glenda Richmond of Austin, who said she has had several close encounters, thinks that the extraterrestrials are contacting a wide range of people.

"In order for there to be change in consciousness, you can't just change the leaders," said Rich-

## Strangers in the night

**T**he case of Gwen, who believes she was — and continues to be — kidnapped by extraterrestrials conducting mysterious experiments, is typical of UFO abduction reports that have been made public. And like many self-described abductees, she prefers to remain anonymous for fear that her neighbors may turn out to be less understanding than the aliens she suspects examined her during the night.

Here is the way she remembers her encounters:

Things have happened to me all my life that I couldn't explain. My parents said it was the result of my artistic imagination.

My dad worked in aerospace, but I remember being unimpressed with his work. I had this feeling that I had already been in space and that we could already travel to the stars.

The summer of 1968, when I graduated from high school, was the first time I saw a UFO. I was sitting in the front yard with a friend. A bright, golden object swooshed across the horizon. We were living in Midland so you could see a lot of horizon. It stopped on a dime, then *poof!* it was gone.

Soon afterward I had a real strong time-lapse event.

My boyfriend's parents had retired to Ruidoso, N.M. In June, I went to visit him. It was about an hour's drive from their house in the mountains to Roswell, where the airport was.

We left two hours before the plane was to take off. The speed limit was 70 miles an hour. That should have given us plenty of time to get there. We were trucking across the desert when my boyfriend looked at his watch and said, "This is impossible."

He had been driving like a bat out of hell, but when we got to the airport the plane was taxiing out on the runway. I could never explain what happened to that hour and a half of lost time.

On another occasion when my family lived in Tulsa, I woke up in the middle of the night and saw this being standing at the foot of my bed. It had red eyes and wore a black cloak. It was robotic, but not completely — it was mostly a bionic-type being. It had a silver, polished dome head.

I lay there for about 10 minutes looking at this thing, wondering, "What the hell's going on?" I closed my eyes and prayed, "Dear God, please let me understand what's happening here." When I opened my eyes, it was gone.

I learned about much of this event in a hypnotic regression conducted by an Austin psychotherapist. It would have made a really great science-fiction movie.

One night, I bought the book *Communion* and couldn't put it down. I realized that what he was talking about had been happening to me all my life. The hair stood up on the back of my neck.

I've also become aware of a mother ship in the night. I don't know how I know what it is, but most of the time it appears in the eastern sky. It pulsates from blue to white to orange-red, sometimes very rapidly.

If someone had told me two years ago that this would be happening to me, I would have backed away from that person.

I have trouble talking to humans sometimes. How could I be talking to extraterrestrials?

mond, a computer programmer. "That's why the visitors don't choose only people of power and position."

She said that the governments of the world are conspiring to keep citizens from knowing the

(continued on page 4)

truth about the aliens.

"They are supposed to protect us but can't. So they are afraid to tell us what they know. I'm not paranoid. But the people who lead us don't always have the public's best interest in mind."

Richmond said her most memorable encounter came when she was 12 and visiting her grandmother's house in rural Illinois. She recalled that though the second-story bedroom overlooked a 20-foot-deep ravine, an intense beam of light suddenly shot through the window and coursed up and down her body.

"I believe it was an intelligent probe," she said. "It was measuring something indefinable in me. It also gave me information that I would be able to use later."

Richmond, more curious than afraid, went to the window, where she said she saw a spacecraft with red, orange and golden pulsating lights.

"I told my grandmother the next morning, and she said it was just a dream. My family, who already thought I was a strange child, told me I had just imagined or dreamed it."

But Richmond never doubted it was real.

"I had been a blissfully ignorant child. Several days after the visitation I began to change. I decided I was going to get an education and be different from the rest of my family. I became goal-oriented."

Many people who report UFO encounters, however, describe negative experiences that haunted their lives in conscious and subconscious ways.

"I find it appalling there aren't more support groups for people who have had UFO encounters," Richmond said. "Whether these phenomena are authentic or not, people feel they are real. Therefore, we should be able to treat it."

Dan Overlade, a clinical psychologist in Pensacola, Fla., who has conducted hypnosis sessions with half a dozen people reporting close encounters, also thinks it's time to provide help.

But before that can happen, Overlade said, there must be a change in the way such victims are perceived by the health and social science professions.

"When one gentleman who thought he had an abduction told

people about it, he was institutionalized briefly and put on Thorazine," he said. "It was considered ipso facto proof of insanity."

Overlade, past president of Florida Psychological Association, recently agreed to act as a consultant for the Mutual UFO Network. The 2,000-member international organization, based in Seguin, investigates UFO cases in the most careful, empirical manner it can muster.

"One reason I got involved with MUFON was to help make professionals aware that there are victims out there who are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder similar to that experienced by some Vietnam veterans. Whether their encounters are real or imagined, they are suffering."

Fortunately, Overlade said, some cities have support groups where people can go to tell their UFO stories in comfortable environments.

The phenomenon, however, is misunderstood, and the study of its causes relatively new.

"We're gradually escaping the kind of attitude that would lead a competent psychiatrist to throw someone in the hospital for making such a report," Overlade said. "The only way you can account for these reports on a psychological basis is that the people are schizophrenic, pathological liars, or have a rare form of hysteria coupled with memory lapses. But the people I interviewed are none of these."

"I don't know if there are aliens, if the abductees have been physically moved or if they have received some kind of telepathic imagery. But I rather imagine there has been some kind of contact."

Though Overlade, who administered many hours of standard psychological tests to his interviewees, has begun to accept the possibility of extraterrestrial visits, many scientists remain unconvinced.

Harlan Smith, director of the University of Texas McDonald Observatory near Fort Davis, said he tries to keep an open mind while awaiting the presentation of solid evidence.

"I would welcome some exciting, true event involving UFOs," Smith said. "I'm interested in the possibility of extraterrestrial life."

## Belief in UFOs comes in several forms

**D**espite the shortage of hard evidence, a Gallup poll reveals that 68 percent of Americans believe UFOs exist. And it seems that those who think there is intelligent life out there have the odds on their side. Carl Sagan, an astronomer who doesn't believe aliens have visited Earth, hypothesizes that in the Milky Way galaxy alone there could be a million planets that might be able to support life.

Believers and disbelievers fall into four basic types, said Michael Rigg, who works for the Mutual UFO Network in Indiana:

- **Blind acceptor:** a UFO watcher who will not change his mind and cannot be swayed no matter what evidence is presented. Unfortunately, Rigg said, more than 85

percent of believers fall into this category.

- **Hypothesizer:** a walking library of UFO lore who can reproduce practically any close-encounter case verbatim. May be reluctant to engage in free thinking.

- **Analyzer:** a person who resists making snap judgments or hypotheses that can't be proven, concentrating on presenting the facts he observes in a logical, coherent manner. The perfect UFO detective, as described in the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*.

- **Rejector:** a close cousin of the blind acceptor, he refuses to acknowledge any scientific basis for serious UFO study and may go to considerable lengths to debunk research and eyewitness accounts.

He said that though he has had three UFO experiences, a little research enabled him to identify all of them as natural or manmade phenomena.

Smith, however, has little patience with reported UFO kidnappings and alien encounters.

"The abductions are the stuff of *National Enquirer*," the astronomer said. "There has never been any proof that would hold up in a court of law."

"It is far easier to conclude that we're dealing with the credulity of the public. It is easier to conclude that we're dealing with the desire of some individuals to make money."

Lewis Branscomb, former chief scientist with IBM, also has scoffed at UFOlogy and its excesses: "The stronger the incentive to discover, the greater the temptation to let down one's guard."

The "guard" — call it rational or scientific inquiry — often comes down at UFO conferences, particularly those associated with New Age and psychic phenomena.

Conference participants, for the most part, accept as givens that UFOs exist and that extraterrestrials often drop in unannounced. Common topics of discussion include the motivations and behavior of alien abductors and coping with "post-abduction syndrome."

At a recent event sponsored by the Central Texas Parapsychology Association in Austin, panelists and audience members shared the thrills, chills and occasional trauma

that extraterrestrials reportedly induce in those they visit.

Guest speaker Juanita Deering told how she was once able to identify an extraterrestrial by analyzing his aura, the multi-hued energy field some people believe surrounds living beings.

"The man was definitely not one of us," she said. "He had a silver aura with metallic dust."

Panel moderator Elaine Ireland, a psychic reader, recalled a UFO experience she had while visiting the ancient Mayan ruins of Palenque, Mexico. She went to the village last year for the Harmonic Convergence, a worldwide New Age event that was supposed to inaugurate a different era of consciousness.

"Five UFOs were dancing in the sky overhead," Ireland said. "They made no attempt to hide. It was like the Thunderbirds (the U.S. Air Force aerobatic team). They were trying to entertain us."

"I've had a psychic impression that in the mid-1990s, some public manifestation will occur. I'm hoping that as a race we'll be allowed to learn from them."

Walter Andrus, international director of MUFON in Seguin, also is interested in UFO abduction cases, though he is more selective than many UFOlogists about the credibility of the witnesses.

"We stay away from the New Age folks," he said. "No channels or psychics. We deal in scientific facts."

"We're talking about credible, professional people whose reputations are beyond reproach. And we don't work with people who have histories of alcohol and drug abuse. There are too many legitimate people to talk to."

Andrus said there are more people contacting him with suspicions or reports of UFO abductions than there are qualified professionals willing to administer hypnosis. The psychological technique is used to explore the subject's often submerged recollections of an encounter.

"One day last week three people called me with abduction reports," he said. "There's a lot of merit to some of their claims. That's one reason (abduction expert) writer Budd Hopkins is on our staff."

Andrus, who has witnessed a number of hypnotic regressions, said the experiences moved him.

"People reliving a real abduction experience often cry and moan. It is traumatic. There are many promising cases. They just have to be sorted out. We go in with our eyes wide open."

"*Personal UFO Experiences*," a panel discussion sponsored by the Central Texas Parapsychology Association, will be at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3 at the Austin Marriott, U.S. 290 at Interstate 35. For information, call 331-9593.

For information on the Mutual UFO Network, write to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin 78155-4099; or call 379-9216.

MONROE COURIER, Trumbull, CT - Jan. 5, 1989

## An unsolved mystery

The following is a factual (sort of) account of the actual happenings in the life of an *Easton Courier* reporter. Only the names have been eliminated to protect the innocent.

It started out like any other Friday morning. I had just drifted into the office at about a half past nine and settled in behind my desk, which was still cluttered from Wednesday's deadline rush.

As I sat there, I sipped my first cup of java of the day to try to pull myself out of this somnambular slump. My eyes were as heavy as whales in mud and as red as the devil with a sunburn.

The phone rang. The bell pierced the sleepy quiet of the office like a thunderclap on a still summer's eve and kept on ringing until my throbbing temples could take no more.

"This is Brown," I growled. "What's the scoop?"

It was a guy from one of the towns that neighbors on my beat. His voice was shaky and tense, like he had just seen a UFO.

"I've just seen a UFO," he blurted.

It seems that this poor guy had been visiting his in-laws in Easton. When he and his wife decided to call it a night and leave for home, the night sky was blacker than the inside of a hippo's belly at midnight. He said it was then that he noticed a strange formation of



Paul Brown  
My Turn

lights hovering in the sky near the intersection of routes 136 and 59.

I knew how the guy must have felt. An entire afternoon spent with the in-laws is enough to make Albert Einstein believe in the tooth fairy.

"Ah, don't take it so hard, bud," I assured him. "We all have those kinds of days."

Indeed, I was having one of those days. I tried to get the guy to hang up, but he was harder to get rid of than a case of the hiccups.

The guy continued to insist that he saw an unidentified flying object. According to him, whatever it was had red and white lights, and hovered in the air not more than 500 feet above the ground. When he tried to approach the mysterious object, it vanished in a blink of an eyelid to a location some two miles further away.

"OK, buddy. I'll check it out," I

said just to get him off the phone. I could tell that this joker didn't have all of the dots on his dice.

Of all the sleepy-eyed reporters this guy could have picked to call, he had to choose me. I hung up the phone and finished my coffee, which was now as cold as a vinyl car seat on a February morning. I looked up from the piles of papers and pictures that blanketed my desk and caught the eye of my executive editor.

"Big happenings in E-town, boss," I said with a sarcastic twist. "Some guy says he saw a UFO. How do you like that?"

He liked it. He liked it a lot. He told me to check out the guy's story down at the police station. If one person saw it, he reasoned, then others must have seen it, too. He looked at me and smiled. I returned his smile with a pained wince, the kind Captain Nemo makes when his wife prepares fried calamari for dinner.

The Chief of Police on my beat already had his doubts about me. He was one of those straight-forward types—always really serious as if he were wearing a brand new shirt with the pins still in it.

I, on the other hand, never took the beat that seriously. I knew that it could mean a one-way ticket to the chuckle palace if I became too involved, so I always kept a certain sense of humor on the job. But, this morning I was feeling lower than a rattlesnake's hernia and I was in no mood for chasing UFOs.

CR: R. Collins

"It was a blimp," the Chief says. He seemed so confident that I would have believed him if he had told me that it was the Titanic.

But, then it hit me. This was beginning to sound like one of those UFO documentaries you see on television at 3 a.m. The cops always say it was something explainable, like a weather balloon or a blimp. But, because blimps over Easton are rarer than compliments from your mother-in-law, I decided to get a little nosy.

"How can you be so sure?" I asked, trying to tap his sense of the supernatural.

But, the man with the pins in his shirt had no such sense. He told me curtly that one of his officers had seen the object and had determined it to be a blimp.

That was that. He also scolded me for doubting the official word of the police. I needed that like Elvis needs a name tag.

I decided to give the story one more chance. After all, this could be the big one, I thought. This could be the story that takes me to the top. This could be my ticket away from the mean streets of Easton, which were unforgiving, unchanging and most of the time uneventful.

I called the airport to talk to someone who could give me some air traffic information about the night in question. If there was a blimp in the area, surely the folks at

the airport would know about it.

It took me approximately 10 calls before I finally could talk to the airport manager. He was harder to reach than an itchy spot in the middle of your back. He seemed to stay in his office like a \$20 bill stays in a teenager's wallet.

When I did reach him, he couldn't tell me anything new. His explanations were as old and stale as a three-day-old cheeseburger. A blimp, a weather balloon, a low flying airplane—it could have been all of these, he said.

"You know what a UFO is, don't you?" he said. His voice sounded like someone pulling a garden rake over AstroTurf. "It's an unidentified flying object. It doesn't necessarily have to be extra-terrestrial."

So, that's where my story ends. The question of whether or not Easton was visited by beings from another planet may never be answered. It remains as much a mystery as Michael Jackson's nose.





Melissa Farlow/The Pittsburgh Press

Sam Sherry of Ligonier sent away for a special steel cable which he hopes to use to trap Bigfoot

## UFO sightings increase, but the mystery remains

By Mary Niederberger  
The Pittsburgh Press

When Verna Yanity, a retired beautician from Homer City, Indiana County, saw a lighted, helmet-shaped aircraft pass over her home at about 11 p.m. July 17, she started to believe "that something must be going on up there."

Likewise, ever since Ellen Collins, a 37-year-old jeweler from Philadelphia, saw a bright light hovering outside her bedroom window at 2 a.m. Feb. 21, she's thought that "they are out there."

And when disabled World War II Army veteran Sam Sherry ran into a large, human-like beast on a fishing trip at Loyalhanna Creek near Ligonier, Westmoreland County, on the night of May 17, he saw something he'd never seen before, "and I been in them woods for 50 years."

Mrs. Yanity, Mrs. Collins and Sherry, who don't know each other, are among more than 600 people in Pennsylvania who reported seeing unidentified flying objects or strange creatures last year.

They are part of a sharp increase — which began in August 1987 and continued last year — in the number of sightings that can't be explained, say two area 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, Gordon said.

In 1986, 22 percent of Gordon's cases were unexplained, but that jumped to 38 percent in 1987, he said, driven up by reports from the second half of the year.

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 — most of them 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 that a hot spot for UFO and Bigfoot sightings is Chestnut Ridge, a heavily wooded mountain range that runs from West Virginia into Indiana County.

Many of the reports that Gordon and Johnson receive are from the section of the ridge between Derry and Ligonier — where Sherry claims to have spotted Bigfoot.

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

Because a number of UFO and Bigfoot reports have come from the ridge, Gordon and Johnson believe the sightings may be related.

It's a theory shared by Walt H. Andrus Jr., international director of the Mutual UFO Network based in Seguin, Texas.

"They could be experimental animals brought to the planet Earth to test the environment," Andrus said.

The increase in UFO reports to PASU started Aug. 2, 1987, when two people in Clairton saw a large, lighted object hovering between apartment buildings at about 2 a.m.

The most recent sighting was at 9 p.m. Monday, when a woman in Indiana saw a large, oval-shaped craft with red and white lights hovering in the sky.

Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Yanity and Sherry realize their stories are a bit hard to swallow for non-believers. In fact, they all claimed to have been skeptics until their experiences.

Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Yanity, who believe they saw spaceships, said they have spent a lot of time wondering who was controlling the crafts. The thought scares both of them.

"They (aliens) are out there. I think they are trying to figure out what we are doing," Mrs. Collins said.

The day of her sighting, Mrs. Collins said she woke up at 2 a.m. to look out the window. She saw a bright light that moved closer until it was outside her window.

The light, which mesmerized her, came from a craft hovering about 50 feet above her home, she said.

Mrs. Yanity was sitting in a neighbor's back yard when she noticed a light in the sky and went home to watch it. "I put my window blind up in the kitchen and there it was coming," said Mrs. Yanity, a widow.

The craft was shaped like a helmet, had four legs hanging down and hovered about 200 feet in the air. It had two orange lights and flickering red and green lights, she said.

She said she watched as the craft flew toward Pennsylvania Electric Co.'s power plant in Homer City.

Gordon said he has received a number of reports about UFOs above power stations. He believes it may be because the crafts are siphoning energy from the plants — another theory supported by Andrus.

West Penn Power spokesman David Schmidt said he recalled an incident in September 1987 when a UFO was reported near a Greensburg substation at the same time there was a momentary power loss.

But, he said the power loss was caused by a slight malfunction in an automatic circuit breaker and no one at the station saw anything hovering. Schmidt also said voltage at the company's power stations is monitored continuously and any drop in voltage — such as that caused by siphoning of energy — would be detected immediately.

"To tell you the truth, if these ships want to come down and hover over our plants and use our power, I don't really mind as long as they pay for it," Schmidt said.

Pennsylvania Electric Co. also poked fun at reports from the summer that UFOs were hovering over its power plants in Homer City and

Johnstown, Cambria County.

In its October edition of Carrier Lines, an employee publication, power station director Ron Lantz was quoted: "As far as we know if anyone is up there watching, we're too busy to see them."

Whatever is going on in Pennsylvania, it's nothing compared to what's happening in Pensacola and Gulf Breeze, Fla., two towns along the Gulf of Mexico.

In that area, more than 150 people have seen UFOs since November 1987, Andrus said. There are 40 photos of the crafts, and six residents have claimed they were abducted, then later returned, by creatures on the space crafts, Andrus said.

Andrus' network has been operating since 1969, when the Air Force decided there was not enough evidence about UFOs to warrant spending money on continued investigations. Since then, no federal agency keeps track of UFO sightings.

Gordon said in the 20 years he has been investigating UFOs, about a dozen people in Pennsylvania have reported abductions. None of those people would talk with reporters, but Gordon said they relayed stories of being taken aboard spaceships, and examined and probed by small humanoid creatures.

Often, those supposedly abducted can't remember the details of their experience until they are placed under hypnosis, Gordon said.

One person who doesn't need hypnosis to remember and isn't afraid to tell is Sherry, 67, who lives in Wilpen, 5 miles north of Ligonier, and tells the tale of his encounter with Bigfoot to anyone who will listen.

Sherry's report is among 28 Bigfoot sightings that PASU learned of in 1988. It's the most sightings in one year since 1973, when PASU received 130 reports.

Sherry said he stood within 20 feet of something he called Bigfoot. He watched the 6½-foot-tall, 700-pound creature with arms nearly down to its ankles as it breathed heavily and scratched its abdomen.

When Sherry turned to go to his car, the creature put one arm on Sherry's shoulder and another on his back, he said. But Sherry was able to get into his car and drive away.

Unlike other reports from the area of a furry, ape-like creature in the woods, Sherry said the beast he saw had skin similar to rawhide and had no teeth.

To harness Bigfoot, Sherry sent away to Abilene, Texas, for a steel cable strong enough to pull 5,000 pounds without breaking.

But before he starts his mission, Sherry said he is waiting for hunting season to end and the woods to become quiet. Then he'll wait for a heavy snowfall so he can look for Bigfoot tracks.

When he finds the right area, Sherry plans to loop one end of the cable around a tree. The other end he will place in a loop on the ground with bait in its center. Other Bigfoot spotters have reported seeing the animal eat berries.

When Bigfoot steps into the loop, a trigger device will make it snap shut around the creature's legs, Sherry said.

After publicly displaying the beast, Sherry said he'll sell it to the highest bidder.

JOURNAL COURIER, Jacksonville, IL - Feb. 2, 1989

## 'Strange lights' reported by several in Brown Co.

More reports of strange lights in the sky Tuesday night were received by the Brown County Sheriff's Department Wednesday morning. Several people in the Rushville area reported seeing flashing lights in the sky about 6:40 p.m.

