

# UFO

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### In dark skies

STANDARD NEWS, Mountain View, MO - Nov. 9, 1988

# Reports of 'strange' lights given by many

By Dick Jackson  
Standard News

More than 30 people have reported seeing strange lights in the sky during the last two weeks. Sightings have been reported in an area stretching north-south from West Plains to Houston and east-west from Willow Springs to Birch Tree. Reports have been received from school teachers, housewives, a Highway Patrolman, city police officers in Mountain View and West Plains, city employees in Mountain View, Summersville and Eminence, and several Mountain View High School students who were out watching the sky as part of a class project. Sightings reportedly have been made on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 25 through 27 and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 31 through November 2.

The reports began to come to Robin England at radio station KBTC AM and KUNQ FM in Houston early in the week of October 24. Robin said she received several reports from people who described the lights as from two to six lights, remaining stationary in the sky, which would disappear and then reappear at a different location. Since the reports were coming so close to Halloween, Robin said, they set them to eerie music and played the reports on the radio station as a Halloween hoax.

Most of the sightings occurred Tuesday night, November 1, when reports came in from West Plains, Peace Valley, Birch Tree, Mountain View, and Houston. One of the reported sightings was by an off-duty Highway Patrolman who reported seeing six vertically aligned lights low in the sky, northeast of his Willow Springs home. He said the lights were so bright and so near the horizon that his wife thought an aircraft might crash into their home. The lights flicked off and on "like lightening bugs," and they "didn't move at all." The Patrolman said, there was no sound associated with the lights.

Two teachers spotted the same arrangement of lights from their home north of Birch Tree at approximately 7:15 Tuesday night. The couple reported six orange colored lights, aligned vertically in the northern sky, about 15 degrees above the horizon. They said they observed the phenomenon for about 10 seconds, and that during that time a red ball of light descended from the six lights down to the ground and then returned. They reported the lights stood "completely still in the sky." According to the couple the lights went off in sequence then suddenly reappeared about 1/2 a mile to the right.

Three reports were received Tuesday night by the Texas County Sheriff Department. The first received at 6:45 reported six lights in the sky to the east of Licking. The second received at 6:59 reported "lights in the sky" and the third received at 7:04 reported "bright lights."

Several others reported seeing from one to six bright objects in the sky. Several reported that the objects were aligned horizontally in the sky, some reported that the objects would disappear then reappear at a different location, and most reported that the objects were stationary. Colors reported ranged from white to reddish orange, but many agreed that the color was similar to a sodium street light.

Several reported hearing the sound of jets before or after the sighting, including two reports of jets converging on the area where they last observed the lights. The size of the lights was described variously as "as big as a full moon," "dime sized," and one reporter made the comparison "if a star were a cup, the lights would be the size of a plate." At least two people reported that one or more of the lights broke away from the rest. A few reported that the lights resembled a flare. In most of the sightings the lights were low in the sky near the tree line.

A woman traveling with her two children near Teresita said she saw a "series of lights straight up and down." She said there was two, then four, then six lights, and that the lights went off and on. According to her report, the lights disappeared and reappeared three times, and the last time they "Zoomed right over us at tree top level." The lights stayed over the car following them to just outside the Mountain View city limits. She said there was no sound associated with the lights. This sighting was made at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Although we considered our chances at about one in a million, Wednesday night publisher Brian Hood and I set out to get a picture of the lights. Before leaving the office, we plotted all the reported sightings on a map, and decided on a central location, south of Summersville. We set up our cameras about 6:30 and at 7:10 Brian exclaimed, "there they are!" To the north, toward Summersville, four very bright orange colored lights appeared, one at a time. The lights were perfectly aligned horizontally and evenly spaced. The four lights blinked off all at once; one of the lights came back on, then it blinked off. The lights appeared to be stationary and because they were so near the tree line, we had a point of reference by which to judge their apparent lack of movement. The lights were gone as suddenly as they had appeared, and neither of us got a picture. We moved our location north of Summersville toward the lights, but we never saw them again.

Thursday we called the Federal Aviation Associations (FAA) office in Kansas City. An FAA spokesman said that a large part of southcentral Missouri is in the Merimac Military Operations Region, where military planes often hold training exercises. However, according to the FAA, there has been no military operations north of West Plains in the previous two weeks.

The FAA gave us the number to the National UFO Reporting Center in Washington State. A spokesman at the center said they have been receiving reports of the "very identical thing" from Quincy and Springfield, Illinois. He said they were "still unable to identify it." The reports from Illinois have been coming in for several days, and have included reports of close approaches such as was reported near Teresita. They have also received reports of a ball of light descending from the stationary lights to the ground, according to the spokesman.

Charlotte Wiggins with the public affairs office at Fort Leonard Wood

## Those strange lights were...

BY JULIE WARNER  
Quill Staff Writer

If you were one of the several area residents who spied unidentified bright yellow lights hovering in the sky at night in the past couple of weeks, the Missouri Air National Guard has the answer to what you saw.

Last Tuesday evening about a dozen West Plains, Mtn. View and Peace Valley residents reported sightings of bright yellow lights in the night sky. Some witnesses said the lights were in a straight line and other saw them in formations. The number of lights varied from two to as many as eight. The witnesses all said the lights didn't seem connected to any objects and that they would flash on and off, sometimes all at once or a few at a time, and then would just disappear.

Howell County Sheriff Hubert Holman told the Quill today a report came into his office Tuesday evening that bright orange lights were spotted above Fair View Elementary School on K Highway. A deputy was dispatched to the area, but the lights had disappeared, Holman said.

Among some of the witnesses who spotted these lights Tuesday were a West Plains Policeman and Mtn.

began to check with her sources Thursday morning to see what she could find out. Thursday afternoon at 5:00 Captain Ken McNevin with the public affairs office of the Missouri Air National Guard called with an explanation. Capt. Mac Nevin said the 131st Tactical Fighter Wing out of Lambert Field in St. Louis has been flying F-4 Phantom jets in the area on Tuesdays and occasionally Wednesdays, between 5:30 and 8:00p.m. According to Capt. MacNevin the Air Guard has recently received a new type of flare to confuse heat seeking missiles, which they have been ejecting over the area for the past couple of weeks. He said the aircraft eject from one to eight flares at a time. Even though the flares are not attached to a parachute and fall rather quickly, Capt. MacNiven said a person might report them as stationary, depending on the viewers location with respect to the flares. MacNiven said the tail pipes of the jets flying in formation away from an observer might also appear as bright stationary lights in the sky. The guard planes "do not fly all that low," according to MacNiven, but he explained that they would appear to be low on the horizon if they are observed from a great distance.

This explanation, printed in the West Plains Quill on Friday, prompted a call from the woman who encountered the lights near Teresita. She wanted to know if the Air Guard was allowed to fly that low, and wondered who she could write to complain. "It's a wonder I didn't have a wreck. I was terrified," she concluded.

Will the lights continue to appear in the nighttime sky near Mountain View? If the Air Guard is using some type of training device which is frightening the civilian population, the practice should be discontinued. Meanwhile, if you observe something you can't explain in the sky, please call The Standard News, and we will keep the proper authorities informed.

View Policeman Ron Pruett.

According to Capt. Ken MacNevin, public affairs officer for the Mo. Air National Guard in Jefferson City, the lights were probably not UFOs but glows from maneuvers being undertaken by members of the 131st tactical flight wing flying out of St. Louis and practicing weapon-deceiving techniques.

MacNevin explained that one of the standard defense techniques used by the military in avoiding or deceiving missiles, some of which are heat-seeking, is to spit out hot flares. He said that if a heat-seeking missile was to be shot at one of the U.S. fighter jets, the pilot would shoot off one of these flares and the missile should be deceived and veer towards the flare instead of the jet.

In recent weeks this unit acquired some of these flares and has been practicing some of these flight maneuvers with Phantom F-4 fighter jets in what is called the Meramec Military Operations Region, which covers a large portion of south-central Missouri.

MacNevin said the practice maneuvers have been taking place on Tuesdays and some Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 8, and they will continue for the next several weeks.

He said that sightings outside of this time frame can probably also be attributed to military operations. MacNevin said that this air space is dedicated to all and any military units in the United States, and units from Missouri and surrounding states have probably all used this area for practice maneuvers at some point in time.

COLORADOAN, Ft. Collins, CO - March 26, 1989

## Air traffic controllers report UFOs

By The Associated Press

LONGMONT — False targets appearing on radar screens here startled air traffic controllers at the Federal Aviation Administration's en route center, according to a member of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

"Longmont air traffic controllers at several sectors were astonished to see numerous 'UFOs' appearing on their radar displays," Kevin Cain, a center spokesman, said of the incident on Tuesday.

Cain, the center's association safety chairman, released written comments on the incident on Friday.

FAA officials would not comment directly on the incident.

"These unidentified targets looked like actual aircraft, with apparently normal speeds and altitudes," Cain's statement said. "Some controllers had a dozen or more of these targets merging with actual aircraft targets over a half-hour period."

But Mitch Barker, an FAA spokesman at the regional office in Seattle, said, "They were having a problem with the transponders (that automatically send information from the aircraft to the center)."

# They're back: UFOs sighted in DeKalb

By SUSAN STOCKMAN

Numerous sightings of a mysterious aircraft were reported to DeKalb County law enforcement officers Friday night.

From Lickskillet on Lookout Mountain, to Grove Oak on Sand Mountain, calls started pouring into police departments around 8:30 p.m. about an object "sometimes hovering above the treetops" to an object "streaking through the sky."

The craft was not only observed by numerous citizens, but several law enforcement officers also reported seeing it.

The first report that something was flying over DeKalb County came around 8:30 to the Fyffe Police Department from a Grove Oak woman.

The woman said she had watched the object for over an hour through a pair of binoculars.

The woman told *The Weekly Post* that she and her sister were returning home from Fyffe when they saw a low-hovering, bright white light just above the treetops.