Robert Zimmerman, a hog farmer who lives near Versailles, said he and his wife were driving to Mt. Sterling on Ill. 107 when they saw seven or eight blinking yellow lights, which appeared to be moving in a circle in the sky ahead of them.

Zimmerman said they watched the display for six or seven minutes.

He said they were two or three miles from the new prison at Mt. Sterling and thought at first they were seeing lights at the prison. Zimmerman said the lights appeared to be about 40 feet higher than the prison water tower.

He said the lights appeared to be about two-tenths of a mile away, and when he could no longer see them he stopped his car "because I was afraid I was going to run into something."

"I've never seen anything like it before," he said. "I can't explain it."

Brown County Sheriff Michael Myers said he checked with personnel at the Quincy airport but they did not report seeing any unusual phenomena.

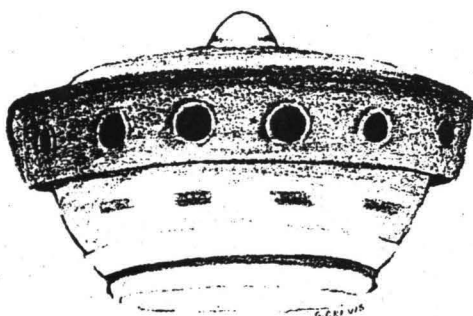
Air traffic controllers at Capital Airport in Springfield did note any unusual occurrences Tuesday night, either.

### 003 ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

#### UFO ENCOUNTER AT CAMP DAVID

What was that mysterious aerial object, back in 1979, that came to within 150 feet of a Marine Corps sentry on duty at Camp David, MD., causing him to freeze in his tracks as he tried to sound an alert via the presidential retreat's intercom? If you (or someone you know) can help shed more light on this case, here's your chance to step forward in the interest of furthering greater freedom of UFO information. Whatever you choose to share with us about this or any other case of UFO intervention at U.S. military installations can help our ongoing pursuit of the "rest of the story." Write: Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), 3518 Martha Custis Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302; or call Larry W. Bryant, (703) 931-3341.

PENTACRAM, Washington, DC  
March 9, 1989 CR: L. Bryant



# UFOs and the Abduction Phenomena

*A Challenge for this Generation*

**By Patti Watson**

ILLUSTRATIONS: GLORIA CREWS



Alien as described in the Andreasson affair

"The only inexcusable thing would be to look the other way, or to pretend that it isn't happening or doesn't matter." *Mufon UFO Journal*, October, 1988. Article by Ralph Noyes, p. 9.

The UFO phenomena becomes more pervasive, more complicated, and more intriguing as one delves deeper into its history. In this country, the first records of UFO sightings were in the 1940's. Since that time, the field of UFO investigation has become more sophisticated. By the 1970's investigative teams had successfully used hypnosis to regress individuals. These individuals usually had periods of missing time that were in direct relationship to the sighting of a spaceship. The knowledge that has come from these regressions is both astounding and frightening. It is indeed surreal.

The first two notable cases of UFO abduction in this country are those of Betty and Barney Hill and of Betty Andreasson. Betty and Barney Hill were abducted from their car in 1961. They were not aware of it until 1964, when they met with a hypnotist at the recommendation of their doctor. Both had been experiencing much anxiety and Betty was having recurring nightmares. Under hypnosis both the Hills recounted a story of abduction and physical examination aboard an UFO.

Betty Andreasson and her whole family were involved in an UFO incident. In January, 1967, Betty had just finished dinner and dishes in her home in Massachusetts when she and her family noticed a bright light outside. Her father went to the kitchen window. He saw a group of creatures moving toward the house. Betty saw the aliens walk THROUGH her kitchen door into the house. They asked that Betty come with them. All other members of her family were immediately placed in a state of suspended animation.

Under hypnosis, Betty told a story now well known in UFO circles. She was taken aboard a ship, examined, and transported to another place where she had what can be described as a spiritual experience. Betty is a devout Christian. Her spiritual background was helpful in allowing Betty to assimilate the whole affair. The affair had begun at 6:35 pm and Betty was returned home at 10:40 pm.

During the last ten years, investigative teams have regressed enough individuals so that similarities can be detected between the stories of individuals. Many abductees describe aliens with

a high degree of similarity. They are usually short -- between 3-5 feet, and their skin is leathery grey. Their eyes are their most distinctive feature, being very large, almond shaped and black. Their heads are shaped somewhat like a pear and they are quite large. The head is disproportionate with the size of the body. They have only a slit for a mouth, and they have no protruding ears. They communicate telepathically.

Abductees report similar experiences of being examined aboard the spaceship.

Abductees usually experience a loss of memory of events surrounding their abductions.

Many abductees report that the aliens state that there is no need to be afraid.

Abductees usually have more than one experience with UFOs and aliens. Often an abductee will have had encounters three or four times in his life, although he doesn't remember them. Abduction experiences tend to follow blood lines. It is not uncommon for another member of an abductee's family to also have had an encounter.

Certainly, it is much more comfortable to consider UFOs from far away. Some people don't have this luxury, however, and theirs is a story worth telling. The first thing that these special individuals wonder is why these things are happening to them. "Why me?" they ask. There is no satisfactory answer. Persons who have had experiences with UFOs come from all walks of life. They are all ages. They do not fit into any particular psychological profile. They are merely a cross section of humanity as we know it on this planet.

From November, 1987 through December, 1988, Gulf Breeze residents have had numerous experiences with UFOs and aliens. At last report,



Welcome Mat in Gulf Breeze

twelve individuals in Gulf Breeze reported periods of missing time. This missing time often denotes abduction according to Donald Ware, State Director of MUFON, the

UFO investigative team.

"Five of the twelve individuals have been regressed, and these individuals have given us detailed experiences on board the UFOs," stated Ware. Support groups have been started to help these people deal with their experiences.

Brenda Pollak is a Gulf Breeze resident that has watched the UFO events unfold. Mrs. Pollak has served four years on the City Council, and she was recently re-elected to her position. She stated publicly that she had seen the Gulf Breeze UFO, and that from all the facts of which she was aware, it was no hoax.

"The most interesting thing was that once I told the story publicly, everyone wanted to talk about it with

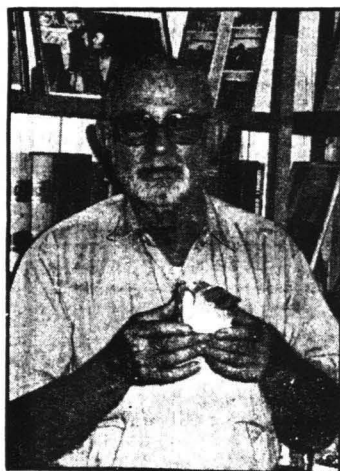


Brenda Pollak, City Councilwoman for Gulf Breeze

me. For every one person who has an UFO experience, there are 5-10 others who have had strange experiences...The ridicule hasn't happened. It's not the public who has doubts. Of course there are skeptics, but generally, people are very supportive," Pollak stated. She added, "I think it is important to look at all the evidence (of UFOs). Whether it supports or diminishes (the argument for UFOs), put the same amount of scrutiny to both."

Gulf Breeze is not the only community that has had experiences with UFOs and abductions. Destin has also had residents who share these experiences. Pete Vasso, a retired Air Force Civil Service man, and his wife were both party to a sighting of an unidentified flying object "the size of a football field". In 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Vasso were parked in a remote area beside a peat moss field when they became aware of colored lights around them.

"We could feel something. It was almost as if it was in the colored lights. It was a dark night. We didn't hear anything, only a slight hum or vibration," said Mr. Vasso.



Pete Vasso holding rare meteorite found in Destin - cobalt & lead

"Something was overtaking us," said Mrs. Vasso. "I don't know how long it was there. We couldn't do anything except sit there and watch it. The car would not turn on, and the radio wouldn't work either. We just had to sit there."

"I don't know how long we were there. I think it was about 45 minutes," said Mr. Vasso. "Then, the vehicle left, and we were able to start the car."

His wife added, "When it took off, the whole field was on fire. We went and reported the fire. They tried to accuse us of setting the fire!" she exclaimed.

"When we got back, I called the National Guard to report it," said Vasso. "They told us to keep our mouths shut, and don't repeat it to anybody."

The Vassos did exactly that for forty years. They have said that after forty years, it is still the foremost thing on their minds.

"It was an experience that we've never gotten over. We've never gotten over it!" said Mrs. Vasso.

The Vassos are not the only Destin residents who have had experiences that are out of the ordinary. A young mother in Destin had her five year old son return from his overnight stay at his grandmother's house with a bizarre story.

"He talked about going for a ride in a spaceship. He said a robot took him in a spaceship to another spaceship that was the robot's home," said the woman who prefers to remain nameless at this time. "The more questions I asked him, the more strange answers I got."

(continued on page 7)



(continued from page 6 - EMERALD CITIES MAGAZINE,  
Destin, FL - Jan. 1989)

He said they disappeared through the doors, and that the spaceship was in Grandma's back yard. He said the robot had to jump up to get into it. I asked him how he could tell it was not a dream. He said, 'In a dream, I can't feel it. I could feel this.'

"His attitude was so matter of fact when he said these things. It was just not like him to say these kinds of things. He had never talked about spaceships or things like that. I checked things out. I checked the TV guide and his papers from school to see if there had been any discussion that could have prompted these thoughts. I knew it was not just a dream, but I didn't know what it was," stated the young boy's mother. "I didn't know what to do. You don't just look up UFO experts in the yellow pages. Then I saw the name of a UFO investigator in this area. I called Mr. Ware, and he invited me to come tell my story at a monthly meeting of UFO investigators. When I told them what my son had been saying, everybody seemed to understand it. Mr. Ware told me about some people getting hypnosis. I figured I would try it first. I wasn't going to put my son through anything I hadn't tried first."

This young woman did consent to be hypnotized by her brother, who was experienced in hypnosis. The results of her sessions in hypnosis were stupefying. During one of her hypnotic sessions, she said, "I have a secret that I can't tell anybody ever." Still in a trance, she began to scream, "They're going to take me!" In this session and in subsequent sessions, it became evident that this woman had her OWN abduction story that began when SHE was five years old.

"I couldn't think of a thing it could possibly be... I don't think there is any way I could have made it up," she stated. "It has been hard for me to believe myself. For a long time, I kept trying to figure out something else it could be. I'm not a crazy person, now or then," she confided.

Since those sessions, a lot of things have fell into place for this young woman and her family. After initial fright, she has a broader picture of her world, and of her importance in it.

"I feel that everything does happen for some good reason. When I ask myself what is the good reason for this, the only thing I come up with is that I have to talk about it, to find out about it, and then to help other people who are dealing with it."

The young woman continued, "It's time for people to start talking about it... They have to know that it's a possibility and they have to pay attention to it... It is happening, and it is happening to kids. It does affect normal people, and it does happen here in Destin. Just pay attention to it and find out about it, instead of pretending it doesn't exist," she spoke with courage.

"This experience has changed me in a good way. I used to feel powerless. Now, I feel that maybe we're not powerless. If, as a group, we have some connection with alien beings, we could be the most powerful of all. I have a lot of good feelings, now. I feel that if these beings were going to hurt us, they could have done that a long time ago. At times now, I almost feel safe. If there is a reason to be on earth, and there is a power guiding me, then maybe it's also going to protect me... They told me that I would know what was going on when it was time."

Perhaps the time has come. Perhaps the time is here for us to learn and to be open to the possibility that there is much in the universe that we do not fully understand. It is an opportunity for us to look at our society with open eyes, and to begin the long slow process of changing that which makes us less than what we can be.

"The whole thing demonstrates that there are no limits," Dwayne Cook -- editor, *The Gulf Breeze Sentinel*. "You would not have gotten this far nor gained this much information had we not desired to help you. That which has been given you -- seek, search. We shall help reveal. Certain pieces of the puzzle will be fitted. Try to understand yourselves. Seek spiritually. Doors have been left open unto you. The Great Door shall guide." \*\*

\*\**The Andreasson Affair Phase Two*; Fowler, Raymond; p. 130.

\**Mufon UFO Journal*; October, 1988; Noyes, Ralph; p. 9. \*

said. Some callers said the sound was loud enough to vibrate their houses.

Mr. Gordon talked with an earthquake center in Boulder, Colo., the National Weather Service in Pittsburgh and with Federal Aviation Administration personnel in Altoona; Cleveland, Ohio; and New York City. No one could explain the boom.

"There were no military aircraft in the area that could have created a supersonic boom," Mr. Gordon said, quoting FAA authorities at Kennedy International Airport in New York.

The noise was heard only by people between Monroeville, Allegheny County, and Greensburg. There was some speculation the sound was connected with a fire at a coke-oven battery in Clairton, Allegheny County, but no explosion was reported at the scene of the fire, Mr. Gordon said.

The association spokesman said the noise was just the latest in a series of unexplained explosions.

Most recently, a similar noise was reported early Nov. 26 in Clearfield County. Two police officers separately sighted a bright spherical object moving in the sky in the Osceola Mills area.

Mr. Gordon, who said his center has been receiving a consistently high number of unexplained sightings and noises across Pennsylvania since August 1987, said he is eager to receive any new reports.

People can call a 24-hour hotline number, 412-838-7768, or they can send description of sightings to the association at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

(Paper Unknown), Bridgehampton, NY - Dec. 9, 1988 CR: J. Mundy

## The Long Island UFO Network

The first meeting of the Long Island UFO Network was held at the local library in Bellport on Friday, November 14. The Network was founded in April by Richard Stout and John Ford. Both have had an interest in UFO phenomena for some time. John Ford, who is President of the group, related that Long Island has been subjected to a good deal of UFO activity, especially of late. In six months the Network has investigated 139 cases.

The meeting began with two video tapes. One was of a Morton Downey, Jr. show that dealt with UFOs; the second was the Joel Martin Show, a Long Island cable talk show. The Downey tape had a sequence in which the notorious host, under hypnosis, described a decades-old encounter with extraterrestrials. The Joel Martin tape had John Ford, as a guest on the program, explaining why he linked several instances of animal mutilation on Long Island not with bizarre cults, but UFOs.

The uninitiated might have found this an absurd—and lurid—beginning, but John Ford, in his handling of the meeting stressed the seriousness of his organization in his efforts to ferret out the truth behind happenings many deny, many swear to, and which, overall, are unexplained.

The two guest speakers were Dr. Jean Mundy and Joel Martin. Dr. Mundy, who was written about in this paper some weeks ago, is a psychologist who treats people who claim to have had direct contact (usually in the form of being abducted) with aliens. She opened with:

"People's lives have been changed for the better—or worse." She gave an account of a Long Island man who was abducted by aliens on his way home from work. Confronted by a strange, blazing light, his truck stalled. His watch and wedding ring and coat zipper became increasingly hot. He removed the watch and ring, loosened the zipper. As these metals are of different composition they do not heat up at the same rate; he described them getting hot in the proper order they would do so.

Humanoid beings approached his truck and dragged him out of it. He underwent what by now is the "normal" abductee experience: being submitted to a physical examination by creatures who are about four feet tall, with blue-grey skin, hairless bodies and very large, pupil-less eyes that slant inward.

He awoke on the side of the road. It was the next day. He went to a bar in order to call a friend. "He hadn't had any drinks before it happened," said Mundy, "but he had some then."

As he was being driven home he spotted his truck. It was in a woody area along the road. The key was in the ignition. Incidentally, his watch and ring had been put back on, though the watch on his other wrist and the ring on a wrong finger. Years later he went to Dr. Mundy for treatment.

It was Dr. Mundy who had hypnotized Morton Downey, Jr. She explained with a smile: "I'm one of a few who have survived the Morton Downey Show. Actually, he's a real pussy cat when he's hypnotized." Downey was taken offstage when put under; it's illegal to hypnotize someone on TV. There is the fear that members of the audience might become hypnotized. (Of course, the Downey audience might benefit from any altered state that would come their way.)

Back before the cameras a soft voiced, wondering Downey spoke of meeting aliens when they interrupted his drive north from New York City on the Boston Post Road. This happened over 25 years ago. An aircraft that seemed to be following him suddenly turned into a brilliant light that came down in front of him. He underwent the abductee experience—during which, he said, "Something happened to make me think I died. I'd read all the stories about the white light—no, it was really a light of brilliant color. I was in a tunnel, and I walked through to the light."

Before hypnosis Downey did not believe he had ever had any encounter with UFOs. There was a curious disclaimer on the show itself; as he watched a tape of himself relating the incident, a caption at the bottom of the screen announced Downey did not believe any of this. When Dr. Mundy later queried the producers, she was told the disclaimer was necessary because "they didn't want Morton Downey to look like a nut."

Both Dr. Mundy and Joel Martin spoke of the recent TV special dealing with the alleged UFO coverup by the government. Viewers who had sighted UFOs were invited to call a special number. 75,000 calls were received during the two hour special. Out of that number, 4,500 said they had been abducted.

In describing the abduction experience, Dr. Mundy said, "They always seem to need our cooperation." I thought of the man being dragged from his truck. She added "There is a point when the terror ends." Abductees report reaching states

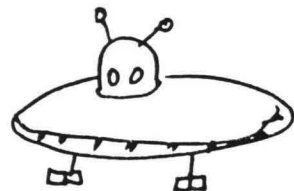
of peace and bliss. Often, before parting (or, rather, being released), the abductee is given an "ESP book" by the aliens. They are not allowed to show it to anyone; if they attempt to, it disappears.

Joel Martin has been broadcasting for twenty years on Long Island. Connecting his own experience to the call-in response during the coverup special, he related how, in 1974, he had used a UFO filler at the end of the news. That filler "generated literally thousands of calls expressing interest." The item concerned a professor in Florida who claimed that for a long time the government had been in possession of dead aliens.

This response led Joel Martin into shows about UFOs and parapsychological matters. He said that he had spoken, off the record, to an officer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base (in the southwest) who told Martin that yes, the government had indeed gathered both UFO wreckage and aliens.

Martin summarized the famous Roswell Incident: July, 1947, in New Mexico. The information officer at an air base actually released to the press an announcement that the military had found (and salvaged) a crashed UFO. The very next day the official line was changed to: not a UFO, but a downed weather balloon. For years since UFO investigators have come forth with statements from locals and military personnel who steadfastly claim that a UFO had definitely crashed in the area and the bodies of aliens recovered. There is a book, *The Roswell Incident*, coauthored by Charles Berlitz, who wrote two bestsellers about the Bermuda Triangle.

Martin spoke about the mysterious and ominous men in black—or MIBs. These are apparently real life ogres in the UFO investigatory field: menacing men in black suits who intimidate investigators and "contactees" alike. Dr. Mundy spoke of a couple, thirty year veteran investigators with MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) who had been so terrorized by the MIBs that they resigned. There are numerous reports of black helicopters (some with white circles) that continu-



ally buzz the houses of those involved in UFO abductions and/or research. It appears there is a campaign to terrorize those "in the know" into silence. Dr Mundy had been talking on the phone with a woman who had just moved in order to avoid this harrowing surveillance; only hours after the woman had moved the helicopters were back; they could be heard over the phone.

Martin told the story of a mysterious visitor who came to the radio station where Martin worked. He knew Martin by sight. "This was before I had my TV show. The station is in the middle of nowhere. It was at night. He gave me some printed information on UFOs which, when I looked at it later, seemed nonsense. As if he expected me to use it and be discredited. One of my colleagues wanted to drive the man home—he didn't have a car; but he couldn't—or wouldn't tell us where he was going. We did try to drive him home; somewhere in Islip he told us to stop at a corner; my colleague said no, she'd drive him right to his house. Finally he indicated a house, got out—we saw him disappear between two houses."

Martin also related that he was once offered a talk show deal at a major network, but to get the job he had to promise he would steer away from UFOs and the paranormal. He declined. Referring to past government claims that UFOs do not exist and the fact that certain government reports investigating UFOs are classified, he said, "It is a case of the government saying, 'We can't release information about something we already said isn't there.'"

The Long Island UFO Network hotline number to report sightings is 286-3212. Address: P.O. Box 232, Center Moriches, N.Y. 11934. All investigations are kept absolutely confidential.

In late January, 1989, the Network hopes to issue its first newsletter. Operation Skywatch is slated for this winter: members are asked to give one night a week to watch the sky in an attempt to not merely spot but photograph (or film) UFOs.

At the next meeting, which is not yet scheduled, the Long Island UFO Network hopes to have individuals who have had the contactee—abduction experience address its members.

— Jerry Cimisi

## Noise puzzles officials

By Dave Hurst  
The Tribune-Democrat

### Greensburg

Authorities could not explain a loud noise—described as a sonic boom and as an explosion—heard at approximately 6:20 p.m. Sunday in the west-central section of Westmoreland County.

"We've got a little mystery on our hands," said Stan Gordon, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, which is based here.

Westmoreland County authorities received dozens of phone calls. A state trooper based in Greensburg also reported hearing the noise.

"One of our guys who was out west (in Westmoreland County) heard it," said a state police spokesman at the Greensburg barracks. He said the barracks had received about 20 calls, adding "they were all from the south and west of Greensburg."

Westmoreland County's emergency communications center also reported receiving a number of calls.

"They heard something that sounded like an explosion," a dispatcher

# Cash not rolling in for Site Center

By Jim Daly  
Regional editor

**C**HIPPEWA FALLS — A proposed landing site in Elmwood for unidentified flying objects has attracted international attention but not the funding its backers want.

Tom Weber, a Cornell businessman and founder of UFO Site Center Corp., says he's a "bit discouraged" with the lack of contributions the corporation has received in the year since it announced plans to build a landing site for UFOs and a UFO research center in Elmwood.

Stories about the proposal were sent worldwide by news agencies. Elmwood, the location of numerous UFO sightings, became famous, and Weber and his associates have appeared on national television.

The publicity, however, has not translated into cash.

"There's really nothing fantastic going on," Weber said this week. "It's boiling down to hard economics . . . the money just hasn't

come through.

The non-profit Site Center Corp., based in Chippewa Falls, has relied mostly on individual contributions. Weber said he isn't sure exactly how much has been collected because the firm hasn't done its taxes yet.

"I think everybody's going to be shocked at how low the figure is . . . I think it's going to be under \$20,000," he said.

That sum probably won't provide much more than a grass strip. UFO Site Center officials originally talked about a project that could cost up to \$50 million.

Weber, who has several thousand dollars invested in the project, and a few other people have been the largest contributors.

The corporation has not acquired any land for the site center.

"Although the public response was just tremendous, they left out one very important ingredient — they neglected to support us financially," Weber said.

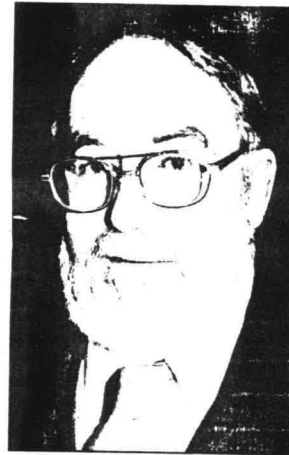
Despite the lack of money, "We're not considering abandoning the project," he emphasized.

Site Center officials are considering changing their non-profit status to a for-profit firm. Such a change would give the firm more flexibility, Weber said.

Weber also is looking for an alliance with a big-name entertainer or athlete to spearhead a fund drive. He said he has talked twice with Mohammed Ali, the former heavyweight boxing champion, but Ali has not yet committed himself to any role.

"We just felt that if this thing was to happen, we'd need a couple big-name celebrities to lead the way," Weber said.

At the very least, the UFO Site Center's proposal has renewed interest in extra-terrestrial life. Conferences and speeches about UFOs in general and the government's alleged cover-up of UFO sightings have been given at the Uni-



Tom Weber  
A "bit discouraged"

versity of Wisconsin-River Falls and UW-Stout in Menomonie.

The proposed UFO pad also helped draw crowds to Elmwood's annual UFO Days last July, even though the Site Center Corp. does not sponsor that celebration.

EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio, TX - Jan. 15, 1989 CR: A. Huron

# UNWANTED VISITORS FROM BEYOND

## One family's story

by Craig Phelon

**J**OAN AND WALTER Burns realized a dream of living in the country when they moved into a trailer on their newly acquired hilltop plot near Boerne. But their peace lasted only two weeks.

Then the creatures found them.

On a Sunday at about 11:30 p.m., Joan finished taking a shower and was ready to go to bed when her husband called her to the window.

"You better come here and look at this," he said.

The valley to the northeast of the hill was filled with a peculiar glow. The light wasn't bright enough to hurt the eyes, but it was a kind of light neither Joan nor Walter had ever seen before. The soft white glow not only appeared around the trees, but filtered through them. The trees appeared translucent, as if they were made of wax.

**THE LIGHT'S SOURCE** was not visible, but three bright, orange globes hovered just above the trees — two to the east of the trailer and one to the west.

These globes hung in the sky without moving. But three smaller points of orange light down in the trees were moving. They appeared to be weaving through the trees and coming toward the trailer.

The terrified couple watched as the three points of light came closer. As the lights approached the clearing surrounding the trailer, the Burns thought they were seeing floating creatures — small beings with large heads and large eyes — carrying some sort of flashlight.

These weren't ordinary flashlights, though, because the light penetrated the trailer. It didn't just seep in through the windows. It went through the metal sides. That light was an unusual greenish-yellowish color, Joan recalls.

Walter grabbed his shotgun and started to go out the door, but Joan begged him not to.

She told him a shotgun might be useless against creatures who could make lights go through metal walls.

The couple then got on their knees and

## TELL US YOUR EXTRATERRESTRIAL TALE

**A** few months ago, Sunday Magazine carried a story about a UFO-Alamo Heights connection.

We thought people would find it interesting and that would be that.

Just the opposite happened. Radio and TV stations jumped on the story and ran their own versions of it. Meanwhile, phone calls and letters started streaming into the offices of Sunday Magazine.

It seems everyone either has his own UFO story or, at least, has a strong opinion about whether South Texas has become a hot spot for UFOs.

To a lot of people this is a very serious matter, while others take it with a grain of salt.

So far there have been no explanations for the many reports of UFO sightings and abductions. So we're throwing the question to you, the reader, in the form of a contest.

To enter Sunday Magazine's "UFOs Contest," send us your best UFO story. Since no one can say for sure whether UFOs exist, the stories can be fact or fiction. However, the stories will be judged on the basis of plausibility, style and imagination. Any entry involving UFOs and Elvis will be disqualified.

Entries should be no more than 500 words in length.

First place wins \$50, second place \$30 and third place \$20.

The three winning stories will be published in the Feb. 26 issue. Deadline for entries is Jan. 27.

Send contest entries to: UFOs Contest/Sunday Magazine, P.O. Box 2171, San Antonio, Texas 78297-2171. Include your name, address, telephone and Social Security number.

prayed for protection. Joan remembers she and Walter suddenly became very calm and talked of going to bed and ignoring the creatures, hoping they would just go away. Then they both grew very tired and fell asleep.

That was July 15, 1978. Joan and Walter Burns are pseudonyms for a Boerne couple who swear their experiences are true, but for obvious reasons don't want their real names revealed.

However, the story doesn't end there. The incident at the trailer is only one chapter in a long history of alleged UFO experiences that have followed not only Joan and Walter, but their three grown children and even their grandchildren and other relatives.

Joan says she believes her family has been marked for genetic studies by these creatures.

She reports UFO experiences dating back to 1949, when she was 10 and living with her family on the East Side of San Antonio, and as recent as August 1988.

However, her memory of these experiences didn't begin to jell until this winter, after she went through a series of hypnotic sessions with an investigator from the Mutual UFO Network. MUFON investigates UFO sightings and alien abduction stories.

**ROBERT MORGAN**, director of investigations for the San Antonio MUFON chapter, is trying to piece together the Burns family's stories of reported abductions. He says the hypnotic sessions, with all five family members, will be a long, painstaking process.

Both Morgan and mental-health professionals say statements people make under hypnosis cannot be assumed to be accurate. Most agree hypnotism helps enhance memory, but what is remembered may not be true — or it may be jumbled versions of the truth.

However, it often has been used to bring out details of events that the subconscious mind stored away years ago.

Joan says the sessions have helped her fill in memory gaps and deal with the emotional trauma of being a UFO abductee.

Joan and Walter seem convinced the creatures are real. The incident at their trailer was a real physical experience, they say. It was not part of the information dredged up

(continued on page 9)



(continued from page 8 - EXPRESS-NEWS,  
San Antonio, TX - Jan. 15, 1989)

under hypnosis, but something they consciously remember.

Both say neighbors in Boerne also told them they saw strange, orange lights in the sky near the town dump — the night their trailer was supposed to have been attacked.

Under hypnosis, Joan remembered being abducted and examined by the creatures. Walter, however, remembered nothing under hypnosis. He merely went to sleep.

So Joan and Walter speculate the aliens put Walter to sleep while they abducted Joan.

**SHE SAYS OTHER** memories range from terrifying to somewhat humorous. Joan says she was aware of the following, even before her hypnosis:

● In 1949 Joan woke up in the middle of the night and saw a glowing figure at the foot of her bed. As a 10-year-old girl, she thought the figure was an apparition of Jesus and assumed she was having a religious experience.

However, hypnosis almost 40 years later revealed another story. The figure was a huge-eyed creature that carried her off to a spacecraft, where aliens inserted something in her left nostril.

● She also has less clear memories of another possible abduction when she was 12. She believes she was floating out a window and into a large, glowing craft that landed behind her house. She thinks she may have been impregnated or implanted with an embryo that was later removed.

The latter is a common theme in an increasing number of UFO abduction stories: aliens are using human girls to incubate half-alien children.

Sunday Magazine also talked with a woman in Paris, Texas, who tells a similar story. That woman says her 12-year-old daughter may have been sired by an alien. She says her daughter looks like a normal human, but is extremely intelligent and has hearing more sensitive than normal.

● In March 1967, a van-sized UFO chased Joan and her three young children as she drove along the access road to Interstate 10 between Loop 410 and Vance Jackson Road. She escaped by driving to a local church, fighting off what she believes was an attempt by the aliens to brainwash her into driving to a vacant lot.

That night, a UFO allegedly landed on top of their Northwest San Antonio home. Whatever it was, the thing destroyed the flat gravel roof, leaving three round indentations and a burn mark.

Other details of that incident remained hidden until Joan's hypnosis — more than 20 years later — indicated her children and husband were abducted and taken to the object on the roof.

Without hypnosis, she remembered each of her three children came to her separately the next day complaining of strange nightmares involving monsters. Her youngest, then about age 3, said he didn't want to sleep in his room because he was afraid "the alligator man" would come and get him again.

● About May 23, 1988, Joan says she was driving home on I-10 about 9:30 p.m. when another small UFO followed her car. When no other cars were around, it swooped down and flashed a brilliant red light that caused the hearing aid in her left ear to burn out.

The next day, her doctor noted the hearing aid was not damaged but she did have a red burn mark in her ear canal.

Joan speculates the aliens wanted to remove the hearing aid because it was interfering with signals from a tracking device in the left side of her brain. She says the device probably was implanted when she was a child.

She says a brain scan performed on her about 10 years ago did reveal a tiny, but apparently harmless object lodged in the left side of her brain.

Suspected brain implants also

have become a recurring theme in UFO abduction stories across the country.

● In August 1988, the couple say they suffered a classic "missing time" experience. Ufologists say missing time is one symptom of a possible abduction.

In this case, Joan and Walter were driving from their daughter's house in Kendalia to their home in Boerne, a trip that takes about 20 minutes, when they noticed a circle with red, white and blue flashing lights following their pickup.

They found themselves at home an hour and a half later with no memory of the time between spotting the strange lights and parking in the driveway.

Under hypnosis, Joan remembered being abducted again, but Walter remembered nothing.

● In the realm of the humorous, Joan remembers seeing a lighted ball appear in the sky near her home while a widely known country-music band was rehearsing in a building not too far away.

Joan swears the UFO bounced up and down in the sky to the beat of the music.

On the downside, however, Joan claims her abductions have left her with various medical problems, including near deafness in both ears and the growth of several small spots on her skin.

A dermatologist later told her the spots were aging spots, perhaps brought out by excessive exposure to heat.

Joan says she is aware most people who learn of her stories will think she is insane — or at least suffering serious delusions. That only makes matters worse.

"There are people you just don't talk to about this and there are some people who understand it and want to know more," she says.

Joan doesn't think she's insane, and says she is willing to go through psychological tests to prove it. She and her husband work in respected professions and are well-known in Boerne and San Antonio. They lead extremely active lives, despite the shadow of their UFO stories.

Joan says she first came to believe in alien creatures after being chased by a UFO in 1967. But she did not make her case public at that time — or after the trailer incident in 1978 — because she didn't know of any public agency or organization that would take her seriously.

She says she did report the 1967 incident to the San Antonio Police Department. An officer came out to her house, politely took down her information and told her these UFOs, whatever they were, probably wouldn't harm her.

Also, on the advice of a friend, she called a professor at San Antonio College who was said to be collecting UFO information. She never talked with the professor, who is no longer at the college, but a secretary took her information and told her not to worry.

However, after her episode in May 1988, she learned of MUFON. Morgan and co-investigator Robert Smith started studying the Burns' case in September.

MUFON investigators say this is one of their most interesting cases. Stories of people being abducted by UFOs are cropping up all over the country, but it is apparently rare to have a whole family claiming to have been abducted.

What's more, Joan believes UFO abductions may be a family curse. She remembers her mother, now deceased, used to warn her to stay away from strange lights, though her mother never told her what those strange lights might have been.

Other relatives also have reported UFO sightings. And Joan fears her grandchildren might have been abducted.

Strange lights also have been seen around her daughter's house. A day after one such sighting, Joan's youngest grandchild, then an infant, woke up with blood in one of his ears. She says it is still a



Illustration by Macdalena Tosheva

Joan, then 10, remembers seeing a figure next to her bed. Hypnosis has revealed the figure was a creature that carried her to a spacecraft.

mystery how the baby could have injured his ear.

If Joan's recollections of UFO sightings and floating creatures seem strange, they are tame compared with the abduction details she revealed under hypnosis.

The 1967 incident at the trailer, for example, picks up with both Joan and Walter apparently being put to sleep by the approaching creatures.

Their three children happen to be spending the night at their grandmother's house, so the couple is alone.

"They floated me out of that trailer," Joan says. "I came out with the light. I thought Walter was with me, but he wasn't. I grabbed a limb on this tree out here. I tried to break the trance and I found myself frozen in midair. I couldn't move. And I didn't know anything more until I found myself inside (the UFO)."

"They put a needle in my stomach. The light that I was experiencing was going through my body. I felt like I was just surrounded by light."

"I asked them why they were doing this to me and they said, 'You are awfully resistant to us and you don't need to be.' That was the communication."

"They did not like the idea that I was so difficult. And they said they needed to do this and they had to do it."

Joan says the aliens spoke in soothing tones to her when she was abducted as a child, according to her memories under hypnosis.

But this time they were not friendly.

**THE NEXT MORNING**, she remembers her stomach was very sensitive and she didn't want anyone touching it. Her hearing problems also started shortly after that night.

Walter, who believes he was put to sleep while all this was happening, says he found his shotgun the next morning. It was taken apart and displayed neatly on the kitchen table. The shells he had loaded in the gun were standing in a neat row.

"The only advice I can give to people is when they see these things (UFOs), they're nothing to gawk at," Joan says.

"Don't stand still. Get away as soon as possible. Just get with other people."

She speaks with a conviction that may leave some people nonplused.

Says MUFON investigator Robert Smith, "They're just not the kind of people to make up something like this." He refers to the Burns' standing in the community.

"They've got everything to lose and nothing to gain (by telling these stories)," Smith says.

MUFON state director Thomas Deuley says graphic abduction stories such as these challenge attempts to investigate UFO phenomena scientifically.

"We haven't found a concrete answer to the UFO question itself," he says. And then along come stories about space creatures mating with humans.

Deuley says all members of MUFON do not automatically assume UFOs really are spaceships from other planets. They are willing to listen to other theories, including those that put forth complex psychological explanations for UFO sightings and abductions.

Dennis Stacy, a San Antonio-based freelance writer who edits the MUFON Journal and writes on scientific topics, brought up one of the latest theories in the cover story of December's Omni magazine.

That theory puts forth evidence that the brain's temporal lobes may be sensitive to electromagnetic forces in the atmosphere, thus being stimulated to hallucinate.

Tectonic strain, the technical name for the geological stress believed to cause earthquakes, is also believed to release electrical energy. That energy is visible in the form of earthquake lights, globes of hazy light that seem to precede or accompany earth tremors.

This theory is interesting when you consider the Balcones Fault happens to run near Boerne and San Antonio. This geological fault system is said to be inactive, but it might be a source of tectonic strain.

*"They put a needle in my stomach. The light that I was experiencing was going through my body."*

— Joan

These earthquake lights may be the UFOs some people see, but could the same electrical energy also stimulate the brains of some sensitive people to see little creatures?

Canadian scientist Michael Persinger apparently found some evidence of that when he stimulated the temporal lobes of test subjects with mild electric shocks, Stacy writes. While exposing these people to electric stimulation, Persinger asked them to free-associate on the theme of seeing lights in the sky. Some subjects who never reported a close-encounter experience began telling detailed stories much like those of alleged UFO abductees.

However, ufologists — the self-descriptive term applied to the various sorts of people studying UFO reports — say the various theories put forth by scientists to explain away UFOs fall short of answering all the questions. Also, some scientific theories sound every bit as far-fetched as stories about alien space creatures.

MUFON researchers say it's curious that hundreds of people reporting abduction experiences across the country give very similar details, describing basically the same creatures and the same circumstances.

Skeptics say the alleged abductees probably were influenced by the same science-fiction stories. But many, like Joan, claim not to have read very much about UFOs before they started having experiences.

Another controversy focuses on the validity of hypnotism as a research tool.

Dr. Richard Garver, a San Antonio-based clinical psychologist specializing in hypnotherapy, says statements people make under hypnosis must be taken with a grain of salt. He is a nationally recognized hypnotherapist who works on most of the country's FBI cases that require hypnosis.

"Hypnosis gives us more access to the unconscious mind," he says. "The glitch is that our brains aren't perfect. We sometimes misperceive things."

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)  
- EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio, TX - Jan. 15, 1989)

"Our whole process of perception and storage of memory is not perfectly perceived as if it were stored on a VCR and you could play it back."

He also notes individuals under hypnosis can be influenced very easily by the therapist and may try to come up with the kinds of stories they think the therapist wants to hear.

Morgan, MUFON's hypnotist, says he takes great pains not to influence his subject's statements. He says he also is aware that what is said under hypnosis is not always true. However, he feels it is a valuable, if not flawless, tool in studying the UFO question.

For Joan, however, the various attempts to explain away her experiences as mistakenly identified natural phenomena, mental dysfunction or electromagnetically induced hallucinations aren't convincing.

"They can come and take you any time they want to without you having anything to say about it," she insists.

"They can interrupt your life and make you sick. I've had agonizing fears all my life.

"There has to be a reason I was selected," she adds.

"I asked them and they said I would find out later.

"I didn't ask where they came from. I didn't want to know. I just want my life, my children and my family to be left alone."

Craig Phelon is Sunday Magazine's story editor.

TIMES JOURNAL, Fort Payne, AL - Feb. 14, 1989

# Friday night UFO remains a mystery

By ELTON ROBERTS  
The Times-Journal

From Grove Oak to Licksillet, numerous sightings of a mysterious aircraft described as "a silent thing streaking through the dark" Friday night prompted a deluge of calls to the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office.

Observed by numerous law enforcement officers and private citizens across south DeKalb County, the aircraft mystified and terrified residents.

The first report came at 8:42 p.m. when a Grove Oak woman informed the Fyffe Police Department that she had watched the object for over an hour with a pair of binoculars.

The woman, who later asked not to be identified, said the hovering aircraft appeared to be the shape of a banana with the curved side upright. "There was a red light on each end and a white

light in a line between them. The top of the curve was outlined in green light."

She said that when the craft turned, the green lights splayed outward "like fireworks" in a circular shape.

Police chief Junior Garmany and assistant chief Fred Works were dispatched to check the phenomenon. According to Garmany, when the officers arrived the aircraft was still hovering. "It was completely silent," he said. "We got out of the car and we turned off the engine and the radio. When we started towards it, it began moving away."

The police chief said the officers followed the object from Tenbroeck to Dawson, a distance of about 12 miles. Then the aircraft suddenly reversed direction and silently flew over the heads of the startled officers.

"We figured it was going about

three or four hundred miles an hour," Garmany said. The officers estimated the aircraft's altitude at 1,000 to 1,500 feet, but they were able to get a good look at it.

"It looked like an airplane at first, and it was moving fast," Works said. "But it didn't make a sound."

"It was bigger than a jumbo jet," Garmany said. According to the officers the shape was difficult to describe, but appeared roundish, with flashing green, white, and red lights along the sides. White lights dotted the bottom, "like landing lights."

Works said the white lights underneath appeared to be shining upward, illuminating the bottom of the aircraft.

After the aircraft left, it was spotted by a state trooper and by police officers in Crossville, Geraldine, and Collinsville. On one occasion, police officers reportedly saw three of the

aircraft at one time.

The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received over 50 telephone calls about the sightings. One call came from a terrified Licksillet resident. "He was about to have a heart attack and his wife was screaming," an official said. "He said it came over at treetop level and that he had shot at it with a 12-gauge shotgun."

Airport officials in Birmingham, Huntsville, and at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery were unable to explain the sightings. A Weather Service official said the description "doesn't match any kind of weather balloon we have."

The woman who first sighted the craft said she hoped officials would be able to logically explain the phenomenon. "I'd love to know what it is," she said. "I'm not crazy and I don't go around chasing UFOs."

TIMES JOURNAL, Fort Payne, AL - Feb. 18-19, 1989

## Alabama UFO baffles police

GEORGIANA (AP) — Authorities remained baffled by an unknown flying object flashing multi-colored lights that police said remained stationary in the sky for more than an hour.

Sgt. Denson Scott, along with two other police officers, went to check out a citizen's report of the object Wednesday night.

"You could see it from anywhere in the city. It was fairly high in the sky," he said Thursday.

Scott said officers observed the object for about an hour, until it moved away to the northwest. He said the report was referred to the state Department of Public Safety.

Public Safety dispatcher Lee Pease says officials at Ft. Rucker, Ft. Benning, Ft. Maxwell and the Federal Aviation Administration couldn't identify the object.

The call was the second report of an unidentified flying object in the state in a week. About 20 DeKalb County residents, including Fyffe police officers and a state trooper, saw an object with flashing red, green and white lights in various locations the night of Feb. 10.