The woman, who asked to remain unidentified, said when they were within one-half mile of her home, the object appeared to be behind her home.

She said she then rolled down the windows of her car, and couldn't hear any noise.

When she turned into her driveway, she said the object disappeared.

While her sister ran into the house to get their husbands, the

woman went to a truck parked outside and retrieved a pair of binoculars to see if she could follow it through the sky.

She said she could see the object on the horizon, looking toward Collinsville.

The object was not moving, she said, and appeared to be shaped "like a banana, with a red light on each end, and a white light in a line between them. The top of the curve was outlined in green lights."

The object turned, and the green lights "looked like a fireworks display," according to the woman.

After calling the Fyffe Police, a patrol car was dispatched to the woman's home, and according to Fyffe Assistant Police Chief Fred Works, when they arrived, the craft was still hovering, and when they got out of the patrol car and started walking toward it, it began moving away.

The craft then reversed directions and flew over the heads of the surprised officers.

The officers estimated the craft's altitude at 1,000 to 1,500 feet, but they said they were still able to get a good look at it.

One of the officers said it appeared as if the white lights underneath the craft were shining upward, illuminating the bottom.

After disappearing from the Grove Oak area, the craft was spotted by an Alabama State Trooper and by officers in Crossville, Geraldine and Collinsville.

A Lickskillet resident called the

DeKalb County Sheriff's Department and said he "shot at the craft as it topped trees at his home, with a 12-gauge shotgun."

An official at the Sheriff's Department said the man was "terrified. He was about to have a heart attack, and his wife was screaming."

Officials in Huntsville, Birmingham, and Maxwell Air Force Base

in Montgomery were all unable to explain the sightings, and a National Weather Service spokesperson said that the description of the craft "doesn't match any kind of weather balloon we have."

The woman that first spotted the craft Friday night saw the object again Saturday night, in the same area, but said it seemed to be "further away on the horizon than it

was Friday night."

She called officers at Fyffe again, and the officers came to her house.

When they arrived, the craft was gone, but, according to the woman, it reappeared, and she watched it on and off for several hours.

According to authorities, the craft is still listed as an unidentified flying object.

## UFO Sighting Described By Battle Mountain Woman

INDEPENDENT, ELKO, NV - Feb. 1, 1989

Elaine Goldman would like someone to tell her what it was she saw on her way home to Battle Mountain Monday evening. Failing that, she would at least like to know that someone else saw what she, her sister and her aunt observed in the skies over northeastern Nevada.

The three women were driving west on Interstate 80 at about 5 p.m. Monday, Goldman said, and were about 28 miles from Battle Mountain when they first sighted the object. "At first, it looked like a star, but it was so light outside," Goldman said.

As they drew nearer to the object, which Goldman said sat motionless hundreds of feet above Interstate 80, they began to realize that this was no star.

"We were close enough to it to tell it wasn't an airplane or a helicopter, either," Goldman said. "I got kind of nervous."

She described the thing as "kind of like an oval" in shape, its size difficult to pinpoint because of the distance involved, and bathed in a red glow. Two short

streams of what appeared to be smoke emanated from the center of the oval, Goldman said, adding the streams in no way resembled the contrails of a jet aircraft.

At each end of the oval was a flashing red light, which could have accounted for the glow, the Battle Mountain woman added.

Goldman said she and her relatives kept the object in sight for 10-15 minutes before they passed directly beneath it. And then it was gone. "It just disappeared," she said. "It was there and then it wasn't."

The object may have vanished, but not Goldman's curiosity about what it could have been. A check yesterday at the Federal Aviation Administration office in Elko provided little assistance—the official on duty said there were no UFO sightings reported there Monday.

But Goldman says she is hopeful that someone will come forward to corroborate her sighting. "I'm sure somebody else had to have seen it," the Battle Mountain woman said.

## Martian or Military?

# UFOs returned to Fyffe Friday night

By SUSAN STOCKMAN

FYFFE — Residents of Fyffe don't know what it is, or where it's coming from, but they know they are seeing something.

For the second time in as many weeks, numerous Fyffe residents reported seeing an unidentified flying object over their town Friday night.

The reports of "something in the air" started around 7:30 p.m., the same time of early night the sightings on Feb. 10 occurred.

Most reports were of a round, bright object with red and green flashing lights.

According to Rhonda Gibson and her sister, Jill Worley, the object appeared to be at tree-top level when they saw it near their home Friday night.

The sisters were returning home from Fort Payne when they spotted the object hovering over the tree tops.

Gibson said it was "just sitting there," and when they saw the object, they decided to follow it, and turned into a dirt road to get a

closer look. Worley said she had "never seen anything like it in her life," and it "scared her to death."

According to Gibson, after watching it outside her car for several minutes "it just disappeared, like

turning off the lights at a football field."

After the object vanished, Gibson said she returned to her car and went to her parent's home.

The sisters spotted the object

again while at their parent's home, but said it appeared to be further away in the night sky.

After checking with the Fyffe Police Department, they were told they were not the only ones to see the craft that night. The Fyffe Police Department received some 40 calls from residents who saw the object.

Gibson said after the object vanished, several airplanes and a helicopter flew directly overhead, and there were reports from witnesses who say they saw an unusual amount of aircraft activity in the area during the sightings, and several identified some of the planes and helicopters as military.

According to Kathy Green, a Fyffe resident who also saw the object, she and friends had gathered to play cards and first observed the object from the window of the home around 7:30 p.m. She said the group shared binoculars and watched the object in the cold night air until it disappeared some two hours later.

In an interview from his Arlington, Va., home, Philip J. Klass, an editor for *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine for 35 years, told *The Weekly Post* that 99.999 percent of all UFO sightings can be traced to a bright celestial body, such as Venus or Mars.

Klass said the eye can be deceiving, and given the weather conditions at the time of the sightings, the objects were possibly Venus or Mars. Klass stated that the shapes could be due to atmospheric distortion, and that all people have some slight stigmatism problems with their eyes.

"The disappearance of the object could be attributed to the rotation of the earth, or a cloud passing over the planet," according to Klass.

Klass also stated that there was

no way to accurately judge the distance or size of the object, making it appear larger or closer than it is.

However, residents of Fyffe don't believe what they saw was a star or a planet.

All military bases, such as Fort McClellan in Anniston, Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Fort Rucker in Fort Benning, Ga., and Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, told *The Weekly Post* that, to their knowledge, there were no military exercises in the north Alabama area during the time of the sightings.

A spokesperson for the Lockheed Aircraft Plant in Marietta, Ga., said no aircraft experiments were being conducted by Lockheed, and the same answer was given by Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville.

A check with the Federal Aeronautics Authority revealed that no experiments took place during the sighting times, to their knowledge.

However, a check with the National Guard in Birmingham revealed that the airspace in north Alabama, including that above Fyffe, is a training route for aircraft, and is utilized by the entire Southeastern states.

The National Guard spokesperson said night training exercises were common in the area, sometimes at an altitude of just several hundred feet off the ground.

Although no agency would confirm the fact that military exercises or experiments were being conducted, many Fyffe residents believe that is what is taking place over their heads.

Investigators from the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, a national organization that tracks UFO sightings, reportedly will be in Fyffe Friday night to ride with the Fyffe Police in hopes of sighting the object again.



RHONDA GIBSON



JILL WORLEY

## Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR:

There has been a lot of fun made of the two police officers in Fyffe, Ala., who saw the UFO the week of February 10th.

Now, I have never seen one myself and I have never really paid too much attention to what I read in the papers about them.

Anything is possible in the world. I have known Junior Garmany and his family for almost all his life, and Fred Works for several years. If they tell that a rooster chews tobacco you can raise up its

left wing and look for its spit cup.

Besides, Junior and Fred were not the only people to observe this UFO. Different citizens saw it.

Also, there were other officers in the area to see it but for some reason they did not come forward with their verification of what they saw.

I wonder why?

All these people who are throwing fun at these officers for what they saw should be shaking their hand for making Fyffe the UFO capital of the nation.

UFO defined does not mean they saw a flying saucer with little green men and bulging eyes.

It means "unidentified flying object." To my knowledge, the object they saw has not been identified.

At least it makes me more aware that we are under police protection in our area.

Utmost respect to these two officers who were not to embarrassed or afraid to come forward with what they saw.

Billie Sibert  
Fyffe, Ala.





## UFO Watching?

Not all of the people in Fyffe Friday night were watching for the UFO. Some were there just because they had to be. Or, maybe they just wanted a night out away from the boob tube. Wait! What's that light? (Photo by Teri Baker)

# 3,500 people descend on Fyffe to see no-show UFO

By SUSAN STOCKMAN

**FYFFE**—A thousand points of light descended on Fyffe last Friday night as people from all over the Southeastern United States visited this small town in hopes of getting just a glimpse of what has become known around the world at the infamous "Fyffe Flying Banana."

For the most part, the UFO stalkers were disappointed, because the only lights to be found in Fyffe on this cloudy night were those from the magnitude of vehicles roaming the highways and biways.

While the estimated 7,000 eyes of the 3,500 people in Fyffe were focused on the horizon Friday night, unofficial reports came in that the craft was sighted in the sky between Macedonia and Grove Oak around 9:00 p.m. that night.

A traffic jam in the middle of town was the most exciting event that took place all night, and most of the side roads looked like a lover's lane, with cars parked on the sides and necks stuck out the windows—watching and waiting.

They came in cars, vans, campers and trucks, armed with cameras, binoculars, blankets and thermos bottles of coffee, all on the same mission—to see the mysterious,

flashing object that has been roaming the night skies of Fyffe for the past month.

A bonfire was built on the edge of town to lure the visitors, both from this world and, perhaps, beyond.

Antenna's were pointed at the sky as television stations broadcasted their nightly news programs from this small town.

Media descended on the town like locusts, interviewing everyone that had an opinion of what was in the sky—and there wasn't anyone who was in Fyffe that didn't have an opinion.

Fire trucks were moved out of the fire station to make room for a vendor to set up tables to sell air-brushed T-shirts that said "I survived the Sand Mountain UFO."

UFO seekers ran the gamut from babies blanketed in mothers' arms, to teenagers cruising with radios blasting, to someone's grandmother who said she had had an experience with a UFO some years back.

Fyffe has received worldwide attention in recent weeks, after the first sightings of a "banana-shaped" object hovering over the area was sighted by Donna Saylor of Grove Oak on Feb. 10. Since the first

sightings, many more have been reported, but the description differed somewhat from the original banana-shaped object.

Representatives of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON), an international research group involved with UFO studies, were also in Fyffe Friday night, and there were unconfirmed reports of FBI agents and Air Force investigators in town.

Fyffe has been the subject of numerous newspaper articles and national news stories such as "Inside Edition," who aired a somewhat comical report of the sightings.

But the residents of Fyffe who saw the mysterious craft don't find anything comical about the sightings. They just want to know what it is, and they continue to search the night skies for another glimpse of the craft, waiting for someone to come forth with information to identify the object.

With the party atmosphere that prevailed in Fyffe Friday night, the UFO could have, in all probability, landed on the outskirts of town and no one would have seen it—the people were just too busy searching the skies.

RECORD, Ridgway, PA  
Feb. 11, 1989

**CLEARFIELD** — Unidentified Flying Objects are back in the local news, with the most recent sighting report over Bradford Township near Bigler. Reports of area UFO sightings began in November and tapered off after a few weeks, but in recent weeks area residents have again begun to report strange objects in the skies. Lawrence Township Police received several reports recently, and about a while ago state police at Woodland had a possible UFO report from Forest in Cooper Township. John Wagner of Wallacetown, an employee of Glen-Gery at Bigler, said he doesn't know what it was but he saw an extremely large object in the sky after 11:00 p.m. he left for work recently. He estimated the object to be the length of one and one-half or two football fields. "What made me so suspicious was size. When I saw it I thought, whoa." "It was moving real slow," he said, adding he could detect no noise from the object.

# Some say UFO is as big as a football field

**FYFFE**—While sightings of the mysterious object in the night skies over the Fyffe area continue, the occasional television crew, armed with camera, lights and microphones, wander into town, eager to talk with someone who has seen the hovering object.

Telephone calls from across the United States come daily to the Fyffe Police Department from newspapers, and television and radio stations wanting to know the most recent developments in the as-of-yet unexplained sightings.

Portable signs advertise UFO specials at Fyffe restaurants, and last Friday night an estimated 2,000 people flocked to Fyffe to try to see the flashing red and green object.

Sightings were reported in Fyffe and several surrounding communities each night last week, and a news crew from Mobile spent the night in Fyffe last Thursday night, doing live broadcasts over the radio.

Jeff Ballard, area director of MUFON, said that while some of the sightings that have been reported are legitimate, he feels that perhaps some of them have been aircraft, and some have been planets or stars that appear to be giving off red and green lights.

Some of the reports checked out by the police department were determined to be stars.

However, one of the most recent

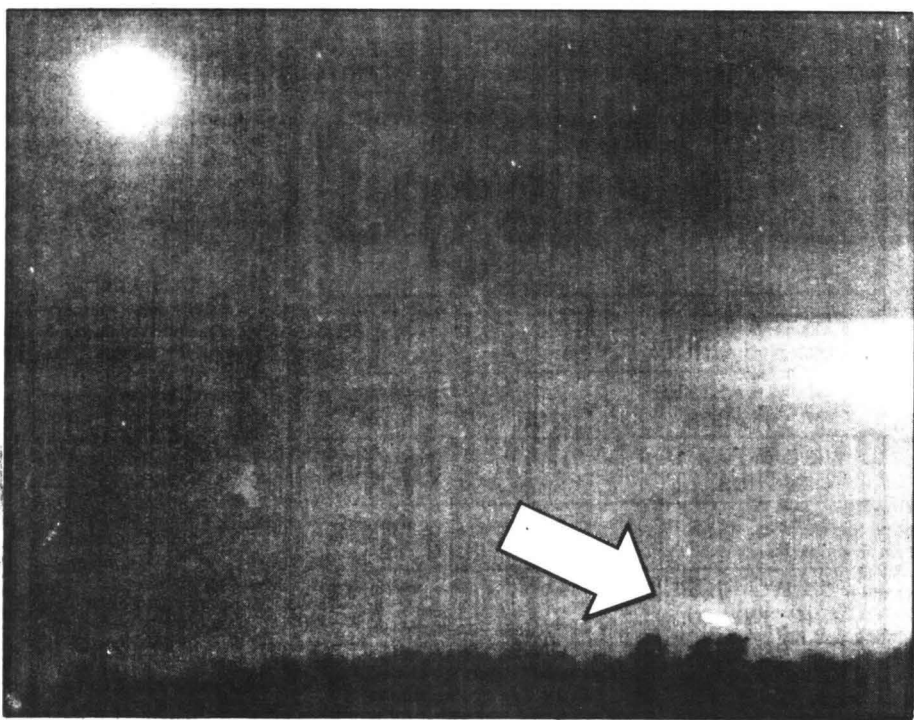
sightings took place Sunday night, near Geraldine. A simultaneous sighting of an extremely large object occurred at 7:30 p.m.

According to Gary Coker of Skirum, an extremely large object with red and green flashing lights on the side and two white lights approximately six feet in diameter on the bottom hovered some five miles away.

Coker said he sent someone in the house for his binoculars, and in the seconds it took the person to return with them, the object vanished. "I never took my eyes off the object, and it just disappeared," said Coker.

At exactly the same time Coker viewed the object, another man five miles away, who at this time wishes to remain anonymous, said an object the size of a football field hovered over his chicken house. He said it had two white lights underneath, each the size of a small house, and red and green lights outlined the sides.

He went into his house to get a camera and when he came out it had vanished. The man said the object was close enough for him to distinguish the color of the object, and he described it as being a metallic blue that probably would not have been visible against the night sky without the huge lights.



## UFO Or What?

This is the second of a series of four photographs of the Fyffe UFO. The object marked by the arrow appears to be a white streak of light. But, actually all that showed were red and green lights. The moon was only a sliver, but because of the two-minute time lapse photography it appears to be full. Two more photographs of the object and a comparison to an airplane appear on page two. (Photo by Teri Baker)

# Section native says UFOs are real

By SUSAN STOCKMAN

Unidentified flying objects. UFOs. Are they spaceships from other worlds traveling through our galaxy, or are they something else?

We cannot escape our own solar system. Our technology has placed man no further out than the moon.

If we can't travel to them, can they be coming to us?

The American government says no, that its physically impossible.

But some people believe that a higher intelligence from a planet far beyond our own galaxy has mastered a technology that makes it possible for them to do things that we can only dream of.

They believe that these beings are penetrating the galactic mist that shrouds and protects our planet. Some believe that these extraterrestrials' technology is so advanced that they might have visited us long before the birth of Christ.

The book of Ezekiel makes mention of a wheel inside a wheel, floating in the air over the river Che-bar, and some believe the wheel-like object was a UFO.

According to one man from Gulf Breeze, Fla., who was in Fyffe last Friday night, there is definitely intelligent life forms on other planets beyond the galaxy we know as the Milky Way.

Phillip Griffin, a native of the Section area, said he was in Fyffe Friday night to "observe the people's reaction to the mysterious object that has been sighted in the area during the past month."

Griffin, commenting on the Fyffe sightings, said, "These sightings are similar to the ones that have been going on in Gulf Breeze for the past year."

Gulf Breeze, Fla., was recently featured on a national documentary program concerning numerous UFO sightings. No explanation has yet been given for these sightings either.

According to Griffin, "The sightings in Fyffe and Gulf Breeze are related, and the people in both towns have nothing to fear from the visitors. The people are simply being observed for their reactions to the visitors from other galaxies."

Griffin feels that the reason the extraterrestrials chose to visit Fyffe is because "Fyffe is in the middle of the Bible Belt, the residents are hard-working country people. On the other end of the spectrum, the residents of Gulf Breeze are among some of the richest in Florida."

Griffin says his theory is based on fact, but would not elaborate on where he obtained his facts.

He says he believes the Fyffe

sightings will last little more than a week and a half (from last Friday night), then they will stop.

When asked what he based his opinions on, he said, "It's a feeling I have, akin to a sixth sense, and I haven't been mistaken in the feelings I've had about the Gulf Breeze sightings in the past year and a half."

As of yet, no one who claimed they saw the Fyffe UFOs have come forth with photos of what they saw, unlike the Gulf Breeze sightings, where photos do exist.

Griffin says that he has seen the photos, and according to leading photography experts, they are not hoaxes.

When asked if he believed if people on Earth could accept the fact there is intelligent life forms from other galaxies, Griffin said, "I feel they really have no choice. Humans have a difficult time comprehending what they can't see or verify for themselves. But people

believe in God and the Bible, even though God is not visible to them in a form they can see, because they have been taught to believe in God."

Griffin believes that his theory is the theory of most people, if they would just admit it. But that society prevents the general population from admitting that they do, in fact, believe that planet Earth has been visited by intelligent life from another galaxy.

If intelligent life does, in fact, exist in another galaxy, and if that life form is advanced to the point that they can travel light years to visit Earth, one must wonder what the people of Earth could learn from these extraterrestrials. Perhaps how to obtain world peace without the need for nuclear arms, or perhaps how to cure some of the most dreaded diseases known to man.

The possibilities are endless, and are limited only by the human mind.