GRANT CO. HERALD INDEPENDENT, Lancaster, WI - Jan. 19, 1989

## They're heeere?

Unidentified lights seen Tuesday a.m.

We have no explanation for this story.

An unidentified man called the Herald Independent Tuesday morning to ask if we had received any reports of strange lights in the northern sky Tuesday morning.

The man, who works in Lancaster, said he had noticed a group of 12 to 15 lights in the Fennimore/Boscobel area around 7 a.m. He described the lights as looking like stars, with some bright and dull. They gradually began winking out one by one, and he did not hear any noise accompanying the lights.

The man said, however, that there were not stars in the sky at 7 a.m. He also said that they did not look like the aurora borealis, northern lights, or like airplanes.

The man refused to identify himself or where he worked, saying that people would think he was crazy.

A Grant County Sheriff's Department dispatcher said that the sheriff's office received three telephone calls Tuesday morning asking about the lights.

CR: R. Heiden

## THE MON VALLEY

# A thoroughway for UFOs

VALLEY INDEPENDENT, Monesson, PA - Jan. 23, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

By ELIZABETH HORNE

Is the Mon Valley a thoroughway for Unidentified Flying Objects?

According to Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, "There is always a lot of activity in the Belle Vernon, Monongahela, Charleroi and Washington areas."

Most UFO sightings seem to be what is termed nocturnal light. An example of just such a sighting was reported by two different witnesses last year on Jan. 11, at 5 a.m.

At the intersection of Route 51 and interstate 70 a brilliant bright white light, triangular in shape, hovered in the early morning sky. As the people watched, the object shot off towards Uniontown leaving a tail of light.

In Washington County on June 25, 1987, a father and his son had an experience in broad daylight as they worked on their truck.

They had spent the morning underneath the truck, occasionally looking up to name the planes as they flew overhead. They heard a small engine plane and identified it as a biplane. After identifying it they noticed an object off of the left aircraft wing and then began noticing more and more of the strange objects around the plane.

They described them as starlight objects in the sky. The man held his thumb in the air to gauge the speed of the objects. It took three seconds for them to pass.

Adding to this mystery, on the same day an airline reported a UFO encounter that one of its airplanes



Paul G. Johnson, a chemistry professor at Duquesne University and head of the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research has also had many sightings reported.

One of his most puzzling UFO sighting was that of a man with a heart condition. Johnson received the report 20 years after the incident occurred.

The man reported that entities entered his room during the night while he was experiencing chest pain. The creatures put a metallic object, shaped like a cigarette pack, into his hand. His hands got warm and turned red. The entities then

took the object from his hands and left. Since that time he has never experienced any heart problems.

What would you do if you saw a bigfoot or a UFO?

According to both Johnson and Gordon, the first thing that you should do is to take a picture and note the exact time and location of the sighting. Sit down, as soon as possible, and write down everything that you can remember including a description of the object, any sounds, or lights.

"The longer you wait the more difficult it is to remember," Johnson said. The information you gather could provide possible clues to the investigators.

After recording the information call your local or state police. They will pass the information on to an agency that investigates sightings. If you would rather deal directly with a research agency then dial Gordon's hotline number, 838-7768 or Johnson's hotline number, 823-1834.

"People should call since this information is important to researchers," according to Johnson.

"All information is kept strictly confidential," commented Gordon, "Anyone who doesn't want to call should send a brief narrative of the experience including the date, time and location."

Gordon's group was founded in 1981 from a group that had previously been called Westmoreland County UFO Study Group. The volunteer group is now made up of such professionals as doctors, engineers, scientists, and astronomers.

The group is not funded but does

have an elaborate communications system.

The information gathered from sightings is used to collate statistical data, which is then used to locate patterns. These patterns will eventually allow researchers to be present at a sighting. With special equipment, researchers can take measures, such as radiation level, that can further their studies.

"Sightings occur in flap periods," according to Johnson. This means that sightings seem to occur in large numbers during certain times and years. For example, sightings for 1988 are about double the number for 1987. So, 1988 can be considered a flap year.

"Sightings are more likely to occur during mid-week, mostly on Wednesday evenings," Johnson said. According to statistical data, more sightings occur during the months of March and October.

About 90 percent of the reportings can be traced to bright planets, stars or other natural phenomena the other 10 percent are attributed to close encounters.

How do researchers decide whether an object was a natural phenomena or a UFO?

The first step is to check for any special atmospheric conditions and bright planets.

Johnson's group of investigators follows-up on each report they receive with a personal visit, if the area is within driving distance. Once there they ask the witness to fill out a questionnaire and then proceed to the area of the sighting. At the site they perform an indepth

investigation.

Many people do not believe in this phenomena but as Gordon points out, most of the witnesses are people who were complete skeptics.

A police officer in Harrisburg was quickly turned into a believer on Dec. 4, 1988 at 5:25 a.m. As he was driving he noticed an object over the powerlines, it was about 75 feet long, and bright silver in color. After he pulled over to the side of the road he got out of his car.

He said that he felt like he was in a mist. He heard a low humming sound and his car was glowing blue. He felt a burning sensation on his face. Then the object left.

The man had indeed sustained first degree burns on his face and ears, his eyes were also injured almost as if he had been exposed to ultraviolet light.

His car was covered with a dust. Upon testing it was found that the dust was composed of potassium chloride.

"There has been a definite increase in cases in recent years," Gordon said.

No one has yet explained UFO's, but with your cooperation perhaps one day researchers can be present during a sighting and identify the phenomena.

Anyone interested in receiving information on UFOs should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to PASU, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa, 15601.



## Cod Encounters

The 30-foot fishing boat Jibber had just rounded Shagwong Point on Monday, Jan. 30, after leaving Montauk Harbor. From Shagwong, fishermen get their first view of the Montauk Lighthouse they must round en route to the cod grounds called CIA.

For about 10 minutes, as the Jibber moved east, Capt. David Gaviola watched a strange light on the water just north of the Montauk Lighthouse, a light that seemed to come from an even stranger shape in the sky. Bobby Van Velsor and another crew member, stood on the back-deck shucking bait clams, unaware of the light for which Captain Gaviola was fast running out of explanations.

When he did see it, Mr. Van Velsor said, "It was very bright like a star," a beam of light to the ocean "like it was searching for something."

Captain Gaviola said he at first changed course slightly, heading north toward the light. But when he got closer — close enough to have heard the sound of a helicopter, had there been one — fear boarded the Jibber.

Suddenly the radar quit. "That's when I started to freak," Captain Gaviola said. He turned off the running lights and Jibber's engine. The light, which both Mr. Van Velsor and Captain Gaviola described as square-shaped as it appeared in the distance, was less than a mile away and there was still no sound.

"I was thinking seriously about jumping," Mr. Van Velsor said, even though the choice between an even closer encounter and a 200-yard swim in January was not a good one. The strange light, which they decided was an object, moved toward the boat and up, "bobbing around and moving side to side" as it did, the Captain recalled.

"I really thought it was going to stop right over us," he said, adding that the object had a "different kind of light" and was triangular or diamond-shaped when seen from the closer vantage. Captain Gaviola said it appeared to be a craft about 150 feet long.

"It turned belly-up and then cruised west, then south, climbing higher until it disappeared," he said.

The Jibber's radar started again as mysteriously as it had stopped. The boat continued on to the cod grounds where its three-man crew spent the rest of the day yanking cod into an alien world, and wondering how close they may have come to the same fate.

Although the crew of the Jibber was reluctant to advertise the strange experience, word crept out.

Among some of the initial words of derision one might expect were, they reported, "It was a cod beam," and, "You'd better check behind their ears," and "Did it have rod holders?" There also was some serious reflection on the part of fishermen over unexplained sightings of their own at sea.

Robert Gribbel of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., said the center had had other reports of close encounters with triangular or diamond-shaped ships, some very large, and "some associated with lights and beams."

"The only noise reported has been a light humming," He said the number of what are reported to be sightings fluctuates. "Right now, we're getting about six a day, which is extremely quiet."

Mr. Gribbel said the Federal Government "officially is not interested, but unofficially they are very interested. There are discreet inquiries," he said, adding "There have been sightings of jet aircraft pursuing UFOs."

The Jibber's crew seemed convinced that something was looking at something before dawn on Jan. 30 off Montauk Point and that whatever it was knocked out the boat's electronics.

And one of the three fishermen, at least, wondered if the good codfishing could have had anything to do with it.

"It did turn out to be one of the two best trips of the year," he said. RUSSELL DRUMM

WORLD, Wenatchee, WA - Feb. 1, 1989

## UFO over Leavenworth?

LEAVENWORTH — A Leavenworth man told Chelan County Sheriff's deputies he saw a strange bright red light in the sky Tuesday night above the KOA Kampground near Leavenworth.

The man, who refused to give his identity, said he was standing in the Marson and Marson Lumber parking lot at 9:15 p.m. when he saw a bright red light hovering above the horizon. He said the light moved from north to south and then stopped for two minutes. The light then moved southeast and stopped, blinked brightly twice and then disappeared, he said.

The Federal Aviation Administration told sheriff's deputies they have no idea what the lights might have been.

Sheriff's deputies said they received no other reports of people sighting a bright red light in the sky near Leavenworth or anywhere else.

Chief Junior Garmany to get a description of a sighting that bewildered several DeKalb County people Friday night of last week.

"After all we were put through on the night of Dec. 29, 1980, while driving home from playing Bingo, we'd have welcomed a friendly call," Ms. Cash said. "That's why I called — to compare notes and to offer support."

Ms. Cash said that she, a friend and the friend's grandson were diagnosed as having third-degree radiation burns from flames that shot from a funnel beneath a "diamond-shaped craft" the size of a water tower "blocking the road 800 feet in front of them, hovering

some 1,000 feet overhead.

"The flames would shoot out the bottom with a swooshing sound and then it would rise," she said. "And then when the flames died down it would lower almost to the ground."

"It had the brightest lights I had ever seen and the shrillest beeping sound I had ever heard in my life."

Ms. Cash said there were numerous helicopters flying about the craft as if "to tow it, or hem it in."

Garmany said Ms. Cash telephoned him after learning of his reported sighting.

"She was intensely interested," he said. "She was convinced what I saw

# Scout Ship Sightings Reported in Russell

By IRENE H. JEPSEN

Eleven to 14 extra-terrestrial scout ships and the sighting of a mother ship reportedly were seen in Russell Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Additional sightings are "being offered tonight (Friday), so people will know they are here, and that they do exist."

Tonight's sightings, purportedly to be visible anywhere within the Russell area, are to begin at 9 a.m. and continue until approximately 10 p.m. And, "anyone wanting to is welcome to take photographs."

If you were a non-believer about extra-terrestrial beings and space ships in the Russell area when reading the Dec. 3, 1988, article in The News, tonight may be your chance to be further convinced in your disbelief — or to become a believer.

The following events were described today to The News with the callers' identities withheld with due respect to their personal request.

According to the report, on Monday, Feb. 20, at 6:20 a.m. a "Mother Ship" landed on the ground east and slightly north of Russell, approximately two miles outside of the city limits.

The woman spotting the ship described it as "huge, about the size of a football field." Her description of it was as a "city of

lights."

She became frightened by what she saw, got in her car and left, phoning an acquaintance to relate the incident.

Tuesday at about 9:40 p.m. a "prominent lady and a male friend" spotted 11 Unidentified Flying Objects in Russell.

Wednesday evening, the same lady and three other persons observed 14 of the same objects.

That same evening a motorist traveling east caught sight of a bevy of lights when approaching the Pioneer Exchange. She got out of her car to watch. She and the other witnesses, located in various places in town, gave matching descriptions of that evening's display:

As the scout ships maneuvered, there was no discernible sound. Five of the ships joined into a formation hovering low over the town, about one-half mile above the ground.

The bottoms of the ships could be seen, the report continues, "and the ships could move with extreme swiftness, coming to a sudden dead stop and hovering." Apparently in the hover position, the light patterns change, blinking in a specific pattern.

The lady motorist, while observing the ships, "got scared," got back into her car, and traveled about another five miles east. At that destination she

looked back and could still see the scout ships.

Of the remaining ships, one gave "a low sweep and then 'zipped' north, while the six others went in diversified directions."

All the sightings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were between 9 p.m. and 9:40 p.m. It is not known how many persons observed the incidents, but 16 have related their experience.

Each describe the same phenomena — scout ships numbering 11 to 14, "saucer shaped, about 50-foot in diameter, with variegated lights of peach, green, yellow and white." Reportedly, blue lights may also be present, but they are a rarity. However, shapes also may be cubical or pyramidal.

According to the main informant, one scout ship takes a position northeast of Russell, within the city limits, at 10 p.m. each night where it remains until 5 a.m.

"The ship's blinking lights go off and it takes on a white glow as it remains stationary about two miles up."

"Anyone looking up," she said, "might at first glance think the glow to be part of the stars, but upon further observance can see it is too close to the ground to be a star."

Also, according to the report, from now on, how long was not made clear, the ships will be a common sight for Russell, with their verification to be non regular aircraft available through airports.

Why Russell?

Why is our community selected to be the focal point of such extraordinary energy, should it be true flight of space ships or flight of fancy.

These are the reasons, the "facts":

— It (Russell) is connected with the Seventh Angel at Lincoln Park, Russell, and the seven-year tribulation according to the Bible.

— Russell is the geographical location selected by the extra-terrestrials because it is the transmutation channel over Kansas (much like the Bermuda Triangle): A transmutation channel is an opening wherein the spacecraft can come and go, a celestial highway, if you will.

— A "record of deeds" is kept by the space individuals on each person in Russell, perhaps county-wide, but knowledge of that is uncertain.

— Twenty-one "highly important persons" in Russell have been chosen by the E.T.s. The identities of these 21 will be revealed to each of them personally; some already have had this revelation, and will be told why and for what they have been chosen.

— The extra-terrestrials can appear in any form, physically where they can be touched, or suddenly appearing on the "chosen one's" television screen.

The description given The News of the space individuals is that they sometimes are male figures, six-foot tall, or androids, two and one-half to four-foot tall. They use our language but communicate telepathically, where we hear their voices in our mind.

Spaceships are rarely seen in the daytime, as they are based, some right on the earth, and others out into the solar system.

Where did these beings come from, and what began their existence are other questions deserving answers.

"They are humans transformed after undergoing the 'death experience.' Only two, however, were so special, they were transformed without having to undergo death first. And, there are multitudes (of beings)."

GRANT CO. HERALD INDEPENDENT, Lancaster, WI

Jan. 26, 1989 CR: R. Heiden

## More strange lights

The saga of the strange lights in Grant County continues.

In the last two months, there have been four separate reports of unusual lights which are not stars, the moon, airplanes, northern lights, reflections or other explainable sources.

The story began last Tuesday, when three people called the Grant County Sheriff's Department to report seeing bright lights around 7 a.m. One person who called the Herald Independent said he saw a group of 12 to 15 lights which gradually winked out as the sun rose.

Then, Thursday morning, a woman called the H-I and reported having seen seven lights which appeared to be north or west of Lancaster just before 7 a.m. that morning. The woman, who lives 11 miles south of Lancaster, said they appeared to be just west of Lancaster's water tower, and that they looked like a "big ball of fire."

The woman also said that four people she knew had

seen similar lights, on Wisconsin 133 between Cassville and Potosi, in the Potosi area, and in Hurricane, in the last two months. The sighting before the Tuesday sightings occurred about three weeks ago sometime in the evening.

A dispatcher at the sheriff's department told the H-I Tuesday night there had been no other reports of strange lights since last week.

A different kind of light show, Friday night, turned out to be a Soviet rocket which was burning up in the atmosphere.

People from Wisconsin to Texas reported seeing bright lights, like firecrackers, in the sky, with occasional bang noises, around 8:10 p.m. CST. The sheriff's department reportedly received several calls on the rocket.

While this strange sighting does have an explanation, the other sightings remain Unexplained Hovering Objects for now. Belleville, in Green County, has had persistent reports of UFOs the last couple of years.

was a UFO. She wanted the name of the lady who called it in to us."

Ms. Cash said she advised Donna Saylor of Grove Oak, who first sighted the craft through binoculars and called police, to ignore skeptical remarks.

Descriptions of the object discussed by Garmany and Ms. Cash were similar — a somewhat diamond-shaped craft without a tail section, windows, lettering or sound.

"I'm not saying it was a flying saucer," said Fyffe Assistant Chief Fred Works, who was with Garmany, "but what really got me was the lack of sound."

NEWS/POST-HERALD, Birmingham, AL - Feb. 18, 1989 CR: L. Phillips

## Woman in UFO incident seeks data on state sightings

FYFFE (AP) — A woman who asked Congress to review claims that an unidentified flying object burned her and passengers in her car now wants to know more about reported UFO sightings in northeast Alabama.

Betty Cash of Lincoln said that while she was living in Texas in 1980 flames from a UFO heated her car to an unbearable temperature.

She said that Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Ala., began working to obtain a congressional hearing after calls of support came in during an October television special that featured her and others claiming to have been hurt by UFOs.

Ms. Cash telephoned Fyffe Police



## UFOs... EXPLORING THE "E.T." PHENOMENON

by Richard Stingel

UFOs'.....That's one of those famous "buzz words" that evokes an immediate reaction in many people. The next time you want to start a lively conversation, mention to someone that you've just read something about UFO's. Few people have not taken a position on them, whether of belief or disbelief.

In this column we intend to take a continuing hard look at UFO's from the vantage point of a man who has, for many years and a couple of hundred thousand miles, been one of only about a half dozen credible U.S. researchers in the field of unexplained aerial phenomena. Maintaining that credibility in a field populated with hoaxers, kooks, mountebanks and outright con artists has been difficult at best for international best-selling author William L. Moore ("The Philadelphia Experiment"; "The Roswell Incident", et al.).

Moore's interest in UFO's began when he was eight years old. Waiting his turn in a shoe repair shop, he picked up a copy of "The Flying Saucers Are Real!" by Donald Keyhoe and was captivated. But UFO's had to wait while Moore completed his education. He went onto become a high school teacher of languages and humanities, a professional negotiator for a teachers' union, playwright, research consultant and author. He is a member of the National Writers' Club, NEA, Alpha Psi Omega dramatics fraternity and a Director or member of a host of organizations dealing with paranormal phenomena. Moore has also served as a member of the Advisory Board of the magazines "Frontiers of Science" ("British) Flying Saucer Review". He is listed in "Contemporary Authors", vols. 93-96.

Currently, Moore is President of The Fair Witness Project, Inc., a non-profit corporation which acts as a funding and information source for UFO research throughout North America. He is the proprietor of William L. Moore Publications & Research here in Hollywood, specializing in works dealing with unexplained or unusual phenomena. He is an active technical consultant for TV and motion pictures whose credits include the films "The Bermuda

Triangle" and "UFO Chronicles"; the recent highly-rated TV documentary "UFO Coverup?.....Live"; "The Philadelphia Experiment"; CBS's "Eye on Hollywood" UFO special; a 1985 UFO documentary film produced by HBO; technical consultant for LA's "Channel 4 Eyewitness News" during their week-long series on UFO's last summer; Location Director for the Nippon TV network for their 2-hour UFO documentary aired last month throughout Japan and the Far East. Moore is also engaged in putting the finishing touches on his latest book which will publish this Fall.

So, that's the documented William Moore. The Gazette went to his apartment in North Hollywood to talk with Moore, to get a feel for what motivates him, why he got involved with UFO's, what are his beliefs about them, etc. The record of that conversation follows:

Hollywood Gazette (H.G.): "What is it that drives you to continue in a field which most "serious" researchers avoid? I mean, there are many scientists who would say that you're a crackpot just because you choose to be involved with it, wouldn't they?"

Moore (M): "It's the same thing which motivates people to climb mountains. UFOs are a very real phenomenon which have been a part of the human experience since the beginning of recorded history; yet when you get

right down to it, we really know very little about them. Mainstream scientists have generally avoided the subject because of the "laughter curtain" which has been created around it by the popular press, and because the capricious and unpredictable nature of the phenomenon does not readily lend itself to the application of traditional scientific methods."

HG: "In doing some background research on you, Mr. Moore, we heard of an incident which allegedly occurred at an airport while you were waiting for a flight. You were approached by an American Intelligence agent who told you that they would help you with your UFO research because you are "the only one who knows what he's doing". If this did happen, and if the "agent" was real, this would seem to indicate that there may, indeed, be some truth to what you've been saying about UFO's and a government coverup. Will you comment?"

M: "An incident similar to this did happen, although your account of it is somewhat incorrect. The important point to be made here, however, is that there is in fact a demonstrable cover-up of UFO-related information on the part of the U.S. government. This will be the subject of one of my forthcoming columns in the Gazette. Interested readers can look forward to it."

HG: "In your book, "The Roswell Incident", you tell the story of something which crashed on a ranch in New Mexico in 1947. Whatever it was, it supposedly left a large amount of very extraordinary debris over a wide area. We don't expect you to retell the whole story for our readers here, but can you give them a couple of reasons why you believe the object was a UFO? Why don't you believe that it was a



William Moore

weather balloon, as the Army claimed it was at that time?"

M: "Well, according to the people who were there at the time, it certainly was not a weather balloon. There is no question that the incident actually occurred. It's a matter of historical record. The controversy centers around what the object actually was and what became of it after the military took custody of it. We have gathered testimony on this case from no less than 93 different people - 31 of whom had first-hand involvement with it. Ten of these actually saw the wreckage, and all ten are on record as having stated that they felt it was a spacecraft of some kind."