## UFO Watcher

Phillip Griffin, a Gulf Breeze, Fla., resident was in Fyffe Friday night "to watch the people's reaction, not the UFO." (Photo by Susan Stockman)

# -Sand Mountain Tales-

By ELLARIE MARTIN

Speaking of weirdoes, all the excitement about the UFOs reminded me. About eight years ago when we were still in Florida, James and a man he worked with on the ranch were coming into the ranch from the hard road and looked up and saw a huge round "saucer" just sitting up over the ranch. They sat there and looked at it for a long time before it took off. And shortly after that one evening, I looked up and saw a bright light streaking across the sky in a zigzag pattern that was not like any star or airplane I'd ever

seen

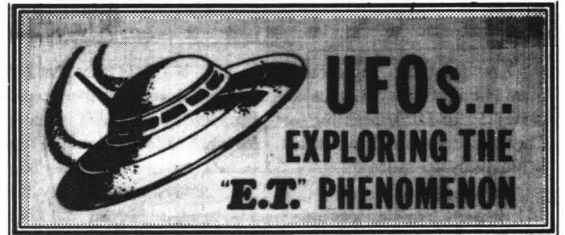
About 34 years ago, my sister lived in Pensacola just off the air base where her husband was stationed. She said she woke up one night and saw a bright light that lit up the whole area. Going to the window, she looked up in the sky over the base and saw a cigar-shaped UFO with the lights going around it and stood and watched it for a long time before going back to bed. The next night the same thing happened and the third night it happened again. Only that time she woke her husband up and showed it

to him. He called the officer of the day and reported it to him and was told there was nothing there to be concerned with, and was later told it was just his imagination.

Silly? Yes, but our government has consistently refused to acknowledge the presence of these strange vehicles.

I am so interested that I keep hoping one of them will come and ask me to visit with them in their machine. I'd go, buddy!!!

I am sorry people want to shoot them down and hurt them. It is the typical reaction to something not understood.



by William L. Moore

One of the first conclusions an impartial observer must make about the subject of UFOs is that rumors and circumstance play far too great a role in what ought to be a more exacting quest for knowledge. It is just such an observation which once led Dr. Carl Sagan to comment dryly that UFOs "are more a matter for religion and superstition than they are for science." While this dismissal is perhaps unscientific in its own right, the point is well taken. Attend any gathering of "UFO people" you want, and simply listen. Rumors abound.

Perhaps worse, however, is that some of these rumors manage to circulate for years (even decades) without anyone making a reasonable effort to get to the bottom of them.

One of the most persistent of these is a story that President Eisenhower visited Edwards Air Force Base in early 1954, and either viewed the bodies of dead aliens and the wreckage of their craft, or met with live aliens on some sort of diplomatic mission to earth. The story takes many forms, with the common thread being that Ike mysteriously disappeared one evening while on a vacation to Palm Springs, and that he was spirited to Edwards to view (or meet) aliens. It is said that he returned by dawn and shortly thereafter ordered absolute secrecy about anything having to do with UFOs.

No doubt one of the reasons that this particular rumor has continued to circulate for such a long time is that there are a number of verifiable facts associated with it-- some of them rather curious. For example, President Eisenhower did indeed make a trip to Palm Springs between February 17th and 24th, 1954, and on the evening of Saturday, February 20th, he did disappear! When

members of the press learned that the president was not where he should be, rumors ran rampant that he had either died or was seriously ill. The story even managed to get onto a press wire before being killed moments later. To quell the fuss, White House Press Secretary James Haggerty called an urgent late evening press conference to announce "solemnly" that the president had been enjoying fried chicken earlier that evening, had knocked a cap off a tooth, and had been taken to a local dentist for treatment. When Ike turned up as scheduled the next morning for an early church service, the matter seemed ended.

Although the Palm Springs trip was billed as a "vacation for the president", the trip appears to have come up rather suddenly. In addition, it is a matter of record that Ike had returned from a quail-shooting vacation in Georgia less than a week before leaving for Palm Springs.

While the incidence of a local dentist being called upon to treat a president of the United States is unusual enough that it should constitute a rather memorable event for those involved, the

dentist's widow, in a June, 1979 interview, was curiously unable to recall any specifics relating to her husband's alleged involvement in the affair-- not even the time of day it had occurred. Yet her memory appeared flawless when asked to relate details of her and her husband's attendance (by presidential invitation) at a steak fry the following evening, where her husband was introduced as "the dentist who had treated the president." This would appear to suggest a cover story, the details of which would have easily been repeated at the time, but quite naturally forgotten 25 years later.

Research at the Eisenhower Library has uncovered two other facts inconsistent with the dentist story. The first is that while the library maintains an extensive index of records relating to the president's health, there is no record of any dental work having been performed at all during February, 1954. A file on "Dentists" contains nothing concerning any such incident either.

Secondly, there is a large file containing copies of all sorts of acknowledgements which were sent by the White House to people who had something to do with the Palm Springs trip. There are letters, for example, to people who sent flowers, people who met the airplane, people who had offered to play golf, etc. There is even a thank-you letter to the minister who presided over the Sunday service Ike attended. Yet there is no record of any acknowledgement having been sent to "the dentist who treated the president." If the matter were as routine as Haggerty attempts to make it appear, then the absence of these records seems strangely inconsistent.

The rumor of the president's alleged visit to Edwards is not a new one. UFO-contactee fringe writers began making unsupported claims about it less than two months after Ike's trip. So did a bizarre fellow from the Hollywood hills named Gerald Light, who, in an April 16, 1954 letter to the head of a Southern California metaphysical organization, actually claimed to have been at Edwards where he saw Ike, the saucers and the aliens. Light's letter has been controversial for years and copies of it have turned up in all sorts of places, including the National Enquirer. Investigation into Mr. Light's background, however, turned up the fact that he was an elderly mystic who believed that psychic "out-of-body experiences" were a logical extension of the reality of life and should be treated as such. In the final analysis, Light's alleged visit to Edwards was just such an experience.

And so the story ends. Clearly something unusual occurred involving the president on the evening of February 20, 1954. Whether it was a trip to the dentist, a trip to see flying saucers, or something altogether different and unrelated, no one can say. It's the stuff rumors are made of.



# Dumas: Federal government lies, keeps alien info secret

To the Editor:

I am specifically writing because of the alleged UFO sighting that occurred in Easton.

Now, I will admit right up front that I would describe myself as a real hard-core UFO buff. I search for UFO-related materials, and own at least one UFO pre-recorded video and many books on the subject. The subject is one that I find fascinating and I am not afraid to admit it.

The recent "incident" in Easton doesn't really surprise me and the so-called excuses that are put forward when they cannot find a miserable excuse or a conventional explanation are just pathetic.

Now, as far as I know, blimps, or the more accurate technical term airships, do not often fly at night and I sincerely doubt that one would be over the geographic area of Easton, either. There are also rather few airships operating in the entire nation, which reduces the odds that it would be a "blimp."

I do know that some alleged UFO sightings in the American southwest, specifically Nevada, were very likely the recently-revealed Lockheed F-117A stealth attack fighter bomber and not UFOs. This is a case where the government exploits the UFO issue as a cover to test secret and experimental aircraft. It is reported that the F-117A is wedge-shaped, painted black or dark indigo blue and has its engines buried inside the airframe with large air-mixing exhaust nozzles that mix hot engine exhaust with cool air. The end result is a very quiet airplane that makes a kind of a low whining or buzzing sound when in flight.

The geographical area of Easton isn't too far from the Danbury area and adjoining Dutchess County area of New York state where there have been numerous reports of UFOs, including alleged landing sights and even reports of UFO abductions, which are technically known as close encounters of the fourth

kind.

The fact is that the people will never get the straight truth from the government because it has a vested interest in keeping the issue obscure and out of the mainstream of American political thought.

The American people have heard every lame excuse, including the cliché weather balloon, and in the case of Dutchess County, were told of snowmobile engine-powered ultralight aircraft flying in formations of various shapes and sizes.

Because these aircraft don't have any running lights, and because, unlike some military aircraft, they do not have special radars and infra-red equipment to allow them to fly in total darkness, this doesn't make sense, either.

We are simply being lied to.

I could rule out that the air force is testing either the F-117A or other experimental stealth aircraft, but keep in mind the government prefers to test such aircraft for safety and other reasons in the southwest specifically in the Nellis Airforce Base area and the Tonopah, Nev., region.

Because I don't expect the federal government to reveal their secret UFO information, which everyone knows they have, I simply expect the government to tell the truth about when they are and when they aren't testing experimental aircraft, and when they really aren't sure what's out there.

I am coming around to the view that the government might not be able, for good reasons, to really reveal all they know about UFOs. While it has been treated like a joke, it is also a dead serious issue.

The truth of alien visitation to the Earth may just be too much for many people, especially if the recent speculations about genetic experimentation are true, and I personally believe they are.

BRIAN P. DUMAS  
Easton

CR: R. Collins

# How the UFO sightings have affected some people A first-hand glimpse of the UFO

By SUSAN STOCKMAN

RAINSVILLE—Up until this past week, I had only a reporters' interest in the UFO sightings which have taken place in and around Fyffe.

I reported the stories and events, took pictures and talked with people who had actually spotted the object. I made phone calls to various military bases, talked to the world's leading skeptic on the UFO phenomenon and interviewed a person who believed he had actually had an encounter with an alien spaceship, not this time around, but previously.

All this was done strictly as part of my job as a reporter for The Weekly Post. I had no personal interest. I believed the people who had sighted objects were actually seeing something, I just didn't know what.

My business interest suddenly changed to a more personal nature Wednesday night, March 8, when I saw the object that has received so much attention. As bad as they were, I made some pictures.

As I got a small taste of what others had been getting a large dose of, my curiosity of the object grew.

That next night Teri Baker, co-owner and general manager of The Weekly Post, and I decided to go back to Fyffe in hopes of getting better pictures. That was, if the object decided to reappear.

We were fortunate enough, and I use the word fortunate literally, to see the object again. Teri made a series of pictures of the movement of the object, and, just for reference, made a picture of an airplane using the same photographic techniques. That set of pictures appear in today's edition of The Weekly Post.

We still do not know what the object is but we do know that it doesn't move like any airplane we, or anyone else we have talked to, knows about.