HG: "You also state in some of your other works that this crash was the event which triggered then-President Truman to create a committee at the highest levels

of the U.S. government to study UFO's. Tell us briefly about that."

M: "This is something I am currently working on. Some documents surfaced several years ago which, if authentic, indicate that the Roswell object was in fact a crashed UFO and that this fact has been hidden from the American public ever since. It's a very controversial story, and to date the authenticity of these so-called "MJ-12" documents remains an open question. I'll provide readers with more details in an upcoming column."

Bill Moore's column will appear here starting with the next issue. Whatever you personally think of the whole question of "UFOs", What Moore has to say on the subject will be interesting, and some of it is controversial, to say the least. You may even revise your own position. Stay tuned.

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL - Feb. 23, 1989 CR: R. Reid

## Policemen not laughing at UFO jokes

FYFFE, Ala. (AP) — Fyffe Police Chief Junior Garmany and assistant chief Fred Works stand by their account of sighting an unidentified flying object, but they're getting weary of the jokes about it.

Garmany said a passer-by on the street asked him, "Reckon that UFO got my cow? I've got a cow missing."

Garmany collected a stack of telephone messages from reporters in Alabama, Illinois, Oregon, Kansas, Arizona, Maryland, Colorado,

California and Ontario, Canada. "This is the first time we've run into anything like this."

Garmany said two earlier UFO sightings by police in the area in 1975 and in 1977 did not elicit a traction of press coverage as the one that bewildered a score of local residents in northeast Alabama on the night of Feb. 10.

Works, who has tolerated the teasing that followed news reports, said reporters have hounded him since the sighting "first hit the scanner."

"I walked into the grill the other day for lunch, and there sat a reporter," Works said. "I never even got to eat. I came on back to the office, and there sat reporters from a TV station. ... Right now, I'm two wreck reports behind."

Works, 35, and Garmany, 38, who make up half the police force

in this rural mountain town of 1,400, said they have "not even had time to sit down and talk to each other about what we saw."

Works said former co-workers from Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant called, "ragging me," and he has received a gift T-shirt with a picture of himself painted on it, pointing toward a gigantic flying banana with blinking lights.

The two officers had stood beside their patrol car on an unwooded but hilly stretch of DeKalb County 43 on Feb. 10 and watched as the UFO passed silently overhead and out of sight.

During an interview, Works and Garmany combined their versions of an "oval-shaped" (Garmany) and a "triangular-shaped" (Works) craft and sketched the shape onto a pad.

The metallic-hued ship, they

said, did not appear to be thick from top to bottom, and had no windows, lettering or wings.

"The bright lights is what caught my attention," Garmany said.

Works described three lights hanging down from the craft that "cupped back under and focused on the center."

"That thing was as silent as a tomb," said Garmany, a 16-year veteran of the force. "It's something I can't explain."

Sighting reports also were given by an unidentified on-duty patrolman with the Crossville Police Department, by Chief Randall Barnett of Geraldine Police Department, and by Post Commander Ron Ogletree of the Gadsden post of the Alabama State Troopers.

TIMES, Huntsville, AL - March 3, 1989 CR: R. Reid

# Sand Mountain UFO sighting reports grow

The Associated Press

FYFFE — About 100 northeast Alabamians and law enforcement officials are wondering about the origins of a UFO that can hover and speed out of sight silently.

But a recent stakeout produced no explanation about the brightly colored and elusive craft. Spokesmen at various airports and with the Air Force and Air National Guard said none of their aircraft were in the DeKalb County area Wednesday night.

A group based in Arab has recorded accounts from residents who reported seeing UFOs, but no one has been able to explain the phenomenon. UFO watchers from around the Southeast are expected to converge on Fyffe Friday night.

Fyffe Fire Chief Ricky Dobbins said mostly local people are searching every clear night for what is usually described as a craft that can hover, rise, lower, glide horizontally and speed out of sight — all without sound.

"It almost looks like a star from a distance, except for the different

colored lights," Dobbins said. "I just wish somebody would bring a telescope up here and tell us what it is."

Dobbins said many UFO hunters filled highways and "parked in threes or fours on hills and clear spots" Wednesday night between Crossville and Rainsville in DeKalb County after the most recent of a string of sightings was reported to Crossville police.

Fyffe Police Chief Junior Garmany and Assistant Police Chief Fred Works first saw what is believed to be the same UFO near Fyffe on Feb. 17. Other sightings

have been reported since then.

J.T. Turner of Rodentown telephoned radio dispatcher Connie Brothers of the Crossville police around 8 p.m. Wednesday.

"He said this object came right over his house," Brothers said. "It had lights on each end and one in the middle."

He said Crossville patrolman Chuck Priest and State Trooper Van Douglas spotted the "oblong lighted object" as it flew silently overhead on Alabama 227 between Crossville and Geraldine.

DeKalb County sheriff's deputy Dale Orr kept vigil in a parking,

binoculars focused on one spot over Geraldine City Hall where the brightly lighted object hovered.

At one time Wednesday night, at least seven law officers waited at a cemetery on Alabama 227 where a sighting was reported.

Fyffe radio dispatcher Sheila Smith stayed on the phone 20 minutes with a friend, four miles away. Both women described in detail to each other what they saw in the sky, attempting to identify the object.

Ms. Smith said sightings were reported from at least 10 locations.





## FOREIGN NEWS

TIMES OF INDIA, Bangalore, India - Oct. 12, 1988

### Pushpaka Vimana no myth, says Italian scholar

The Times of India News Service  
BANGALORE, October 11:

**E**VEN as the Indian hosts displayed a model of Tipu Sultan's rocket at the international astronautical congress here to highlight their heritage, an Italian delegate went further back into Indian history to discuss the concepts of *Pushpaka Vimana* and *Brahmastra*.

In a paper on the Indo-Aryan traditions and history of astronautics, Dr Roberto Pinotti examined the mythological flying devices described in detail in the ancient Indian texts. The impressive descriptions of the flying devices were seen by him in the context of today's aerospace technology.

Quoting extensively from the Indian texts, Dr Pinotti recalled how Lord Rama travelled by the *Pushpaka Vimana* and used a mysterious weapon called "Indra's dart".

Indian gods and heroes fought in the skies with the help of piloted aural devices with terrible weapons. In the Rig Veda, dating back to 10,000 B.C., Indra, the god of battles, flashes through the sky in an aerial car, waging war

against *Asuras*, dropping weapons from the sky and destroying cities below, he says.

Dr Pinotti says that though these ancient texts are not eyewitness accounts but narrative poems, certain descriptions seem too detailed and "technical" in nature to be labelled as mere components of a general myth. These Hindu texts deserve greater scientific scrutiny, he feels.

These texts referred to 32 secrets of the working of a *vimana* and specified special metals and materials, including 16 kinds of heat absorbing alloys. They also specified the power source for the flying machines.

The principles of propulsion, as far as the text's descriptions are concerned, may be defined electrical and chemical, but solar energy was also involved, the Italian sociologist says.

Lord Davenport's technical studies resulting from his studies of the *Vyamanika Shashtra* developed into his field investigation in Pakistan where he was sure to be able to find a connection with the timeless events reported in the *Ramayana*, according to the Italian scholar.

"The impressive data given by him and his conclusions, offer plenty of material for controversy. It is a tragedy that Lord Davenport's sudden death did not permit any new investigations", he says.

The astronautical congress is being held in a place not far from the battlefield where Tipu Sultan used his rocket. The coincidence is even greater in the case of Toulouse in France which now has the biggest concentration of European aerospace activity. It was during the Toulouse battle nearly two centuries ago that an early rocketry pioneer, William Congreve, used his equipment.

The significance of the Congreve rockets during the Toulouse battle has been highlighted by two French participants in the congress. They say: "The use in anger of rockets in India was to have a profound influence in France and in England". The production of rockets in England and by Congreve in France was inspired by the Indian rockets which were used in great numbers by Tipu Sultan in defence of his capital of Srirangapatna, the French scholars says.

### Guatemalans flock to mountains nightly to view 'Martians'

By David Kirby  
United Press International

**GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala** — UFO-mania is sweeping this Central American nation, sending thousands of people each night out into the cold, dark mountains hoping for a glimpse of extraterrestrials.

Hundreds of night sightings by upstanding citizens, not thought to be psychotic or prone to heavy drinking, have captured the imagination of the country of 8.7 million people.

Each day, local papers report sightings by doctors, lawyers, students and even government officials. Conversation on the streets of Guatemala City invariably turns to the phenomenon, with a wide range of opinions about what the strange objects might actually be.

"I think the ETs (extraterrestrials) are coming back to look for the ancient Mayans, with whom they had contact centuries ago," said Joaquin Lopez Bonilla, a 20-year-old student at the capital's San Carlos University.

"They are looking for Tikal, I am sure," he said, referring to the resplendent ancient Mayan capital, now a major archaeological site about 200 miles north of Guatemala City.

But there is a lot of skepticism. "These so-called sightings are nothing more than drug traffickers who operate small craft at night. They make all kinds of strange maneuvers in order to avoid radar and the police," said Nario Pineda, a businessman from the town of Antigua, just outside the capital.

But for those who claim to have seen the UFOs, nothing can dissuade them from their belief. "I saw them, and so did 12 of my friends, so I know I am not crazy," said Juan Carlos del Monte, 28.

"We saw two red lights far off in the distance. They seemed to be playing around out in space. Then, suddenly, one began to move. Within 30 seconds, it was flying practically over our heads.

"It was bigger than a jumbo jet, and it did not make a sound. It was circular in shape, with one red light and three amber lights."

Del Monte was interviewed 40 miles northeast of Guatemala City along the highway that leads to the Caribbean coast. The area, near the town of El Progreso, has produced by far the richest number of sightings, although UFOs have been reported in other parts of the country.

In El Progreso, the UFOs reportedly appear between 7:45 and 8:15 p.m.

On a recent night, the highway was lined with hundreds of cars, each jam-packed with kids, dogs, grandparents and whoever else wanted to see the aliens.

Many people, wrapped up tightly against the winter chill of the desolate mountains, milled about, comparing tales of past sightings. Dozens of telescopes and binoculars pointed toward the clear night sky.

One man, using a portable electric organ, played the famous five-note tune from the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

"They are out there; they can hear me," he insisted.

On that night, however, the UFOs did not appear.

"There are too many people here now," said one disgruntled observer,

### 'UFOs' draw 4,000 to town in Alabama

The Associated Press

**FYFFE, Ala.** — The prospect of seeing a UFO lured more than 4,000 people to this town, greatly outnumbering the town's residents.

"This is unreal," Police Chief Junior Garmany said Friday while he watched bumper-to-bumper traffic in the town of 1,300 people in northeastern Alabama. "We've never had traffic like this."

Fyffe got on the UFO circuit Feb. 10 when a woman reported seeing a strange light in the sky and police later reported seeing a large lighted object passing silently over them. Numerous other sightings have been reported since then.

On Saturday, Municipal Court Clerk Tammy Mitchell said the previous night's crowd was estimated at "4,500 or something like that." She said people were "riding around, buying T-shirts, going to a bonfire."

But for all the hoopla, no unidentified flying objects were sighted Friday. Visibility was obscured by clouds and light rain.

Friday night's visitors drove up and down the town's main street while others stood gazing at the sky. Fire Chief Ricky Dobbins invited some to his house on the outskirts of the town, where he built a bonfire.

A police radio dispatcher said she has been answering calls from people wanting directions to Fyffe.

Garmany and Assistant Police Chief Fred Works were among those who said they had a sighting Feb. 10. It prompted news-media attention, some of it unflattering.

*Inside Edition*, a syndicated television program, aired a report from Fyffe last week that "tried to make us look like the Keystone Kops," Works said.

Garmany, who is 6 feet, 5 inches tall and weighs 270 pounds, said, "If I had known the kind of ridicule we were going to get, I'd have kept my mouth shut. And I'd have shot Fred if he'd opened his."

Contributing to this story was *Newhouse News Service*.

who said he had come to El Progreso every night for a week. "All the car lights and cumbia music (a lilting form of "salsa") are scaring the Martians away."

Even Interior Minister Roberto Valle Valdez was not immune to UFO-mania. One night last week, he and a group of aides spent several hours near El Progreso, heads turned skyward.

"We did not see a thing. I am very disappointed, but I will be back again," he told reporters the next day.

KENT & SUSSEX COURIER, England - Nov. 4, 1988 CR: T. Good

### Village beat 'lit-up'

**TWO** Tenterden policemen are among local people who have reported encountering weird lights and "flying saucers" during the past week.

P-c Normal Sells and P-c Rob-in Buxton were on duty at Gascoigne Corner, High Halden, at 3.45 am on Thursday of last week when the whole of the night sky became as bright as daylight.

The phenomenon lasted between three and four seconds and they reported it to the operations room at police headquarters in Maidstone. Reports were also received from other observers at Deal, Sheerness and Sittingbourne.

The previous Sunday, teenagers Joanna Dickinson and Julie Jessop were walking near Julie's home at Woodlands Caravan Park, Biddenden, when they saw a strange object which they described as a flying saucer.

Oval shaped and with four bright white lights, it displayed a bright red light in the middle. They thought it was flying at about 500 ft and was emitting a deep hum. While they were looking at it it suddenly shot vertically into the evening sky and disappeared. They also believe that the object interfered with the telephone as the line went dead.

A third sighting took place on Thursday of last week when Stephen button, the brother-in-law of another Tenterden policeman, saw a strange blue object.

He was driving between the Three Chimneys pub at Biddenden and the Smarden Road when a "blue ball" appeared and gave the impression of coming down to earth.

When he first spotted it he thought it was between 50 ft and 100 ft from the ground and as it descended it disappeared behind a line of trees. He thought it was going to land to the north of the road.

The sightings were reported to RAF Manstone who said they had passed the information on to the Ministry of Defence, their usual practice.

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England  
Jan. 27, 1989 CR: T. Good

### UFO spotted hovering near airport

**MORE SIGHTINGS** of strange lights in the sky have been reported near Southend Airport.

A teenager and her mother from Eastwood watched a bright light hover for at least five minutes over open land to the west of the town's airport on Tuesday of last week.

The UFO was seen at around 6.30pm, hovering at just above rooftop height.

Eighteen-year-old Mary Lowe saw the light — "bigger than a star and without aircraft lights" — hover in the one position, then suddenly rise vertically to ten times its original height before moving off slowly in the direction of Rayleigh.

Southend police say there was no activity in the area on the night and the police helicopter was definitely not in use that evening.

When Mary's mother called Southend Airport

### 'Bigger than a star and with no aircraft lights'

to report the sighting, she was told nothing had shown on their radar screens at the time, nor were there any unusual aircraft operating.

Mrs Lowe's sighting is the third in the area this year. According to the Anglian UFO Research Group, previous sightings were reported on January 3 and 12.

The first involved three people who watched a bright light travel at phenomenal speed backwards and forwards between Southend and Basildon over a two-hour period. Through binoculars the three observed a blue light pulsating through a white glow.

Then on the evening of January 12, six people reported seeing two lights over Canvey. First one

light revolved around the other, then it stopped and they appeared to switch roles.

Eventually the two lights separated, one flying towards Southend, the other in the direction of Basildon — where it disappeared, only to reappear suddenly over the sea not far from its original position, in close company with the first light once again.

Last year there was a whole spate of UFO sightings in southern Essex, some of the more spectacular phenomena being spotted by several dozen observers.

The Anglian UFO Research Group has asked anyone who thinks they have seen a UFO to call its emergency hotline on Basildon 286079.

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - Feb. 11, 1989 CR: T. Good

### Couple claim UFO sighting over town

An unidentified flying object with pulsating lights has been seen over Swindon this week.

James Fisher and his wife Doris watched it from the bedroom window of their home in Poplar Avenue, Pinehurst, for more than 20 minutes.

"It was like a chandelier hanging in the sky with red and green lights which changed brightness, a mass of lights in a south-westerly direction and high in the sky Mr Fisher said."

RAF Lyneham lies roughly in that direction from Swindon but a station spokesman did not know of any aircraft that could have resulted in such a sighting.

The couple's sighting follows reports of a UFO over the Cotswolds from members of the public and a policeman.

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England  
Nov. 4, 1988

### Two UFOs over Essex — claim

**THE** bright lights in the sky over Southend recently were caused by two, not one, unidentified flying objects it has been claimed.

A strange blue light lit the night sky over the town, as dozens of witnesses reported seeing the phenomenon.

Rom West of the Clacton-based East Anglian UFO research society has decided there were two separate objects after sifting dozens of eye witness accounts.

"It could not have been one meteor - if meteors were involved there must have been two," said Mr West.

The lights in the sky apparently started out over Belgium, crossed into Kent, and then came down in the sea off Southend.

Families who saw the lights phoned police stations and RAF bases, and pilots flying high above Essex confirmed the sightings.

Information has been passed to the Ministry of Defence.

Rayleigh Astronomical Group member Royston Dean said this was a season of meteorites, with a series from the Orion constellation coming to an end, and a new series from the Taurus galaxy starting.

"There may have been an overlap," he said. But he did not rule out the possibility of Little Green Men.

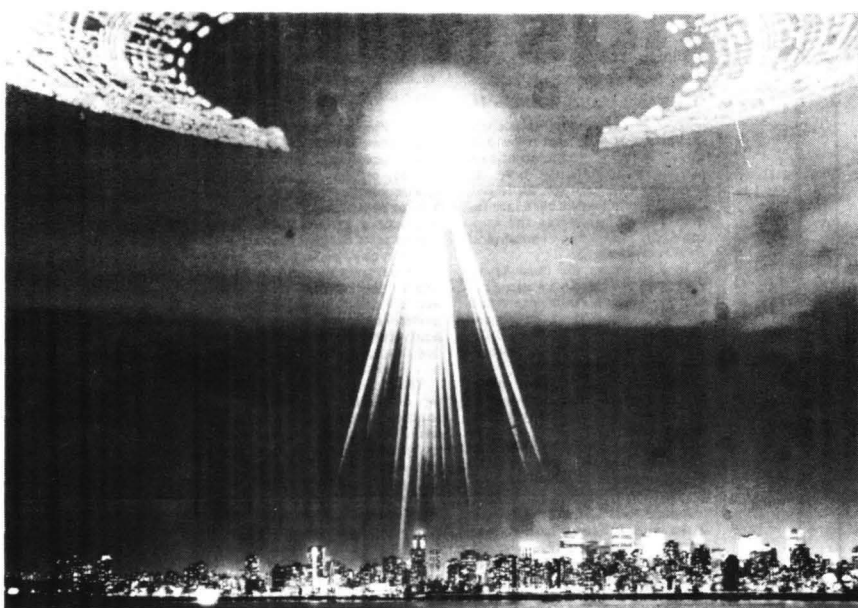
With a smile, he said: "We never rule anything out."

The Essex UFO hotline, on 0728 830757, took many calls.

CR: T. Good

# OF THIS UNIVERSE ...

## Is mankind the sole occupant ?



Are there really flying saucers ?

Photo by C. Chow

BY ETHEL ROLPH  
Comment Staff

Objects tumbling from the sky and rising from the oceans have been reported since the early 1800s. Countless books, press reports, and numerous films and videos have reported this strange phenomenon.

When did this thing start? Is mankind really the sole occupant of this universe? Do inhabitants from other planets pay us a surprise visit on occasion and arrive by space ship or flying saucer?

Graham Conway of North Delta, retired high school teacher and long time investigator of flying objects, claims they definitely exist.

Conway says that more recently there have been sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO's) from October, 1987 to 1988 at Gulf Breeze in Florida. Thirty-nine pictures were taken of circular craft, and 150 separate eyewitness accounts and films of sightings in the Gulf of Mexico.

Conway said he has lived in the Vancouver area since 1970, and is aware of sightings in Richmond, Cypress Bowl in West Vancouver, and Port Coquitlam.

He said he spoke to men who were working at night on a road building project for an oil company at Cypress Bowl in West Vancouver. This was the scene of a saucer sighting. According to the men, a circular craft landed within 10 feet of the workmen. They said they heard a noise like a warning high-pitch horn and saw a bright light. The men did not approach the craft, but told their employer of the encounter. They did not report the incident to the press.

According to Conway, a craft landed in a sandpit in Port Coquitlam in 1973. He said he went to the area and

saw gray, black, and red chalk-like markings where the craft had been sighted.

There is a notion that space ships have visited earth since the dawn of history. Could they be trying to warn us of an impending disaster? Are they trying to stop the rapid destruction of our environment which was so respected and worshipped by our ancestors?

Unexplained cave carvings of flying objects, unbelievably accurate maps of oceans and land masses are sometimes linked to flying saucers.

It has been estimated by a Gallup poll that at least 5 million Americans are convinced that they have seen a flying saucer.

Strange disc-shaped objects were reported shortly after World War II. The Canadian Air Force took the matter seriously and started an investigation, but later abandoned the project as useless research.

At Christina Lake in the Kootenay district, Salish Indians painted a pictograph of a flying object.

A similar picture is near Kootenay Lake, and depicts the same type of vehicle but shows a passenger.

In a Fraser Lake painting, also done by Canadian Indians, there are zig-zag lines under the vehicle suggesting heat or motion.

Canadian Indians were totally integrated with the environment. Did they receive guidance and counsel from the space visitors?

Modern man seems to consider the environment as an enemy to be attacked and destroyed.

Nature is patient but man is not.

Turn of the century American biologist James Muir is quoted as saying, "If you pull on a single string in nature you will find the rest of the world attached."

Spacemen, please come back!

PEOPLE, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - Aug. 26, 1988 CR: R. Collins

## STRANGE ENCOUNTERS

### 'EXPERTS' TAKE THE CIGAR-SHAPED UFO WITH A PUFF OF SMOKE



By John Pinkney

WHEN an immense, cigar-shaped skyship floated past Tom Farrer's kitchen window, he imagined, fleetingly, that it was an aeroplane in trouble.

"The thing was so low, and so slow, I felt sure it would crash into the sea any minute," 73-year-old Tom told me from his home in Scamander, Tasmania.

"But then my common sense came to the rescue.

"I was an aircraft refueller for much of my working life — and I know planes inside out.

"That bloody weird thing — with its row of brightly-lit portholes and no wings — was no more an aeroplane than Sir Joh is a communist."

As the eerie cigar, bigger than a football field, ambled above the ocean, Tom stood transfixed.

"Then, without warning, it took off like hell," he recalled. "The time was about 5.30am. Immediately I raced to the phone, to learn whether anyone else had seen it."

Tom's sighting was quickly corroborated. Pharmacist Bryan Evans and his son David, 16, were duckshooting at Big Waterhouse Lake, near Bridport, when they saw the object hurtling through the black sky streaming flames.

"It was silent and rising on a five to 10 degree angle," Evans recalled.

Another witness, Des Singline, of Bicheno, described the UFO as "pale and arrow-shaped".

But then, astronomical "experts" (who admitted they hadn't seen the cigar) tried to explode it in the witnesses' faces. It was probably just a meteoroid, they announced to newspapers.

Said Tom: "I'm bloody furious. I'm not such a mug I can't differentiate between a flaming meteor and a bloody huge black cigar travelling about 20 miles an hour. Would they like to come and test my eyes?"

"After this, if I ever see



Tom's cruising cigar erupted into a burning issue.

anything strange in the sky again I won't report it — even if it's a herd of flying elephants.

"There's only one way to describe people who blithely dismiss first-hand evidence: they're bloody donkeys."

CITIZEN, Gloucester, England - Feb. 10, 1989 CR: T. Good

### UFO sight

POLICE and aviation experts are today investigating a UFO sighting just outside Stroud following a vivid description from three people who saw a mysterious object near the A46 at Salmon Springs. It was reported to have been triangular in shape with numerous lights, made no noise and disappeared without trace.

### UFOs — seen but not heard

UFO investigators in South East Essex are following up 27 calls.

A man from Hockley described an oblong vehicle with portholes and two rows of lights at low altitude which made no noise. Another caller, from Langdon Hills, was nervous and shaking when he rang the UFO hotline in Basildon to claim he saw a lighted object which he could not describe but which changed shape.

Callers from Leigh, Southend and Rayleigh saw two blue lights over the estuary which moved apart and then came together.

Two people independently watched the lights through binoculars and there was apparently a ring of red lights inside and then outside the blue lights.

Three callers from Benfleet also saw lights moving about the sky which they said were definitely not aircraft.

Another caller from Pitsea said he had seen lights but could not describe them adequately.

Others from Wickford also reported mysterious lights.

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England Jan. 30, 1989 CR: T. Good

### City Plans to Spend Gov't Promotion Funds on UFOs

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's proposal to give ¥100 million to each city, town and village in Japan has undoubtedly sparked some strange plans. But if there is ever a contest to decide which is the strangest, the city of Hakui in Ishikawa Prefecture is sure to win.

They plan to spend their cash on UFOs (unidentified flying objects).

The city administrators have long held the opinion that extraterrestrials were their best allies in promoting the small city

on the Japan Sea. So, when the Takeshita plan was announced they decided they would use the cash to subsidize their ongoing claim as the UFO center of Japan.

A quick trip through the city will give the visitor all the UFO sightings he or she will need for a lifetime. There are UFO signboards, UFO noodle shops and even a phone number to call for those who feel the urge to listen to "the sound of Flying Saucers."

Does E.T. know about this?

ASAHI EVENING NEWS, Tokyo, Japan Feb. 4, 1989 CR: Y. Matsumura



Jack O'Sullivan survives a close encounter with Jacques Vallee, the role model for Steven Spielberg's UFO expert

## Into alien territory

UFO expert Dr Jacques Vallee has developed the perfect way of keeping kids quiet in restaurants. The game is called "extraterrestrials" and involves challenging the children to spot the aliens in the room.

"It keeps them occupied for hours. It is remarkable, when you start looking around, just how many people could be aliens," explains Dr Vallee, who does have rather large pointed ears.

Even more remarkable is what these aliens get up to. UFO female and a Brazilian farmer, young Scot and a she-devil are just two couplings uncovered in Dr Vallee's new book, which pulls back the sheets on extraterrestrial sex.

More importantly, *Dimensions* is intended to rock the world with its revelation that the fairies, apparitions of the Virgin Mary and flying saucers are one and the same phenomenon — unidentified flying objects.

It may disturb some to learn that literary greats such as Sir Walter Scott and W B Yeats — who wrote about hobgoblins and leprechauns — were inspired by UFOs. Perhaps Dr Vallee should also stay clear of the Vatican for a while, but yesterday the 49-year-old French scientist was unrepentant.

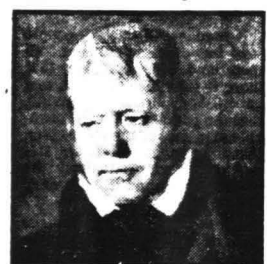
He believes that unexplained phenomena going back into folklore can be explained by the existence of earth beings in a different time and space to the rest of us.

The Old Testament, he contends, contains many indicators, such as clouds of light, winged chariots and sudden descents of alien presences.

Then there are all the stories of the Little People — fairies, elves, gnomes, trolls and the like. Seldom more than 3ft high, dressed in brightly coloured outfits, they are recorded to have spoken the local language, left fairy rings, made fairy food and collected plants and small animals. Occasionally, they have kidnapped children.

From here, Dr Vallee progresses to the modern day and his large collection of UFO tales, which similarly mention rings being left on the ground and dwarf passengers in colourful dress, who collect plants, abduct human beings and can speak normally.

"I rest my case," says Dr Vallee, whose readership is mushrooming. His great regret, however, is that since beginning his research in 1961 he has never seen any elves: "I



Scott: inspired by aliens?

would love to meet some and have a little talk with them. I would ask what they know about this universe, whether they always have the same form and whether they are mortal."

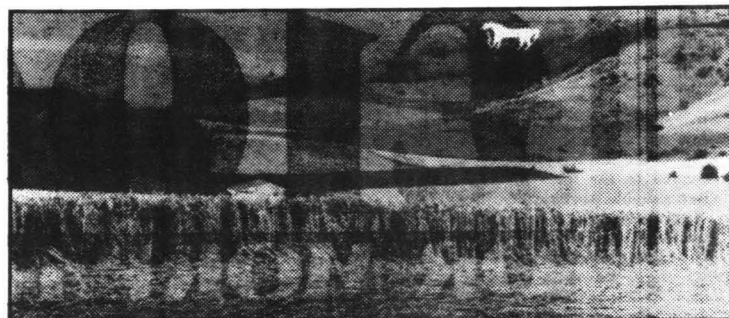
Instead, Dr Vallee has had to rely on a seventeenth-century Scot for the best description of these creatures, who once plagued Scotland's farmers. The Rev Kirk of Aberfoyle revealed that the *Sleagh Maith* (Good People) had light, fluid bodies. They lived in large, beautiful houses hidden in caves, could fly, spoke little and had no obvious religion.

The Rev Kirk was the first to expose fairy frolics when he told the world about how the fairies would send a succuba to interfere with slumbering Scots. Chamber's Dictionary describes such a creature as "a devil supposed to assume a female body and consort with men in their sleep".

Dr Vallee details in his book how the Rev Kirk's scoop got him into trouble. He was abducted by the "good people" for revealing their secrets and died in a fairy knoll.

Yesterday, Dr Vallee had no such fears for his own safety. He declines to take the normal precaution to prevent late-night kidnap by the

# Riddle of the 'cosmic' cornfields



They're not made by hoaxers.  
They're not made by helicopters  
They're not made by whirlwinds  
What are they?  
asks WILLY NEWLANDS

**T**ERENCE MEADEN thinks he is getting close to solving one of the great riddles of the English countryside — mysterious corn circles which appear suddenly in standing crops.

One day the corn is standing proud and high. The next, as if by black magic, great swathes have been flattened, often in complex patterns, with circles 50ft in diameter or more.

Dr Meaden has eliminated all sorts of theories which have attempted to explain the circles, more than 400 of which have been reported to him since 1980. First to go were the way-out suggestions about druids, witchcraft and sorcery.

He has also ruled out rutting deer, romping foxes, whirling helicopters and excited hedgehogs. And hoaxers too. 'Anyone could attempt a superficial imitation,' he says, 'but the true ones are very elaborate and complex.'

After years of analysis, hours spent in small planes flying over the West Country's cornfields, study of a thousand photographs and widespread appeals for information — including a letter in the *Daily Mail* last summer, which produced reports of circles dating back as far as 60 years ago, from 10 counties — Terence Meaden thinks he is close to cracking the puzzle.

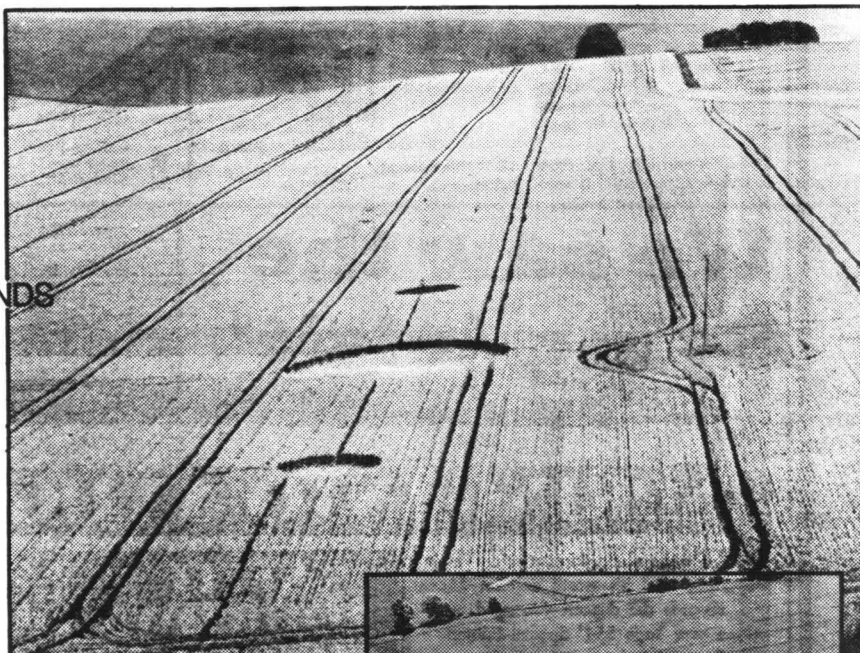
'I'm not making it public yet, because I have more work to do before I publish my results, but they link these phenomena into a bigger picture,' he says at his home in Bradford-on-Avon.

**B**UT what could form the 'cosmic' circles, which in most cases are mathematically perfect, with the corn flattened evenly as if smoothed down by a giant hand? His research has concentrated on weather patterns.

Sometimes the damage appears in symmetrical arrangements, smaller circles surrounding the large ones, forming triangles and rectangles.

In a few cases, Dr Meaden says, there have been ringed circles, in which simple circles have been enclosed by a larger ring or even two rings.

Usually the corn is swirled flat in



one direction, but in a few cases there have been circles with the inner area knocked down in a clockwise swirl, the outer part lying in the opposite direction.

Following the publication of articles about the circles in the *Journal of Meteorology*, numerous solutions to the puzzle were put forward.

**M**OST suggested human hands at work, some linking them to ancient rites connected with the stone circles and ley lines of Stonehenge and Avebury. But Dr Meaden is sure that most of the cornfield patterns he has looked at were not the work of any kind of human hoaxer and certainly not of any Little Green Men from Outer Space.

Sceptics are still doubtful about his dismissal of practical jokers, pointing out that many of the complex patterns have tended to turn up in sloping fields visible from main roads, such as the A4 at the foot of Silbury Hill, near



Avebury, Wiltshire. Other major sites have been at Yatesbury, Allington Down and Beckhampton.

Terence Meaden says that publicity has concentrated on these fields, but he knows of other circles all over the country, and not only in cornfields, but also in crops of mustard, beet and even potatoes.

The only people not fascinated and amused are the farmers in whose fields the circles appear. Average cost in lost corn of a large flattened circle is about £20.

**UNDER the gaze of the Wiltshire white horse ... aerial details of the mysterious configurations in the field of the 13 circles.**

ECHO, Sunderland, England - Aug. 27, 1988 CR: T. Good

## EARLY MORNING CLOSE ENCOUNTER FOR FRIENDS

A STRANGE flying object was spotted by early birds in a Wear-side village.

Civil servant Steve Barksby (22), of Rosslea, Shiney Row, his sister Jill (19), and friend Tara Patterson (19), from Chester-le-Street, claim they have seen a U.F.O.

A bright star-like object "buzzed" their car as they drove from Great Lumley to Shiney Row at about 3.15 a.m. on Thursday.

"The light came up from the right, shot

round the front of the car, stopped there glowing for a bit, then went off to the left and disappeared into a dot," Steve said.

"It looked a bit like a Christmas card star. There were three of us in the car terrified. I have never seen anything like it."

A U.F.O. was sighted near Marsden Rock six weeks ago by a taxi driver and passenger.

It was described as about 80 feet long with flashing lights.

Sunderland police have no reports of any other recent U.F.O. sightings.

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - Jan. 6, 1989

## Sky craft mystery deepens

MORE triangular craft have been reported in the South East Essex skies.

A Canvey mum and her son walking their dog along the sea wall saw green and white lights, flashing lights and a triangular-shaped object.

Later they spotted a big spotlight which went

out when an aircraft passed overhead.

The light came on again when the aircraft had gone and a triangular-shaped craft moved slowly away. The craft had red lights at the back.

Another Canvey woman saw lights and heard a

whirring noise in the sky.

East Anglian UFO researchers have been interested in lights seen by a policeman and other witnesses at Sizewell Cliffs in Suffolk.

The UFO researchers can be contacted on 0728 830757.

## Mysterious field rings

Sir, — As Mr Yeates suggested in his letter last month about the mysterious field rings, buried features can be revealed in the form of crop marks given suitable weather conditions.

Cereal crops are sensitive to disturbances in the subsoil, and the presence of concealed ditches can give rise to a differential growth in the crop of the order of 20 per cent in height, or more if dry weather persists.

The colour of a crop over a ditch is also a darker green, which intensifies in dry conditions enabling the outline of such buried features to be clearly seen from the aerial viewpoint.

When the crop is ripe, such effects are susceptible to lodging in high winds or heavy rain. However, a crop mow laid in this way will never appear so clear cut or precise as the ring marks in question. On the other hand, the foundations of buildings or hardcore concealed under the topsoil may appear harshly defined by comparison.

Under these conditions the crop response is reversed, in that it is very

poor and stunted in its growth in contrast with the normal crop adjacent to it; under these circumstances lodging is unlikely to occur.

Crop marks do not appear suddenly but develop over a period of time, much like the image on a photographic negative; it is surprising therefore, that the rings were not observed earlier in their development!

Further, if the rings were formed by any air disturbance in the conventional sense, there would be a spreading effect due to turbulence. It would be of interest to know whether the crop within the rings exhibited any differential growth, and indeed was it laid in the same direction?

I leave you with the problem, but in all my experience in aerial reconnaissance I have never observed any features of such a precise form in an archaeological context, due to lodging.

Arnold Barked  
F.S.A.

48 Ashley Road, Salisbury.  
CR: T. Good

CR: T. Good  
ECHO, Sunderland, England - Oct. 15, 1988

## Strange sight

AT 5.15 a.m. on Saturday, October 8, I looked out of my bedroom window, facing north, and saw an unusually strange object in the sky.

On closer observation it appeared to be rectangular on top with a semi-circular shape underneath.

The semi-circular part was red and the rectangular part had flashing white lights on the left and centre section. There was no sound of engines of any kind from the object and it just rose in the sky until it disappeared from view.

I would be interested to hear if anyone else saw this or can anyone say what this strange object was. It was definitely not an aeroplane.

Mrs A Rawlings  
Redfern Road  
Red House  
Sunderland

## Was it a bird, was it a plane — or UFO?

BAFFLED Berkshire residents have been seeing more than stars lighting up the sky.

Families in Tilehurst and Caversham Park claim to have spotted bright lights speeding through the sky over their homes on Sunday night, just weeks after sightings of other alien objects were reported.

Tilehurst couple Kevin and Donna Wallace were driving from Bradfield to their home in Layton Rise when they first noticed a big bright object lighting up the sky.

Donna said: "We first

thought it was a plane but it just stayed at the same position."

When the couple got home, Donna claimed they counted up to eight objects in the sky at one time, all moving backwards and forwards at a great speed.

### Neighbours

She said: "There seemed to be one main bright light which the others were coming back to. Some of them were red, green and blue."

She was adamant the lights were not fireworks as they stayed in the sky for several hours.

CR: T. Good

The mysterious UFOs were also spotted by a woman and her neighbours in Caversham Park.

The woman, who would not give her name, said: "It was such a strange phenomena. The speed that they moved at was absolutely incredible."

She said she had felt "awestruck" watching the objects but had never felt frightened.

"I had a feeling that this was not to attack us in any way but it was certainly very real and something I will never forget."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence confirmed they had received some reports of sightings from members of the public and they would be investigating whether the craft had illegally entered British airspace.

RECORDER, Newham, England - Sept. 1, 1988 CR: T. Good

## We saw the flying 'visit'

● I read with interest the report about the UFO sighting. Recorder, August 18. It seems the policemen saw the same as my son and I.

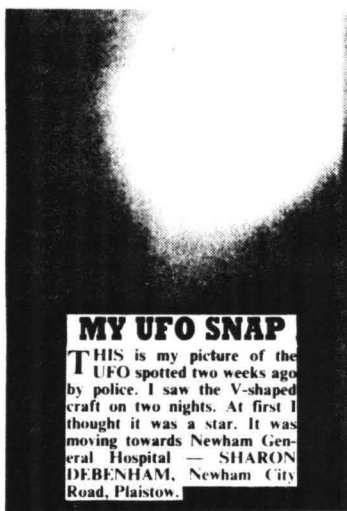
We were on Leyton Marshes at 11.45am on Sunday August 14. I looked up and saw a curved shaped object with a dark red band, which seemed to be pulsating, and with flashing white lights.

It turned upright a few times and looked cigar shaped. The light flashing stopped until it turned back again.

Then it went on to its side and went straight up at tremendous speed.

I didn't tell anyone about this because the few people that were there with us laughed when we told them.

MRS J GOODMAN,  
Stow Crescent, Durban Road, WALTHAMSTOW.



MY UFO SNAP

THIS is my picture of the UFO spotted two weeks ago by police. I saw the V-shaped craft on two nights. At first I thought it was a star. It was moving towards Newham General Hospital — SHARON DEBENHAM, Newham City Road, Plaistow.

## New film twist in strange tale of Hants U.F.O.

PORTSMOUTH NEWS, Hants., England  
Aug. 19, 1988 CR: T. Good

A HUNT for a film showing a mystery flying object at Chandlers Ford has taken a new twist with a solicitor's claim that it may have been stolen by a member of a secret organization.

The strange case of the U.F.O. started when 48-year-old Mrs. Margaret Wilson told police that a glowing white and yellow object had followed her car as she drove home from Bournemouth a week ago.

The police informed the media — and a man claiming to be a journalist went to Mrs. Wilson's home and asked for the undeveloped film she had taken of the U.F.O.

He showed no credentials, and promised to have the film developed and returned the following day. But he failed to keep his promise.

Manchester solicitor Mr.

Harry Harris, who is a keen U.F.O.-ologist, is now acting on Mrs. Wilson's behalf to recover the film.

He has issued a description of the man who claimed to be a reporter. He is about 5ft. 8in. tall, with collar-length dark hair, green eyes, and was wearing jeans and a white shirt, with a tape measure on his right hip. He was driving an old dark red car.

### 'Secret organization'

"I believe he is either an unscrupulous U.F.O.-ologist prepared to poach anything, or a member of some secret organization, possibly with Government connections," said Mr. Harris.

"I appeal for this man to return the film to Mrs. Wilson — it is her property and retaining it is theft."

GUARDIAN, Southampton, England

Oct. 19, 1988 CR: T. Good

## Search for UFOs

A SHOLING ufologist has unveiled plans for a new book on UFO sightings in Hampshire.

Robert Price, who lives in Chadwell Road, Sholing, began researching flying saucer sightings in the early seventies, and he now intends to bring together all the information in a new book.

Insisting he's not a crank but a serious investigator, Mr Price said: "About 97 per cent of reported UFOs can be explained away. But around

three per cent cannot and it's that three per cent which interests me."

"Some people say I'm a nutcase, and some people believe it. I have no doubt that they do exist."

Hampshire has had more than its fair share of sightings over the years. People all over the county swear they have seen:

● FOOTBALL shaped glowing objects

● SLOW moving ovals of light

● MANNED UFOs which tried to kidnap them.