Teri's pictures were made with a Canon 35mm camera, shot with the shutter wide open and a two-minute exposure time to allow enough

light in for the horizon to be visible.

The pictures show the object moving slightly in that two minute time span. They also show the airplane to have moved about 10 times as far. One thing I need to mention is the fact that there was only a sliver of a moon out that night. The pictures show what seems to be a full moon, but that is only the result of the time-lapse photography.

When word of the photographs spread, the media descended on us like people trailing into Fyffe on a Friday night. We were literally besieged by television stations, radio stations and newspapers from all across the country. We didn't tell a soul that we had made the pictures. We still don't know how they found out. They were calling Teri at 7:30 the next morning, wanting interviews or copies of the pictures.

After a full week of doing interviews with these news crews, both local and national, and talking to what seemed like a half million interested individuals, both in person and on the phone, I wondered what was the reaction of the other people who had sighted the object.

I talked to as many of them as I could round up Monday and Tuesday. Most said the same thing. That they were constantly dealing with reporters looking for a story, just like I was in the beginning.

Although many residents have reported sightings, the ones who have received the most attention are Donna Saylor, Kathy Green, Jill Worley, her sister Rhonda Gipson, Fyffe Police Chief Junior Garmany and assistant chief Fred Works.

I tried to call each of them to see what effect this event has had on their day-to-day lives.

Saylor said, "There are a lot of interruptions in my day by the press. I have had calls from as far away as England. I really don't mind talking to the people, but when the people from 'Inside

Edition' aired the program like they did, I was really put out. I gave those people four hours of my time and it was wasted. After the show aired, I decided not to do any more interviews."

Saylor said the only thing she regretted was using the description "it was curved like a banana." She said if she had it to do over again, she would have used another description of the object.

Kathy Green said the only change in her day-to-day routine was that people were always asking her what it is like and how she felt when she saw the UFO.

"I really don't find it a bother to talk to these people. It's exciting. Life really hasn't changed much around here except that I am now more aware of what's up in the sky," Green said.

Fyffe assistant police chief Fred Works indicated that the "only way it has affected my life is my job. I have to talk to a lot more people now than I did before."

Fyffe Police Chief Junior Garmany said, "Basically, it goes with this line of work. We are always dealing with the media. But, this has been slightly out of the normal. We're just sitting back and waiting for things to get back to normal."

I could not reach Jill Worley or her sister Rhonda Gipson.

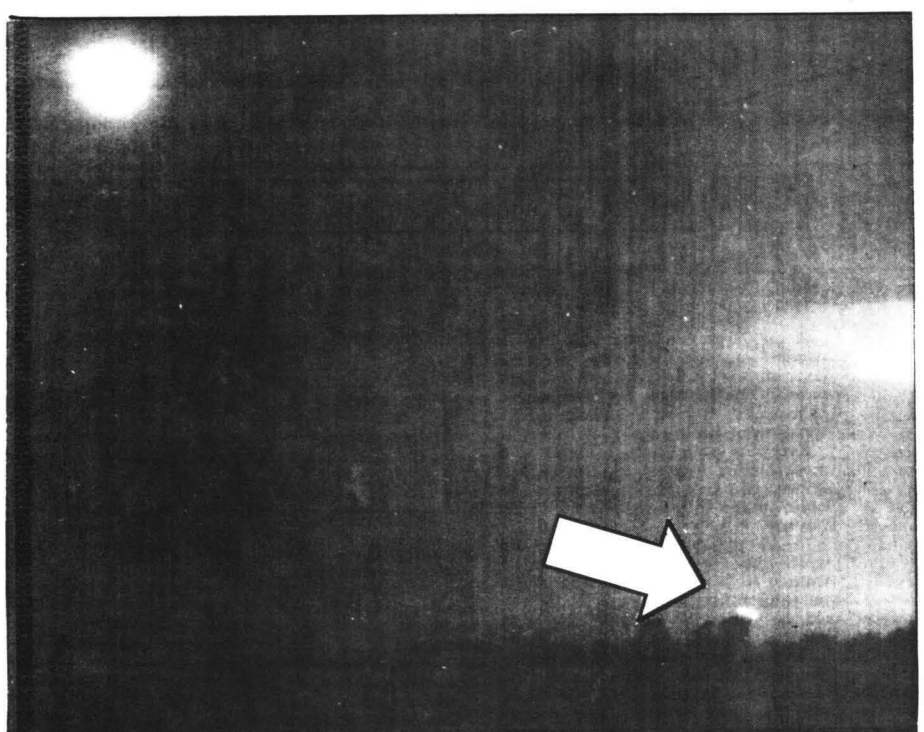
As for Teri and myself, it is getting a little easier to go about our day-to-day activities. Friday, we could not even work for having to answer the telephone or talk to news crews.

It has been a learning experience for me. Being a reporter, I am accustomed to asking the questions and doing the interviewing. It has been difficult to be the one interviewed.

All the people I talked to who reported the sightings agree on one thing. That given the same set of circumstances, we would have spoken out about what we saw.

The people have the right to know what is going on in the sky above. Now, if we just knew.

## UFOs?



## First Photograph

This is the first photograph of the object. It appears just over the horizon and above tree-top level. The very small, semi-bright objects in the background are stars. The object is much brighter than the stars. (Photo by Teri Baker)

(continued on page 6)

## Fyffe gains broad acclaim over UFOs

Nothing can put a place on the map like the report of a flying saucer.

Just ask people in Fyffe, a town of 1,400 about 15 miles west of Fort Payne.

The UFOs reported there several days ago may or may not be for real. But the attention Fyffe is receiving is for real. Police officials and others will attest to that after getting telephone calls from reporters as far away as California and Canada.

Reaction in Fyffe now is probably very much like it's been for centuries throughout the world where similar sightings have been reported. Simply put, that means those who are convinced they saw something will just about swear by it. And many of those who didn't see anything enjoy poking fun at those who say they did.

Reports of UFOs vary greatly. If they are for real, they seem to come in all sizes, shapes and colors. But there is usually one common description — they are bathed in bright or flashing lights, make no sounds, and appear and disappear at the snap of a finger.

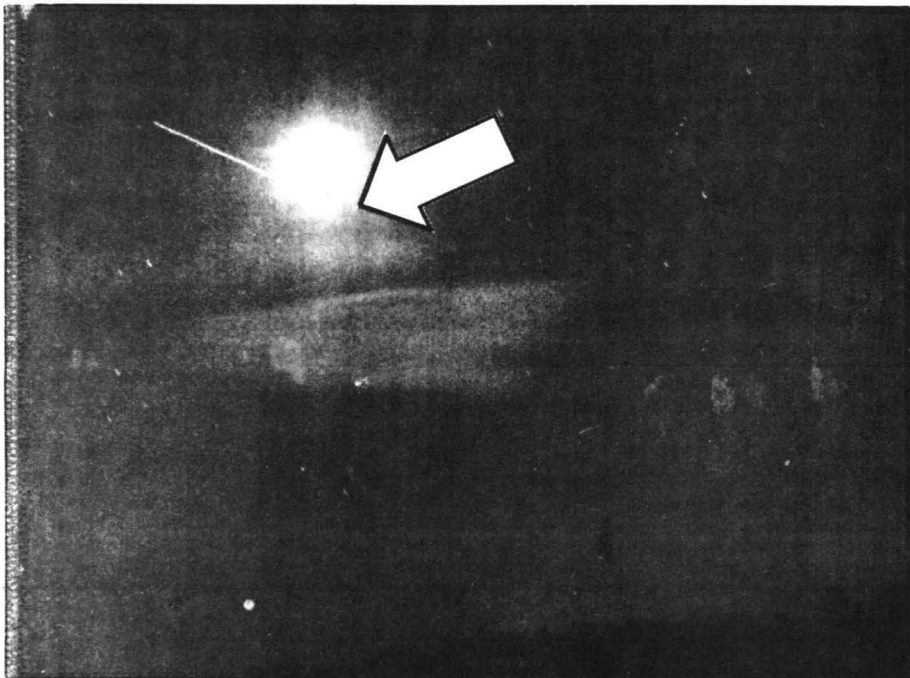
Perhaps the most common trait about UFO reports is the plain — if not necessarily convincing — way people have in speaking about their experiences. The quotes always make for interesting reading.

The quote we liked best about Fyffe came from one of the people who had reported the sighting. "And this guy came up to me at the ball game the other night....he got up real close and whispered, 'I saw it too.'"



### Third Photograph

The object moved in an upward trajectory just before it vanished. The photographers eyes were never off the object and it just disappeared. All the photographs were taken with the shutter open for approximately two minutes. (Photo by Teri Baker)



### The Airplane

This photograph shows an airplane as it flies across the sky minutes after the object disappeared. The dotted appearance is made by the airplane's blinking lights. Again, the moon appears to be full, but was only a sliver. The fullness is a result of the time-lapse photography necessary to let enough light to the film to create an image. (Photo by Teri Baker)

# Tabloid reports Liberace seen in Fyffe UFO

UFO sightings generate zany reports

By DENNIS BENEFIELD  
The Times-Journal Managing Editor

A British tabloid reported Tuesday that residents of Fyffe, Alabama, saw entertainer Liberace descend from an unidentified flying object and perform Hollywood showtunes on a floating piano.

A physician in Kansas claims that extraterrestrials say UFO sightings will increase in Alabama.

And a New York resident believes that UFO sightings are actually alien spacecraft.

Those are among the more bizarre reports sparked by a series of UFO sightings near Fyffe that began on Feb. 10.

Fyffe policeman Fred Works was interviewed by the BBC — the British Broadcasting Corporation — on Tuesday. Such interviews are routine since he reported seeing a UFO.

"It does get wild sometimes," Works said. In between phone calls, he scheduled two television interviews Tuesday.

"I stay on the phone all the time when I come in the office," he said. "I try to talk to anybody if they are serious. I hate to refuse to talk to people."

What Works and fellow Fyffe police officer Junior Garmany saw Feb. 10 remains unexplained. Both watched a large object fly over them. It had lights on it and did not make any sound.

"It was huge and it was moving on," Works said. "It passed over our heads and we watched it go out of sight. But there was no noise. That is what surprised me."

Others in the area reported similar unexplained sightings that night and on subsequent nights.

Since then the town has become a popular place on Friday nights, as sightseers come to watch the skies.

Newspaper, radio, television and magazine reporters are also interested in Fyffe, seeking out anyone who might have seen something. Some reports exaggerate the sightings and many are unflattering to the rural south. Works was particularly disap-

pointed with a TV report on the nationally syndicated show "Inside Edition," which aired last week.

The crew had Works and Garmany re-enact a reported sighting. But the video was fast-forwarded during the report, which showed the officers racing off with blue lights flashing in pursuit of a UFO.

But other reports are even more zany.

A British tabloid, *The Daily Star*, had a half-page article on the Fyffe UFOs in its March 7 edition.

The paper reported that thousands were flocking to the "tiny town of Fyffe, Alabama" in the hopes of seeing the late entertainer Liberace.

The tabloid reported that residents of Fyffe had seen Liberace, dressed in a "sparkling gold lame suit," descend from a movable staircase and perform "Singing in the Rain," and "Laura's Theme" on a floating piano.

"He had a lovely, serene smile," the paper reported, and "flexed his long, bony" fingers at Fyffe residents. A BBC spokesman said the report was not taken seriously by British readers.

Works doesn't take such reports seriously either.

But the calls do disrupt the routine at Fyffe City Hall. "When we're not here the ladies in the office have to take messages," Works said, adding that the callers "will talk to anybody," whether they have seen a UFO or not.

The result, according to Vicki Cooper, of *UFO* magazine, is that rumors and hype get confused with fact. She said her magazine attempts to take a serious look at sightings. She said sighting reports were accelerating nationwide. "This is not just an isolated case," she said.

She said it may be coincidence, but sightings increase when the economy worsens or in times of national crisis. She added that most sightings remain unexplained.

Works would like an explanation of what he saw. But he knows it was not Liberace. "It was really Elvis," he said.

### Another view

## UFOs in Wytheville: Authors still seeking answers

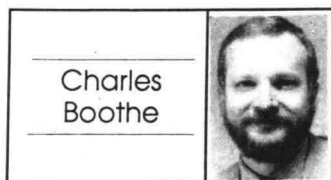
About 75 people gathered at Fin-castle Motor Inn in Tazewell on a recent snowy Friday night. What they saw and heard left many with a new, or renewed, interest in strange things that are seen in the sky.

Everyone was there to hear and meet Danny Gordon and Paul Dellinger, who recently co-authored a book on the UFO sightings in Wythe County.

I read the book a few weeks ago and wrote about it in this column, but I wanted to hear Gordon and Dellinger tell their stories first-hand. It was well worth the trip, despite the bad weather.

Gordon, news director of radio station WYYV in Wytheville, is a skeptic and initially hesitated to get involved with the story after two area policemen reported seeing a strange object in September 1987. Gordon read the story on the air, with tongue slightly in cheek, and he was quite surprised when his phone started ringing off the hook. People were calling to tell him of other sightings in the area.

After many reported sightings from people, who, he was convinced, had no



Charles  
Boothe

reason at all to make the stories up. Gordon decided to go look for himself. That was the beginning of a series of events that Gordon could not have imagined, or believed, would ever happen.

Gordon, a newsman with 10 years experience, soon saw a UFO and eventually saw many more, about 40 in all. But the sightings came with a price.

He was constantly bombarded with phone calls about UFOs, not only from people in the Wytheville area, but calls and letters came from many states as the story gradually broke around the country.

In fact, the calls, letters and visits by people who had seen or wanted to see UFOs were almost more than Gordon

could handle. It soon turned into a wide-awake nightmare that left him exhausted.

His life was threatened, someone broke into his apartment and stole the negatives of the photos of UFOs he had taken (he has some color prints he still carries with him at all times), and he's convinced his phone was, and is, tapped.

Gordon finally decided to enlist the help of Dellinger, Wytheville bureau chief for the *Roanoke Times* and *World-News*, to record what had happened. It's a fascinating story, and anyone who hears them speak or reads their book, *Don't Look Up!*, will be absolutely convinced Gordon and many people in the area saw some very bizarre aircraft in the sky.

Gordon is still a skeptic, he's also now somewhat of a cynic. Because everywhere he turned for help — the news media, the U.S. Air Force, a private UFO investigation organization — he got nothing but flack, deception and, sometimes, ridicule.

And that doesn't sit well with Gordon, who is obviously an honest man, a straight-shooter who likes to cut

through the bull.

Maybe the response from that famous king of yellow journalism, *The National Inquirer*, best sums up what has happened in Wytheville.

When the sightings were at their peak during late fall 1987, they sent a reporter to Wytheville to cover the story. But he didn't write a word.

The reason: People who witnessed the UFOs were not weirdos, they didn't have any wild stories to tell. They were down-to-earth folks who saw some unusual, and unexplained, flying objects — not the sensational type of stuff tabloids use.

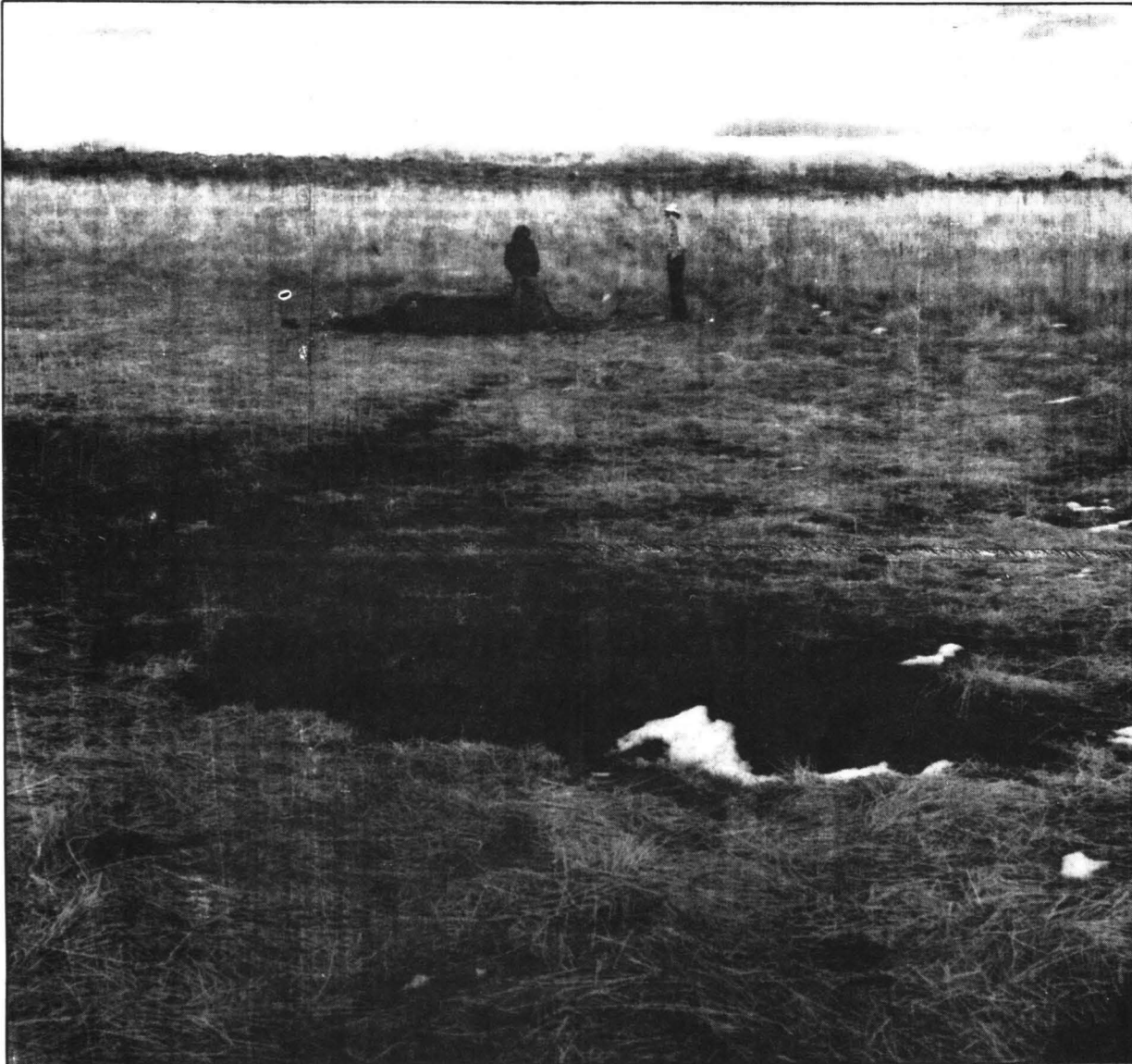
Unfortunately, few respectable newspapers or television stations did much with the story either, just a few articles and spots about the sightings — nothing investigative.

But Gordon is sticking to his guns. He's not in it for the money or the attention. That's not his style. He just wants some answers.

Charles Boothe is city editor of the Daily Telegraph.



# Locals still believe in the Duley Lake UFOs



RESIDENTS INSPECT AREA WHERE CHUNK OF EARTH WAS REMOVED AND DEPOSITED 75 FEET AWAY

By PATRICIA WREN  
Okanogan County bureau

**DULEY LAKE** — An eerie brightness stretches from horizon to horizon. Colored pinpricks dash between giant blobs of luminosity. Bizarre bolts of light follow the desolate terrain at incredible speeds.

This is the middle of nowhere, a place where cattle roam undisturbed through thousands of acres of unviolated land. It is three miles to the nearest paved road and 10 to the nearest house. There simply are no telephone or light poles.