● Eccentric or Expert? Robert Price searching for extra-terrestrial clues.

And in the latest incident a Chandler's Ford woman hit the headlines when a roll of film containing pictures of a 'space ship' which followed her home from Bournemouth was stolen.

But, says Mr Price, most sightings can be put down to ball lightning, meteorites, cloud formations and low flying aircraft.

If you think you've seen a UFO, write to Robert Price at 32 Chadwell Avenue, Sholing.

CREWE CHRONICLE, Cheshire, England - Feb. 8, 1989 CR: T. Good

## Study made of samples 'from UFO'

SAMPLES taken from a reported UFO landing near Audlem are now being studied by experts both in this country and in America.

Eric Morris, the chairman of the Cheshire UFO Studies Centre, based in

Crewe, visited the site, taking photos and soil samples, and they have been passed on to Dr Henry Adjakdel, an Armenian physicist, who has been studying the phenomena for 15 years.

Said Mr Morris: 'Dr Adjakdel now lives in Nottingham and he got in touch with me through a joint contact in America. He visited me in Crewe a few days ago and took samples away to study.'

### Damage

'Two groups of people reported the landing, and subsequent take-off, near Audlem some months ago, and I went to the scene. There was very obvious combustion damage to the ground and considerable damage to a tree, which had been sliced through.'

'Eye-witnesses all reported seeing a bright red object, measuring, they thought, only about 10 feet by four feet, landing and taking off again.'

Mr Morris said that Dr Adjakdel specialised in 'close encounter retrievable crash cases'. He had visited sites in various countries and retrieved samples, some of which he had explained and others he had not.

He had heard of similar cases to the Audlem sighting and had not been able to explain them.

Mr Morris said that the Studies Centre in Crewe, now had a 24-hour 'hot line' to take details of reported sightings — one of the very few in the country and possibly the first in the North.

### Increased

He commented: 'During the past 12 months the number of reported sightings over Cheshire and Staffordshire has increased.'



And since we opened our hot line a few weeks ago, we have been getting more calls than ever.

'Most of them we have always been able to explain, but some, including the Audlem incident, have left us baffled.'

Mr Morris was one of the first people in the country to identify the American spy-plane Sleuth — long before the Americans, or the British Government admitted there was such a craft. He believes the Russians have a similar, though smaller craft.

Commenting again on the Audlem incident, he said: 'This was the first time the Ministry of Defence contacted me direct.'

'It is unheard of for them to do that. But they did on this occasion.'

'It will be extremely interesting to see what Dr Adjakdel finds out.'

This weekend Mr Morris was following up another reported landing, this time from a woman at Audley who claims that something that either landed or came near to landing in her driveway in the middle of the night left three severe scorch marks, about two feet in diameter — so hot the sandy soil was solidified.

He said: 'Over the years certain areas seem to get a spate of sightings, then things die down. But I have never known anything like the activity reported in our district over the past 12 months.'

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - Feb. 1, 1989 CR: T. Good

## UFO lights

A UFO researcher visiting a family in Great Wakering watched amazed as three bright lights appeared above Rayleigh and Basildon. Mr Martin Bainbridge, a member of East Anglian UFO Society, said at one stage the lights formed a triangle and after about an hour disappeared.

Mr Peter Sayer, 33, builder and decorator, of Beach Court, who was being visited by the UFO researcher, said the lights were definitely not aircraft. Anyone who saw them is asked to ring the UFO hotline, Basildon 286079.





# Mysterious lights twinkle over mountain town

By Judy Williamson  
Dallas Morning News

MARFA, Texas

IT'S a cliché that everything's bigger in Texas, but the stars do seem bigger and brighter as they cascade overhead in some parts of the state — the wide-open West Texas desert mountain terrain, for one.

And stargazing, one of the great, free, mind-expanding pleasures of a clear night, takes on a slightly romantic if not a bit spooky edge in Marfa, where a certain phenomenon lights up the sky once the sun goes down.

## Seen most nights

It's called the Marfa Lights, mysterious lights that can be seen most evenings in the mountains east of this town of 2,500 residents, 60 miles from the Mexican border.

The curious pull up on the shoulder of U.S. Highway 90, from where viewers can best see the eerie lights in the Chinati Mountains. Some nights the lights sparkle brilliantly, pulsate or fade. Other nights they simply don't show.

Sometimes the lights are still. Other times, they appear to dance around the horizon as if to mimic a sea-level meteor shower.

What are they? Where do they come from? Nobody really knows.

The lights were first reported in 1883, when early settlers attributed the phenomenon to distant campfires. Explanations for the lights since that time have come to be almost as plentiful as the number of sightings themselves, including reports of people being pursued by the ghostly light.

## Theories abound

They appear to originate someplace to the east of the Chinati Mountain peaks, but the exact location has never been determined.

Theories regarding their origin run the gamut from static electricity to light shining on an exposed mica vein to swamp gas. Some of the theories have been discarded because of inconsistencies — swamp gas, for example, is unlikely because there have been no swamps in these mountains for millions of years.

Astronomers from nearby McDonald Observatory say the lights are a mirage caused by light bent by adjacent layers of air and carried over long distances. Believers counter that assertion with the fact that 100 years ago, there were no sources brighter than a campfire.

Still others yield to the theory that the lights are really UFOs or the ghosts of the Indians who first lived in this stark landscape. One of the most common theories tells of an Apache chief who is searching for his lost tribe, the apparition the flickering light of a long-ago campfire.

The best viewing spot is marked

## If you go . . .

### ✓ INFORMATION —

Marfa Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 635, Marfa, Texas, 79843; (915) 729-4942. Alpine Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 209, Alpine 79831; (915) 837-2326.

### ✓ WHERE TO STAY —

El Paisano Hotel, Marfa, (915) 729-3145; rooms about \$50, double occupancy. Gage Hotel, Marathon, (915) 386-4205; rooms from \$30 to \$50, double occupancy.

### ✓ WHERE TO EAT —

In addition to the restaurant at the Gage Hotel, two restaurants deserve mention: the Longhorn Cattle Co. in Alpine for steaks and seafood, and McFarland's in Alpine for continental dishes and foods with a slightly Southwestern flavor. At McFarland's, portions are large and the food is fattening. To quote its owner: "I don't believe in nouvelle cuisine."

### ✓ CHINATI FOUNDATION —

Much less known than Marfa's ghostly lights is the existence there of one of the most important contemporary art collections in the country, the Chinati Foundation, also possibly the most remote such installation.

by a small bronze plaque commemorating the "Official Marfa Lights Viewing Site" on U.S. Highway 90-67, about nine miles east of town.

Light watchers should face the southwest until a fixed red light is sighted; any light to the right of the red marker is probably a Marfa Light. Veteran viewers recommend closing your eyes first for at least 10 seconds, and blinking frequently, so you don't wind up staring.

You may not see them; I didn't. But if you go with a six-pack and a good friend, you can happily settle

for a shooting star under night skies free from city lights and heavy pollution.

The greatest attractions in the area, of course, are the magnificent skies and scenery in the Trans-Pecos area — roughly that territory between the Pecos River and the Rio Grande.

Marfa, in Presidio County, is the state's highest incorporated city at 4,688 feet above sea level; neighboring Brewster County is one of the largest counties in Texas with 5,935 square miles of mountainous terrain, larger than the state of Connecticut.

Alpine, 26 miles east of Marfa, is Brewster's county seat. It's slightly lower in altitude (4,485 feet) than Marfa and boasts more than twice its population.

Alpine's residents include the students and staff of Sul Ross State University, nicknamed Rodeo U., as well as retirees who come to this part of Texas for its cool, near-perfect climate and its allegedly medicinal air.

## Museum

The Museum of the Big Bend, on the Sul Ross campus, chronicles the earlier settlers, who arrived in the 1800s to tame the harsh Big Bend area. Among the exhibits dealing with this volatile period of Texas history are photographs of the struggling early ranchers, cowboys, miners and merchants, and a stagecoach riddled with bullet holes.

This story is told perhaps more poignantly by the historic Gage Hotel in the ranching town of Marathon, 45 miles east of Marfa.

Guest rooms, each one different, come with names such as Dead Horse, Badlands and Dagger Mesa, names that also speak of the harsh loneliness facing early ranchers and settlers.

The hotel was begun in 1927 by Alfred Gage, a prosperous San Antonio banker who owned a 500,000-acre ranch in Marathon. The two-story brick building was to serve as a place to stay while he was checking on ranching operations. He didn't live to see it completed.

Other West Texas ranchers and cattlemen, however, welcomed the hotel, which for many years served as a popular way station in this remote mining and ranching territory near Big Bend National Park.

Today the hotel, which was restored to its original specs in 1982, is filled with authentic cowboy, Mexican and Tarahumara Indian antiques and artifacts in all guest and public rooms.

Seven of the rooms have private baths; all others have a wash basin and share a semiprivate bath on each floor. Rates begin at \$30, double occupancy.

Guests at the Gage are frequently Big Bend-bound and look to the hotel staff to help arrange activities and tours. Rio Grande raft trips, Jeep tours into Big Bend National Park, horseback trips into the mountains of Texas and Mexico, and hunting trips for antelope, mule deer, exotic sheep and birds are among the most popular.

A second historic hotel is in Marfa, a block down the street from the Presidio County Courthouse. El Paisano Hotel was built in 1928 in anticipation of an oil boom that

## town

never came — unlike that depicted in the film classic "Giant," which was filmed near Marfa.

The restored two-story, stucco Spanish colonial-style hotel today features in its lobby movie stills of Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson from the 1955 film. The cast and crew of "Giant" stayed at the hotel, at one time the finest between El Paso and San Antonio.

The movie was shot on a ranch 12 miles west of Marfa, but the set has long disappeared.

## Bigfoot tracked in area

By ELIZABETH HORNE

When was the last time you thought about Bigfoot? Chances are, it has not been for a long time. The truth is, our area seems to be a natural habitat for the legendary creature, or at least it used to be.

Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, has identified parts of the Mon Valley and surrounding areas as sites with a lot of Bigfoot activity.

The 1970's marked a time of many Bigfoot sightings in the area. Over 130 incidences with 250 witnesses were reported in western Pennsylvania. A great many of these were reported from Westmoreland and Fayette County, Indiana and Somerset counties, according to Gordon.

The most recent report was recorded by Gordon's group on Dec. 12, 1988. Two hunters in Westmoreland County watched a Bigfoot creature through their rifle scopes. The bigfoot went into nearby woods and the two followed his tracks in the snow.

The area along the Monongahela river seems to be another hot spot, according to Gordon.

The creature is generally said to be between seven and nine feet in height with dirty white hair around the face.

The eye color is predominantly red or green and a slightly sulphurous odor is present.

Bigfoot creatures have never reportedly harmed anyone and have been seen in groups. Several have, however, approached people, so they seem to be curious creatures, according to Gordon.

Perhaps you are still skeptical. Gordon has found that most sightings are reported by people who were skeptics.

Anyone sighting Bigfoot should record the exact time, place and write a complete description of the creature they see; include features, smells or sounds. Check the area for any fur or tracks that could have been left.

Next, go to a phone and call either the police who will forward the sighting to a research group or one of the hotline numbers: Gordon's group, 838-7768 or the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research, which also handles Bigfoot sightings, 823-1834.

All sightings are important to the research groups. If sightings form a pattern then perhaps the researchers can locate the hiding places of these creatures that have been reported since the 1800's.

Once located the phenomena of Bigfoot can be explained and the mystery surrounding the half man/half beast will be put to rest.

For further information on Bigfoot, including reports and cases, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to PASU, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa 15601.

VALLEY INDEPENDENT, Monessen, PA - Jan. 24, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

# Researcher hunts Bigfoot legend

BY GAIL DEAN

Halloween is still several weeks away but Greenbelt resident Mark Opsasnick of the Maryland Bigfoot Study hopes the approaching holiday will get people in the mood to help him with his work.

Although the Pacific Northwest is considered the primary habitat of Bigfoots (Bigfeet?), Opsasnick has collected 250 accounts of Maryland sightings of ape-like creatures and similar "monsters" and he is looking for more reports of encounters with such beasts.

In January Opsasnick, who works at the Prince George's County Office of Energy Services, founded the Bigfoot Information Project (BIP) to serve as a clearinghouse for reported sightings of ape-like creatures in Maryland. Its records include three reported sightings in Dorchester County, two in Worcester,

one in Wicomico and six in Somerset.

The majority of the sightings have occurred in northeastern Maryland. Opsasnick reports 49 sightings in Baltimore County, 48 in Carroll and 47 in Harford County. Most of these occurred in the 1970s, he said. "There are a number of cases that seem to have a high level of credibility."

Many of the sightings reported fall into the category of folklore or incidents of mistaken identities but Opsasnick said some of the incidents during the 1970s may have been actual encounters with a Bigfoot. He has spoken with about three dozen people, including police officers, who have seen ape-like creatures. "Once you talk to the people, your skepticism gets wiped out," he said.

A number of Bigfoot sightings also occurred in Anne Arundel County during the previous decade. July 18, 1973 a Glen Burnie

woman called police to report a Bigfoot in a tree near her home. The next day an unnamed county police officer said an 8-foot tall, 500-pound creature ran in front of his car near Lothian.

A creature of the same description was encountered in nearby Tracy's Landing Aug. 30, 1977 by Ronald Jones, who said he struck the beast with a tire iron and it attacked his truck. Oct. 16, 1977 two youngsters reported seeing a

Bigfoot sitting on a log in a wooded area near Annapolis.

In Dorchester County there were several sightings of Bigfoot-like creatures around the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in 1967, Opsasnick said. He obtained this information from Odyssey Research in Baltimore but said the organization has been uncooperative in providing more information about these sightings.

Although he does not count it as a Bigfoot sighting, Opsasnick is interested in reports of "strange nocturnal screams" reported several times during the 1950s and 1960s in Dorchester's Green Briar Swamp. According to local legend, the swamp is haunted by Big Liz, the ghost of a slave killed to guard her master's gold when he hid it from invading Union forces. The gold is supposed to remain hidden in the swamp.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - Feb. 16, 1989

## COLORADO

### GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS —

Investigators will probe series of local "Bigfoot" sightings in March or April, attempt to take photos around lower slopes of Pikes Peak.

CR: M. Opsasnick

By ALVIN BENN  
Advertiser Staff Writer  
CHILTON, Ark. — Chilton County authorities are puzzled over the discovery of a headless, hindless, bloodless cow, and devil worshippers have not been ruled out as the culprits.

The remains of the 700-pound cow, that was with calf, were found last week and owner Millard Reynolds is as mystified as he is angry by what happened.

He is offering a \$500 reward to find who did it, but says it won't be easy.

"It could be a cult, a bunch of nuts or some plain mean people, and we've got a bunch of 'em around here," said Maj.

George Smith of the Maplesville Police Department on Tuesday.

The cow had been separated from the rest of his herd and Mr. Reynolds had spent a week trying to coax it back into a pasture.

He nearly had succeeded, he said, with the cow moving a bit closer to the pasture each day.

Then, he was notified of the discovery last week. What he found was a chilling sight, he said.

"The head had been severed and thrown several yards away," he said. "The hind quarters were missing altogether and the internal organs had been stacked in a mound nearby."

What puzzled him most, he said, was the lack of blood in or around the cow's remains.

He said he found a couple of small patches, "but not a trace of any blood around the animal or any indication that it had soaked into the ground."

Mr. Reynolds, one of the area's most prominent property owners, said it could mean the animal had been tilted so that the blood poured into a container, but even that raised questions.

"We've got people around here who call themselves devil worshippers," he said. "I don't know if they may be responsible for what happened and I'm trying to find out."

He said at first he thought the cow might have been the target of poachers, but the lack of blood, the mutilation and neatly piled organs have him believing it may have been done by design.

"I thought initially somebody wanted some good meat, because the hindquarters have the best part and it was missing, including the tail," he said. "But, those other matters have me wondering if it might be the work of a cult."

He placed the cow's value at about \$350 and said he is offering a \$500 reward because he has had livestock victimized in the past "and I want to put a stop to it."

"This whole thing is a mystery to me," said Mr. Reynolds, who said he has about 500 head of cattle. "Whoever did it appeared to have known just where to go."

Maj. Smith said the mutilation appeared to him to be the work of "mean people" who were not after the animal's meat.

"We've got some nuts around here who like to scare people," he said. "I don't think a cult is involved, but I can't say for sure it isn't, either."

Maj. Smith said the Chilton County Sheriff's Department is handling the investigation.

ADVERTISER, Montgomery, AL  
Dec. 28, 1988 CR: W. Lee/COUD-I

# Little People visit the village

By Janet Ahmasuk

Little People have appeared and disappeared a great many times in many different villages throughout this part of Alaska. Sometimes they stay awhile, and sometimes their appearance is so brief and bizarre that folks wonder about their own sanity.

Here are some stories about

those Little People who apparently stayed around.

According to Lois Foster, whose family originates in Koyuk, her great-grandmother told of three little men who came to the village on a silvery looking disc that sailed through the air.

By performing some simple

arithmetic on the grandmothers' ages it is presumed the event happened somewhere in the years 1795 - 1805. These "little men" were elderly, but still alive when Lois' grandmother, Gadayroak, was a young girl.

Gadayroak told her family the little men were very strong and could carry logs by themselves.

They lived in the village and spoke Eskimo like a native.

No women came with the little men, subsequently they raised no families and they finally died off leaving no heirs.

The villagers always wondered how they made their silver air sailer.

As a result of the

conversations the villagers had over the years with the little men, they came to understand that they were never going back to their home and that some mechanism had broken down in their craft, permanently disabling it.

## Brief glimpses of Little People

By Janet Ahmasuk

Brief glimpses of Little People behavior and short stories were remembered by Reba Dickson from stories told to her by elders.

Long ago, according to a legend related by Inez Kungesuk, a band of little people lived near her village of Sinuk. One day the son of the little people's chief got mauled by a husky and died.

The little chief called a meeting with his people then sent a message to Sinuk village that the little people would never live among the big people again.

Helen Luke told Reba that when she was a young girl walking up the river along the Sinuk she came upon small foot prints in the sand. She followed them, thinking that they belonged to other campers. She followed them until she came upon a little man spearing fish.

He was wearing an Eskimo-style squirrel parky. He noticed her and put up his spear as if to defend himself. She came closer to play (for she thought he was a child) and the little man raised his spear even more menacingly. Helen became frightened and ran back to tell her parents.

Then there is the story of the reindeer herder whose name Reba didn't remember. The herder saw, or thought he saw, a dead deer moving by itself over the tundra. He ran up for a closer look and saw a little man underneath carrying it all by himself.

While the Council Road was being built, Kahpuk was a member of a road crew staying in a road camp cabin at Big Hurrah. He was on his side, asleep facing the wall. The window was at his back. He turned himself around, sort of accidentally opening his eyes. He found himself facing three little men who were staring at him. Thinking no one would believe him he remained silent about this for many years.

TIMES OF INDIA, Bangalore, India - Oct. 14, 1988

## ET is no laughing matter

By L.K. SHARMA

The Times of India News Service  
BANGALORE, October 13:

WHAT will we do if we were to suddenly find that we are not alone? Television has been getting us accustomed to visitors from other worlds but the discovery of aliens, when it really comes, "could cause panic and economic chaos and topple governments."

The detection of extraterrestrial intelligence, which has long fascinated astronomers waiting for the right radio signals, seems to have now also gripped sociologists and what is more, political leaders such as the US President, Mr Ronald Reagan and the Soviet President, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov.

### DRAFT AGREEMENT

That the issue is not just about perfecting new scientific techniques and developing more sensitive and powerful signal receivers was established when the international astronomical congress was today presented with a draft international agreement by an American delegate, concerning the detection of extraterrestrial intelligence.

Mr Michael A.G. Michaud, director, office of advanced technology, US department of state, who presented the draft agreement, said search efforts suggested that, if any radio signals from extraterrestrial intelligence did exist, the probability of our detecting them was increasing.

Mr Michaud highlighted the need for a code of conduct for the search of extraterrestrial intelligence and an agreed post-discovery regime so that the human species could deal with the aliens suitably. The genuine fear of those like Mr Michaud is about the horrendous consequences that may follow from an unauthorised reply to a

signal from the aliens! Or, for example, imagine some university don without consulting the state department leaking out to the world press the first evidence of intelligent signals from the other worlds!

The proposed agreement on detection among research institutions and researchers — not among governments — would ensure that the priceless information is released only as per agreed principles. The draft agreement also seeks to ensure that the first information report on the detection of aliens is properly verified by independent observers so that the credibility of the scientific community is maintained.

### RADIO TELESCOPE

The astronomical congress also heard several scientists reviewing their search for extraterrestrial intelligence. An Indian contribution was from Dr Govind Swarup of the Tata-Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, who pointed out that the proposed giant metrewave radio telescope (GMRT), being set up near Pune to study problems in astronomy, could also be used for the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI).

A team from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory described the research work under the NASA SETI sky survey. This programme includes all-sky and targeted searches. Another paper was from the SETI Institute in Los Altos in the US and one giving the progress of work in the Soviet Union.

So, ET is no longer a laughing matter. In Argentina, a SETI programme has been launched because such an effort was lacking in the southern hemisphere. If only the aliens knew how much trouble the human species is taking to detect their signals, they might even decide to visit the planet earth.

They do not have to face disbelief when they descend on earth. An Italian sociologist told the astronomical congress that a large percentage of humans now believed in the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence. During his short stay in Bangalore, he even picked up a newspaper advertisement in Bina-tone TV, with an extraterrestrial being popping out of the TV screen. He showed this as one of his slides to prove the point.

### PUBLIC OPINION

The Italian scholar, Dr Roberto Pinotti, in his paper on "ETI, SETI and today's public opinion," said that science fiction and popular interest in UFOs as visitors from outer space "played a major role in the average man's acceptance of the reality of extraterrestrial life."

He quoted several public opinion surveys showing that among American adults the proportion of believers in ETI has gone up over the years. Curiously, America women are more sceptical than men.

The Italian scholar quoted extensively from the speeches of Mr Reagan referring to the "threat to this world from some other species from another planet." Mr Gorbachov had said that the US President had mentioned to him about the two nations joining forces to repel an invasion by extraterrestrials and "I shall not dispute the hypothesis, though I think it is early yet to worry about such an intrusion."

The Italian scholar said the ETI concept might be used in politics too. One can wait and see whether at the next astronomical congress in Beijing, the Soviet delegation comes out with a matching response to the American delegate's draft agreement.

## Trees communicate, physicist says

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — Physicist Ed Wagner says he has found evidence that trees talk to each other in a language he calls W-waves.

"If you chop into a tree, you can see that adjacent trees put out an electrical pulse," said Wagner. "This indicates they communicate directly."

Explaining the phenomenon, Wagner pointed to a blip on a strip chart recording of the electrical pulse.

"It put out a tremendous cry of alarm," he said. "The adjacent trees put out smaller ones."

An abstract of his research was published last fall in Northwest Science magazine, put out by the Northwest Scientific Association at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash.

"People have known there was communication between trees for several years, but they've explained it by the chemicals trees produce," Wagner said.

"But I think the real communication is much quicker and more dramatic than that," he said. "These trees 'know' within a few seconds what is happening. This is an automatic response."

Wagner has measured the speed of W-waves at about 3 feet per second through trees and about 15 feet per second through the air.

"They travel much too slowly for electrical waves," he said. "They



Associated Press  
Physicist Ed Wagner stands next to a tree trunk implanted with electrodes used to measure W-waves, which Wagner says trees use to talk to each other.

seem to be an altogether different entity. That's what makes them so intriguing. They don't seem to be electromagnetic waves at all."

Wagner said he stumbled across the W-waves early last year while doing research on sap-flow in trees.

He was intrigued to find different

electrical voltage readings at various locations in the sections of tree trunks he was working with, indicating a standing wave formation.

"There are waves traveling up and down a tree continuously," Wagner said. "The voltage goes up and down as you go up the tree."

Wagner, 58, holds a doctorate in physics from the University of Tennessee. He formerly worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratories in Tennessee and taught physics at California State Polytechnic University for five years.

He returned to his family home in Wimer, about 15 miles east of Grants Pass, in the 1970s and established the Wagner Research Laboratory. About six years ago he earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Dayton in Ohio.

"I came out here so no one could tell me what I was doing scientifically was right or wrong," Wagner said.

Wagner said his work has been greeted with skepticism, but he remained confident it would be accepted one day.

"Scientists are supposed to be open minded to discovery, but if you come up with something that is contrary to scientific religion, it's hard to get through to them."

"For some people, it's so contrary to what they think that they won't bother to read the evidence," Wagner said. "But it's just a matter of time."





Bob France looks out over the ridge, where many people claim to have seen unusual crafts and creatures.

The Philadelphia Inquirer / RON CORTES

# Unbelievable

## Strange sights are common along Chestnut Ridge

By Carol Morello  
Inquirer Staff Writer

LATROBE, Pa. — Bob France, Mountain man. Lives in a log cabin with a stockade gate to keep the world at bay. Snarcs snakes for fun.

The woods and its denizens are as familiar to him as the callouses on his hands.

Then one day Bob France went into the dark and teeming woods, and familiarity slipped away. For he had entered another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound, but of mind. A dimension known as — Chestnut Ridge.

This stretch of the Allegheny Mountain foothills, running from West Virginia up through Westmoreland and Indiana Counties, is Pennsylvania's Twilight Zone.

It was on Chestnut Ridge that France saw the creature he has come to think of as Bigfoot.

"I know it's there," he said recently of the tall, hairy, neither-man-nor-animal that he says he has encountered six or seven times along the Ridge, either glimpsing it through the brush, smelling its rancid emanation or sensing its eyes following him as he walked along the Ridge. "I can feel it."

And it was near a Chestnut Ridge hollow called Death Valley, he will tell you as matter-of-factly as if he were mentioning a bear or a deer, that he saw a UFO.

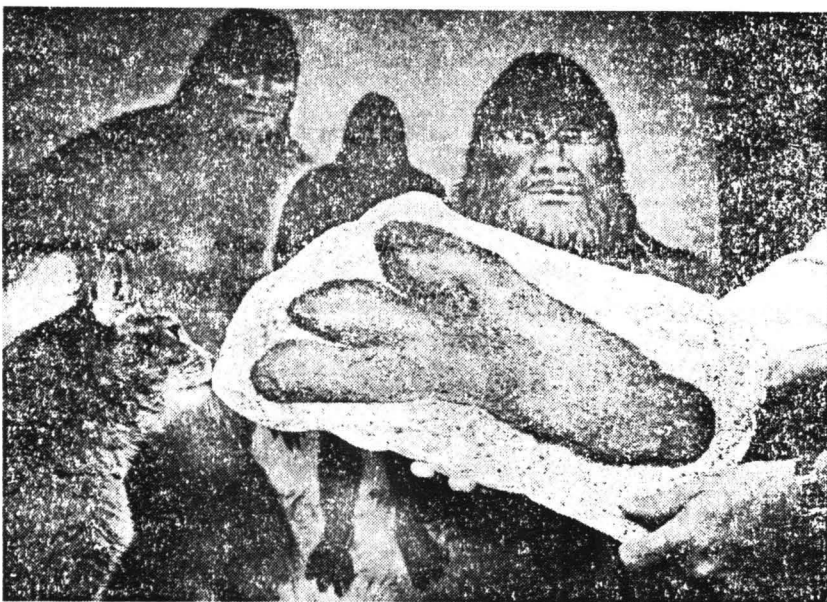
"It was cigar-shaped, and it flew up and darted away in zig-zags," he said, showing a blurry photograph he took that night of the moon in a starless sky with a second, oval blaze of light in the photo's corner.

It would be easy to dismiss France's stories if he were the only one to tell them. But over the years, hundreds of people have reported seeing similar eerie, even unearthly, things along Chestnut Ridge.

To be sure, scattered reports of UFOs and Bigfoot come in from across the state. But the one place where reports have consistently accumulated is along Chestnut Ridge. And over the last 18 months, the number of sightings has been on the upswing.

When so many of their friends and neighbors swear they have seen something, even skeptics hedge their bets.

"When I see it, I'll believe it," said Kim Opatka, who covers the UFO and Bigfoot beat for her local newspaper, the Latrobe Bulletin, which publishes stories about the sightings as routinely as some newspapers cover traf-



A cast taken of a three-toed footprint, measuring 13 inches long and 8 inches wide.

fic accidents. "But I do believe these people believe they saw something."

Stan Gordon, Electronics salesman. Runs the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained out of his Greensburg basement. Is listed in the 1988 edition of Who's Who in UFOlogy. Has never personally seen a UFO or Bigfoot.

"That hill over there is where Bigfoot was first seen, in 1972," Gordon said one day recently, sitting in the coffee shop of Greensburg's Sheraton hotel as he looked out a window across a shopping mall and pointed beyond the Sears store.

"The people who lived there one night heard unusual animal screams. Then they heard something heavy walking. Someone saw lights coming in and hovering over a cemetery. Then the lights sped away. The next morning, one family found a large footprint in the dust. It had five toes and was larger than a human's."

"Now, we don't want to say that Bigfoot is coming out of a UFO. Mostly, Bigfoot and UFOs are seen separately. Only in a very small number of cases are both seen at the same time."

According to reports Gordon has collected, witnesses consistently describe Bigfoot as a longhaired, foul-smelling creature six to eight feet tall that walks on two legs, has eyes that glow red in the dark and arms that hang down below its knees. If it

makes any noise at all, witnesses have likened it to a baby crying or a bird chirping. Gordon says it is attracted to mobile homes and trailer parks.

UFO descriptions, however, have changed over the years.

"In the '40s and '50s, most people reported saucers," Gordon said. "Now they say they see cigar shapes and triangles."

"So maybe they've had a model change."

Gordon insists that the number of UFO and Bigfoot sightings has soared since August 1987. He said he has heard of at least 28 Bigfoot sightings throughout Pennsylvania in 1988 alone, and he has not even had time to tally the reported UFOs that cannot be immediately discounted by explainable phenomena such as meteors, aircraft lights and the like.

Most were reported from seven counties clustered in southwestern Pennsylvania, and many occurred along Chestnut Ridge, but Gordon said he had not calculated exact figures.

In any case, it still has not reached the level of 1973, when, Gordon said, Pennsylvania led the nation in UFO sightings and men in the towns around Chestnut Ridge formed armed vigilante posses to comb the woods at night looking for Bigfoot.

"The Ridge seems to be a window for this kind of thing," Gordon said. "But we don't know why. One theory

is that it's magnetic forces. All we know for sure is that the area is producing a higher level of this phenomenon for some reason."

Chestnut Ridge itself is a vaguely foreboding place. Two miles wide and about 100 miles long, the ridge rises 2,650 feet above sea level at its highest point, according to Robert Eppley, a physical chemist and spelunker who is a member of the Chestnut Ridge Explorers Association. On a clear day, the Pittsburgh skyline can be seen 40 miles to the west.

More than 30 caves have been discovered in the low mountains covered with poplars and birch, and hikers from around Pennsylvania converge on Chestnut Ridge during weekends to descend into the underground mazes.

Moss covers jutting plates of sandstone and limestone, lending an otherworldly air to hollows and dells with names like the Black Swamp and Dark Hollow.

On each side of the ridge lay towns with names evocative of the immigrants who first settled them: North Florence, Bolivar, Kingston, Waterford, Derry, Latrobe, Youngstown, Bagley.

Bill Dascani was living in a trailer home along the edge of the ridge in 1968, when he looked outside before retiring for the night and saw what to this day he insists was a flying saucer.

"It was like a round football field sliding by 100 feet over my head, noiseless," said Dascani, who is 45 and unemployed because of a kidney ailment. "The bottom was open and I could see inside. Three people walked out of a sliding glass window and stood in front of a railing. They looked like humans. Just like us. When they saw me, they went back inside. I could see a panel inside with flashing lights. And then they went away."

Dascani's ex-wife, Drucilla, who was with him at the time, confirms his account. Both remain haunted by the memory.

"It sure wasn't like something I've ever seen in my life," said Dascani, who once punched his brother during a quarrel over whether UFOs exist. "It's been on my mind all these years. I would give anything in the world to relive that night, because too many people don't believe me. But it's the truth. I'll go to my grave saying it."

Unlike Dascani, many people who say they have encountered Bigfoot or a UFO are ashamed have their names publicized. They say they are belittled, and have their sobriety and sanity questioned.

"I've been getting ridicule from my family, my friends and my neighbors," said Bob, 28, the resident of a small trailer park outside Latrobe. It was Dec. 12 — the first day of doe season, Bob recalls — when he and his buddy, Bill, last ran across a tall, dark, hairy, smelly creature walking along a railroad track.

He said it caught his attention by throwing something at him to stop his approach. He said he would have shot, but he sensed something vaguely human about it.

"I don't know what, but there's something going on out there," he said. "A lot of people here say it's a bear. But it's not. It's too human looking. It don't walk on all fours. It walks upright."

Sam Sherry, who has hunted and fished for more than 50 of his 67 years, says he saw it, too, as he was unloading his car to go night fishing in Loyalhanna Creek alongside Chestnut Ridge. He said the creature, smelling musty like a wet dog that had been in an underground mine too long, approached him, beat its fist on its chest, then followed him to his pickup and put its hands on the hood so heavily that the truck sank into the mud.

"Hey, biggie, cut it out, you're gonna bust my tires," Sherry said he yelled out, prompting the creature to let go with a wheeze and a grunt.

Since that encounter, Sherry has become obsessed with the idea of trapping the creature, which he describes as having a body as shapeless as an old overcoat. He hopes to vindicate himself, and maybe even turn a little profit. So at night, Sherry goes into his back yard and looks toward Chestnut Ridge, as though he can somehow will the creature to come forward.

"People won't believe you when you tell them what you saw," he said. "They think you're drunk. But I haven't had a drink for 30 years."

"So I'm gonna find 'im and prove he exists. I can get me a million bucks for that old overcoat."

Bob France is looking for the creature, too, though he is armed with only a camera, and fruit for bait. Weekends, he ventures deep into the Ridge, hoping it will become familiar enough with his presence to come forward.

"It's no bear, I know that," France said, "and it's not a deformed person. But I don't know what it is. I just know it scares the doozies out of me."

Cal Smith, whose family owns 4,000 acres of the Ridge outside of Latrobe, has heard dozens of stories like France's over the years. He remains skeptical.

"People come up to my door all the time — Boy Scout leaders, children, old people — and swear they've seen something up here," he said. "I always tell them it's just a bear. Some say they know a bear, and it couldn't have been one. Others seem relieved and say, 'Yes, it must have been a bear.'"

"I don't really believe it. But I guess it's always a possibility."

## Cow's death has satanic link

By Mark Magie

Why would anyone kill a long-horn cow and remove both eyes, one ear, the heart, sex organs and the udder? That's what Pete Benham was probably wondering last week when he discovered his favorite of 40 cows dead about 200 yards from his home.

Benham, 75, and his wife have been living for 26 years in the Bethlehem area east of Hwy. 31. He's had cows killed by wild dogs and wolves and "fence hunters" in the past, but never anything like this.

Noting how the cow was cut carefully, Benham said, "I've skinned a lot of cows, but not without haggling. They didn't haggle at all and not a drop of blood could be found."

Another of Benham's cows was killed about two weeks earlier on Halloween night. Mr. Benham found the cow about 100 yards from his house and thinks his dogs scared away whatever, or whomever killed it before it was butchered.

Larry Jones of the Lonoke County Sheriff's Department thinks the cow's death may have a connection to satanic worship. Rumors of devil worship have been circulating around Lonoke County for many years, according to Jones, the chief deputy. "We're beginning to find satanic symbols like pentagrams and upside-down crosses which may indicate satanic rituals may be taking place," the deputy said.

"We're continuing to investigate the death of Mr. Benham's cow. We've talked to a lot of people," said Ricky Griffin, Lonoke County juvenile probation officer. "It's hard to say what is going on here. This animal is the most serious incident we've had. We don't know if this is the work of a group that is deeply organized or a splinter group," he added.

The person responsible could possibly be charged with trespassing and destruction of private property, Griffin indicated. "If animal rights

groups get involved, the charges could be much worse," he suggested.

"We busted up a situation in 1987 because of illegal activities of a group leader," the probation officer said. "It was a loosely organized group of young teens led by an older teen or young adult," Griffin noted.

In another incident, sheriff's department personnel investigated an abandoned house where it looked as if there was a "serious attempt at satanic rituals," Griffin said.

Sherman Malcomb of the Cabot Police Department said his office has never found any indication of devil worship in the Cabot area.

### SATANIC CULTS

Some of the elements known to exist in Satanic cults include violent rituals, drugs, perverse sexual activity and abuse, promise of power, animal and human sacrifices, suicide notes and violent song lyrics, according to a Sheriff's Department handout.

Susceptible cult members include intelligent, middle and upper-middle class adolescents. Some are rebellious teens who want to be different, according to the information.

Some children become involved through "black metal" music, fantasy role playing in such games as "Dungeons & Dragons," and through an obsession with movies, books and videos on satanism and the "black arts," the handout says.

Cary Gaines, executive director of the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association, said satanic worship is on the increase, according to a story recently in the *Arkansas Gazette*. Capt. Dan Keithley of the Pulaski County sheriff's office said, "it's not something that everyone should be alarmed about, when they hear a bump in the night."



COWS KILLED — Pete Benham holds the leg of a cow killed near his home on Tuesday, Nov. 15. Benham moved the cows to a wooded location on his property. Looking on, with camera, is Sheriff's Deputy Larry Jones.

STATE, Columbia, SC - Jan. 2, 1989

## Lizard Man tale is real sob story

Fortune eludes Browntown teen

By JAN TUTEN  
Camden Bureau

### BISHOPVILLE

Life after Lizard Man has been a little disappointing for Chris Davis.

Producers of *The Oprah Winfrey Show* never called back after an inquiry about a possible appearance on the show. A chance to appear in a television commercial never materialized.

The 17-year-old Lee County resident, whose alleged encounter with a 7-foot, greenish-brown swamp creature created an international stir last summer, has found himself only about \$3,000 richer for sharing his tale with the world.

Personal appearances, including daily autograph-signing sessions at a Lizard Man information center, forced him to quit working at a fast-food restaurant and kept him from attending basketball practices last fall, he said.

"I didn't want it to happen, but it did," Davis said of the publicity surrounding the event that made Browntown a household word among monster lovers everywhere.

Lizard Man gained a cult following of sorts and vaulted several T-shirt vendors into new tax brackets. The strong and the meek trekked to Scape Ore Swamp during July and August hoping to view the red-eyed monster, while Lee County Sheriff

Liston Truesdale served as an impromptu swamp tour guide for media from throughout the nation.

"It's caused me to age a lot. I think I have as many wrinkles now as he has scales," said Truesdale, who is concerning himself more these days with routine crimes in the rural county of 20,000 people.

"But there's no doubt about it. It brought a lot of money into Lee County," he said. "It was just like a golden egg being dropped over here."

On June 29, Davis said, he was changing a tire along Browntown Road and was tossing his jack in the trunk when a "creature from the swamp" came "running across the field toward me."

"It was green, wetlike, about 7-feet tall and had three fingers, red eyes, skin like a lizard, snakelike scales," he told *The State*.

About two weeks later, Tom and Mary Wayne of Browntown reported that their Ford LTD looked like it had been "chewed" on by some type of animal.

During conversations with Browntown residents, Truesdale stumbled out to be a red fox, Holloman told the sheriff he was smoking a cigarette at an artesian well in the swamp one night when he encountered a creature.

While the Waynes' predator turned out to be a red fox, Holloman told the sheriff he was smoking a cigarette at an artesian well in the swamp one night when he encountered a creature.

In his sworn statement, Holloman said he thought he was looking at a



Jan Tuten/The State

Chris Davis and Lee County Sheriff Liston Truesdale

tree trunk that had been struck by lightning until it "stood up like a man" and was about 7 or 8 feet tall.

Two teenagers also told Lee County Deputy Wayne Atkinson that they saw a creature dart across U.S. 15 at Interstate 20 the night of July 24. Atkinson and a state trooper later that night found three-toed, 14-by-7-inch tracks along a dirt road near Scape Ore Swamp, which Truesdale attributes to a prankster.

One hoaxster claimed to have shot the mammoth monster near the Browntown community four miles south of Bishopville. Kenneth Bruce Orr, an airman stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, later told Truesdale he concocted the shooting story "just to keep the legend alive."

The legendary Lizard Man appeared one more time; this time to an active duty Army colonel who lives in Lee County. The unidentified colonel

told Truesdale he saw an 8-foot tall brownish creature with a tail on Aug. 26.

Truesdale said he hopes to reopen the Lizard Man file in 1989 with a hypnosis session for the colonel. "Under hypnosis, he might come out with something he saw he doesn't remember," the sheriff said.

The elusive creature also captured space in *Time* and *Omni* magazines, to name a few, and gave Dan Rather a chuckle after a segment aired in August on the *CBS Evening News*.

It also gained top billing in *Strange Magazine's* "Ten Strangest List" for the year ending Oct. 1, 1988.

Mark Chorvinsky, editor of the Maryland-based publication devoted to unusual phenomena, said Lizard Man "easily beat out all other phenomena, and there were more than 2,000 nominees."

"It's rare for a monster to catch on with the public imagination," said Chorvinsky, who adds he's reserving judgment on the veracity of Lizard Man sightings.

And, John Brewer let Lizard Man slip from his lips in the same breath with Oprah, Geraldo Rivera and Dan Quayle.

Brewer writes "SMILE," a humor column distributed by the New York Times News Service. In ringing out the old year (and wringing his hands at the same time,) Brewer said this about the Lee County legend:

"(SMILE will miss 1988. It's been a heck of a trip around the sun. Oprah lost face. Donahue wore a dress. And any year that gives us Dan Quayle, Geraldo and Lizard Man can't be all bad.)"

Davis said he expected the furor surrounding his sighting to offer him opportunities to see the USA.

But his personal appearances have been limited to Charleston and Santee, and his only out-of-state venture was a trip to Augusta for a radio show.

"No, it wasn't worth it," the shy teen said. "I couldn't do my job, and I couldn't play basketball."

ASAHI EVENING NEWS,  
Tokyo, Japan - Feb. 9,  
1989 CR: Y. Matsumura

### Soviet Documentary Said to Show the Yeti

MOSCOW (Reuters)—A Soviet documentary maker has made a new film about the yeti—the legendary "Abominable Snowman" said to prowl the Himalayas—complete with interviews with people who say they have seen it, Tass said Wednesday.

"Anthropologists from various countries have presented extensive testimony that the yeti is a reality and wanders the mountains," the official Soviet news agency said.