It was to a remote plateau southeast of here that scientists flocked in late 1984, drawn by the enigma of a multi-ton chunk of earth spewed out of a wheatfield on the Timm Brothers Ranch and set down, 73 feet away, intact.

The scientists and the curious are gone now, and the quiet federal probe that the mysterious earth cookie prompted is filed in some bureaucrat's drawer under "U," for unexplainable.

All that's left up here is the crumbling earth and the slowly filling hole it came out of. And persistent reports of strange lights that local residents swear are coming from UFOs.

Folks out here say this whole deserted area along the Columbia River, roughly equidistant between Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams, has been the scene of eerie lights playing across the sky for at least 30 years.

"A field hand swore he saw a flying saucer here in the 1950s," says Sally Timm, 70, matriarch of the Timm clan, "but everybody teased him so bad he wouldn't talk about

it anymore."

Another old story from the area, reports federal geologist Greg Behrens, is of a 30-foot circle of scorched earth found on a plateau the morning after a saucer-shaped light was seen hovering over it.

The only recorded sightings on the Okanogan County sheriff's blotter were on Jan. 30 and 31, 1988, when Richard Roundstone, 36, Omak, said he saw eight saucer-shaped, house-sized objects lighting up eight miles of sky, with smaller, sparkling lights of many colors dashing among them.

A deputy who investigated dismissed them as lights from Chief Joseph Dam, but Roundstone insisted the dam was too far away and in the wrong direction.

Meanwhile, the bizarre hole and the giant plug

coughed out of it on this 30,000-acre portion of the Colville Indian Reservation in mid-October 1984 are still not yielding satisfactory answers.

A wave of curiosity upon publication of the story the next month sparked federal officials to investigate with all possible dispatch.

Two days after the story hit the streets, Behrens, a geologist at Grand Coulee Dam, was told to get the visiting experts to the top of that snow-drifted plateau "no matter how I had to do it," he recalls.

"They said they had a push to get out here — a real push from D.C. — but I won't swear it was a congressional probe," Behrens says. "Maybe Star Wars testing had arrived?"

The geologists marveled at what had been the hole's

smooth sides and bottom, and the way the cookie-cutter plug 73 feet off fit its measurements exactly. They discussed hypotheses, were satisfied by none, and left.

Now little more than a badly weather- and cow-worn bowl, the enigmatic feature — impossible to reach in winter because of snowdrifts — is still there today, the Timms say. And new theories about it are still being advanced.

The latest, sent by mail to Behrens a few weeks ago, is from an apparent religious fanatic back East who apologized for causing the explosion of dirt during a sort of religious frenzy.

Explanations for the eerie force — which bit the 10-by-7-by-2-foot chunk of dirt out of the wheatfield, rotated it counterclockwise 20 degrees as it gently arced across the field and sat it down intact — have ranged from the improbable to the impossible.

Probably because Okanogan County lies within striking distance of two Air Force bases — McChord and Fairchild — the most popular is the Star Wars version, which paints a picture of weird experiments in frighteningly inner space.

And then there are the earthquake, natural gas explosion, lightning bolt, cookie-cutter, flooded tundra, "black hole-ette in space" and the whirlwind theories.

But none of them fit, say Rick Timm, 40, and his brother Pete, 36, who discovered the geological riddle while turning their cows out on wheatfield stubble in an area locally known as Haystack Rocks.

"Everybody was really grasping for an explanation," says the elder brother. "Then we got all the stories nobody would ever tell you before, from people who are 100 percent honest. They won't even discuss it with a reporter."

"Like the guy who worked for my folks for 30 years. He said a light followed him all around the field that night, and he doesn't drink or do anything."

In the same area 20 years ago, Rick Timm says, "another really reputable couple said a light came off the hill at ground level and followed the contours of the ground really fast across the valley, over Big Goose Lake and disappeared over the mountains."

Another Timm brother, Bob, saw lights on the top of a 1,000-foot bluff a half-mile from the ranchhouse about a year before the mystery hole appeared, his mother says.

"He thought there were snowmobilers up there and kept waiting for them to come down, but they never did," Mrs. Timm says. "He went up in the morning to look and couldn't find tracks or anything."

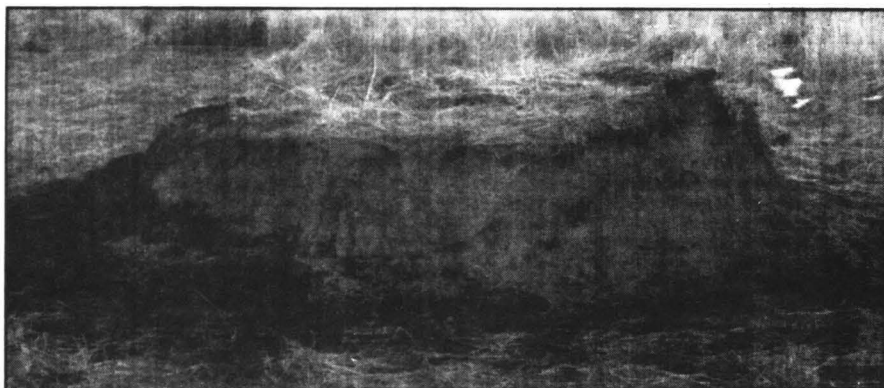
About two years ago, Pete Timm saw a huge flash of light — "regular white light" — that stretched from the northern to the southern horizons.

"They say it's lights from the dams, reflecting off the clouds, but there are so many different sightings of this

(continued on page 8)



RANCHER RICK TIMM  
"...all the stories"



GIANT CHUNK OF EARTH REMOVED AT HAYSTACK ROCKS AREA

(continued from page 7 -  
WORLD, Wenatchee, WA  
- Feb. 12, 1989)  
stuff it's got to be something  
else," he says.

"I'm not saying I believe in  
UFOs, but I don't know what  
else it could be."

Behrens doesn't buy the  
dam-light reflection theory  
either. Though there's a 500-  
kilowatt switchyard sitting in  
a grid pattern above Grand  
Coulee Dam at about the  
same elevation as the mys-  
tery hole, "the most you'd  
see out there is a glow off the  
overcast," he says.

The Timms' sister,  
Margaret Derting, 30, is con-  
vinced alien beings plucked  
the three-ton divot out of the  
pear-shaped hole and set it  
down virtually intact.

"I think it was UFOs my-  
self," Mrs. Derting says. "I  
think that's about as serious  
as anybody's going to be  
about it."

Behrens, who has studied  
the phenomenon longer than  
anyone, says his pet theory is  
a series of seismic waves  
from an earthquake that  
shook Okanogan County Oct.  
9, 1984, and started a "focus-  
ing" effect.

The earthquake, measuring  
3.0 on the Richter scale, was  
20 miles southwest of the  
hole and four miles below the  
earth's surface. Behrens  
speculates it formed concen-  
tric ground waves that col-  
lided in the middle and  
popped out the chunk of  
earth.

But Stephen D. Malone, a  
University of Washington  
earthquake expert, calls that  
theory "beyond the in-  
credible," saying the force  
was much too small to do the  
job.

Concedes Behrens, "Even I  
don't believe the theory 100  
percent. Nothing very  
satisfying to me has ever  
been published... The odds  
are favorable there's some-  
one out there."

Concludes Rick Timm, "I  
like to think it's aliens. After  
the initial thought, it  
wouldn't be that frightening.  
It really would've been some-  
thing to be there when it hap-  
pened."

"Whatever it was."

FREE PRESS, Tazewell, VA - Feb. 22, 1989 CR: D. Gordon

## UFOs capture imagination of believers

By Andrea Rose

Some of their stories sound  
like 'Star Trek' episodes but for  
people who claim to have had  
alien encounters these tales  
are real.

Several of these stories were  
recounted at a lecture last Fri-  
day night, where Danny Gor-  
don and Paul Dellenger spoke  
about their book, 'Don't Look  
Up.' Isabelle Gordon (no re-  
lation) of Princeton, a self-  
proclaimed telepath, said she has  
experienced an alien abduc-  
tion.

Her first encounter with an  
alien she calls 'Alatar' came 10  
or 12 years ago in Princeton.  
"My husband and I were stay-  
ing at the Holiday Inn. Just as  
we were pulling in, I saw a  
saucer."

"Suddenly, all the lights  
went out... they went out in  
the Inn, all the cars stalled, the  
lights went out on the cars.  
When we looked down on 77  
and 460 the cars were all

stopped. They were all stalled,"  
she said.

"One huge light came down  
over the parking lot (of the  
Holiday Inn). As the light came  
down, I started to step into it. I  
heard a voice say 'Don't step  
into the light, we're refueling,  
we'll be gone in a minute,'" she  
said.

Gordon said after the saucer  
left, the whole parking lot was  
covered in a white ash. She  
said later a government  
machine sucked up all the ash  
and the incident was denied.

Gordon said she has had  
many encounters with the  
aliens since that time. "I am in  
touch with an object, I call him  
Alatar. Alatar tells me... that  
there are people on this earth  
that are half human and half  
from another planet, Saturn."

She said we must listen to  
the aliens to avoid killing our  
planet the way they killed Sat-  
urn. "It's not so important  
where they came from, but  
why they are here."

Gordon also claims to have  
been healed of a problem with  
her heart valves during an  
alien abduction. She said they  
fixed her heart by passing a  
laser over her body.

Danny Gordon shared other  
stories of alien encounters  
with the audience. He read  
from a letter from a man in  
Wilmington, DE. "The first UFO  
related event occurred in Wyth-  
eville... my encounter with a li-  
zard person (between Wytheville  
and Marion) was a welcome  
surprise."

Gordon said he received a  
report in July which described  
another encounter with a "li-  
zard man." "After this incident  
here, there was a lizard man  
sighted in Austinville by a min-  
ister and his family. It was seven  
feet tall, scaly, red eyes,  
stunk to high heaven, and  
chased the minister's car at 35  
miles per hour and a catch, &  
the fender."

He said the incident was

written off as an encounter  
with a bear but Gordon said he  
doesn't know of any bear that  
can run that fast.

Several members of the au-  
dience described things they  
had seen. These included var-  
ious types of unidentifiable  
aircraft.

David Bodner of the Mutual  
UFO Network (MUFON) spoke  
about the proper procedure for  
handling a sighting. He said  
MUFON has 50,000 docu-  
mented alien encounters they  
cannot disprove.

He encouraged people who  
become involved in UFO sight-  
ings to read everything they  
can find on the subject and to  
write down a description of  
what they see.

TIMES, Washington, DC - Feb. 15, 1989 CR: L. Bryant

## Whistleblower bucks Pentagon on UFOs

By John Purnell  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Larry Bryant, an outspoken civil-  
ian writer and editor for the U.S.  
Army, has become something of an  
embarrassment to the federal gov-  
ernment because he believes UFOs  
are real, his attorney says.

"The military thinks unidentified  
flying objects are nothing but super-  
stitions. They keep suppressing in-  
formation about them and Larry  
keeps trying to expose the cover-up,"  
said attorney James Heller, who re-  
presents Mr. Bryant in U.S. District  
Court in Alexandria.

With this kind of crusading — in-  
cluding filing numerous freedom of  
information requests — there are  
bound to be conflicts with Mr. Bry-  
ant's job in the Pentagon, Mr. Heller  
said.

Not so, says Col. Douglas H. Rog-  
ers, now chief of public affairs for  
the Army's Materiel Command, who  
was Mr. Bryant's boss when he got  
several unsatisfactory job perfor-  
mance ratings in 1984 and 1985.

"His duties outside work are  
within his rights," Col. Rogers said.  
"Some people may feel he has a prob-  
lem with credibility and hold him up  
to ridicule for his beliefs, but that is  
irrelevant and I told him so."

After the negative evaluations,  
Col. Rogers said, Mr. Bryant re-  
ceived job counseling. His perfor-  
mance ratings quickly bounced  
back to the exceptional level where  
they once were.

So what's the problem?

"It's pretty clear the government

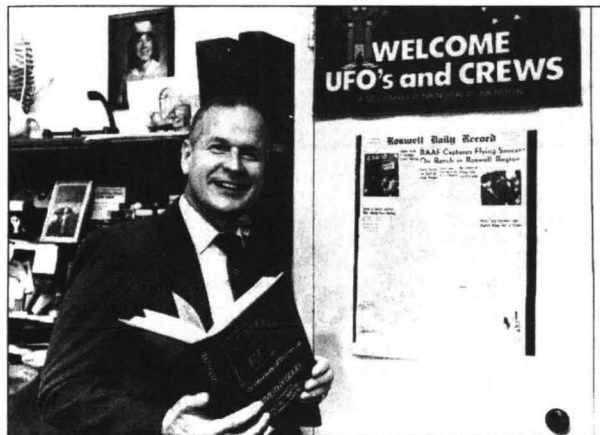


Photo by Willard Volz/The Washington Times

Larry Bryant claims his UFO crusade keeps him in hot water.

put him down," Mr. Heller said. "The  
principle of freedom of speech is in-  
volved here and the chilling effect it  
has had on his life."

For Mr. Bryant, 50, a GS-11, who  
began as a GS-2 Army clerk in 1958,  
the issue was not over even though  
U.S. District Court Judge Claude M.  
Hilton ruled in his favor in 1987.

The judge said the Army must al-  
low Mr. Bryant the right to place ad-  
vertisements in military base news-  
papers asking potential whistle-  
blowers to come forward with their  
knowledge of government informa-  
tion on UFOs.

In that case, Mr. Bryant claimed  
his constitutional rights were vi-  
olated after Army and Air Force  
newspapers rejected his advertise-  
ments.

"This type of action should never  
be inflicted again on any other fed-  
eral worker," Mr. Bryant said.

Now Mr. Bryant wants the FBI,  
the National Security Agency, the  
CIA and other government agencies  
to reveal the names of agents who  
have investigated UFO cases.

"We should have the right to know  
who handled these reports," he said.  
"There needs to be government ac-

countability. What's the secret? This  
is the biggest story never told."

As founder and president of Cit-  
izens Against UFO Secrecy, or CAUS,  
and a frequent lecturer at confer-  
ences and meetings, Mr. Bryant says  
UFOs probably are nothing more  
than "somebody else's spacecraft"  
and the government is fearful that  
disclosing details might cause panic  
in the streets.

"The government thinks that ad-  
mitting the existence of UFOs would  
have a destabilizing effect on society  
... that the American public is too  
immature to handle this informa-  
tion," he said. "Well, I think the gov-  
ernment is lagging behind the pub-  
lic. This country is ready for the full  
truth."

The idea of UFOs is well accepted  
today, he said. People have gotten ac-  
customed to such extraterrestrial  
phenomena in the "Star Trek" mov-  
ies and the television series, the  
movie "Close Encounters of the  
Third Kind" and the frequent re-  
ports of UFO sightings.

"An uninformed public is an in-  
secure public," Mr. Bryant said.  
"When the government lies to the  
public, it is telling lies to itself."

Mr. Bryant is not seeking dam-  
ages from the government even  
though he estimates he's spent about  
\$5,000 on legal fees. He wants the  
government to leave him alone so he  
can pursue his investigation of  
UFOs, he says.

"This has been an expensive les-  
son for me, but I'd settle for an ap-  
ology and an agreement to get the gov-  
ernment off my back," he said.

TRIBUNE, Tampa, FL - Jan. 29, 1989

## Reported UFO sightings in Florida



Tribune photograph by COLIN HACKLEY  
Bob Nowell, Panama City, 1977

**August 1952** — A Boy Scoutmaster  
in West Palm Beach encounters "ball  
lightning" and surmises that it is a  
UFO. Ball lightning consists of balls of  
fire that fall swiftly from clouds and  
then explode on the ground.

**August 1954** — Five sightings of  
UFOs take place near Gainesville.

**November 1955** — At least 15 re-  
ports of UFOs in Marion County.

**November 1957** — Sightings in Flor-  
ida escalate. Headline in Tribune reads,  
"Will Sputnik Collide With a Flying Sau-  
cer?"

**July 1964** — Thirty-eight reports of  
UFOs in Clearwater during Fourth of  
July fireworks display. These are en-  
tered in Air Force's Project Blue Book  
but later are revealed to be part of a  
prank.

**April 1, 1965** — A flying saucer  
hoax, complete with photographs, ap-  
pears in Tribune's "In Our Town" col-  
umn by Patrick Kelly. Pictures  
attributed to a WFLA-TV newsman ac-  
tually were taken by Tribune photogra-  
pher.

**April 1965** — First of UFO sightings  
reported by Brooksville resident John  
Reeves. Reeves says a spaceship, about  
20 to 30 feet in diameter, landed near  
his home and humanoids got out. He  
says the craft then retreated at an es-  
timated speed of 5,000 mph and was vi-  
sible in the sky for only 10 seconds.  
Reeves says he retrieved a piece of pa-  
per inscribed with strange symbols. In-  
vestigators from MacDill Air Force  
Base and the Pentagon later decide  
Reeves' experience is an elaborate  
hoax. The piece of paper is found to be  
of common material, and the message  
is a simple code for the words, "Planet  
Mars, are you coming home soon? We  
miss you very much. Why did you stay  
away so long?"

**April 1966** — Sighting of UFO by  
passengers and pilots of airplane flying  
over Ocala toward Tallahassee. Florida  
Gov. Hayden Burns was on the air-  
plane.

**May 1966** — Cocoa Beach Chamber



Tribune photograph by JIM REED  
Carolene Heart, south Tampa, 1974

(continued on page 9)



(continued from page 8 - TRIBUNE,  
Tampa, FL - Jan. 29, 1989)

of Commerce erects and dedicates UFO landing strip at Fisher Park, next to Cape Kennedy. A welcoming committee is formed and signs indicate that it is a UFO hospitality station.

**December 1966** — Brooksville resident John Reeves reports another encounter with a UFO. This time, he says, visitors left footprints and impression of landing gear in the soil.

**August 1968** — Brooksville resident John Reeves reports taking trip with UFO creatures and walking on the moon. He says he has acquired additional evidence from the aliens, including a piece of metal rarely found in nature and moon dust that resembles the substance brought back by American probes.

**September 1973** — On four consecutive nights, UFO sightings are reported throughout Florida.

**May 1974** — UFO reported in south Tampa, near intersection of Gandy Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue. Eyewitness Carolene Heart says the UFO came and went several times between the hours of 7 p.m. and 2 a.m. one evening. She says witnesses included personnel from MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa Fire Department and local television stations. Those organizations have no history of the sighting, however, nor was there news coverage of the event.

**September 1977** — Numerous individuals, including Bay County sheriff's deputies and security personnel from Tyndall Air Force Base, report seeing a UFO in Calloway near Panama City. One of the deputies, Bobby Nowell, says the UFO was visible for more than three hours in the southeastern sky. An amateur astronomer and former pilot, Nowell says, "There was no logical explanation for what I saw."

**January 1979** — UFO sighting reported in Winter Haven by police officer Ron Perdue.

**January through July 1980** — More than six UFO sightings reported in Pasco County.

**June 1986** — Many reports of UFOs sighted in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota counties. Meteor shower suspected.

**June 1987** — On several consecutive nights, residents of Silver Spring Shores, Goosy Prairie, Citra and Ocala report seeing a UFO. The witnesses include Marion County sheriff's deputy Jay Manifold, who says the craft had "a total of four lights, red and green," and was hovering at treetop level for about 10 seconds.

STATE, Columbia, SC - Feb. 16, 1989

## Townfolk in Alabama puzzled by UFO sighting

By DAVE MONIZ  
Staff Writer

Fyffe's problem is everyone's problem.

UFOs spell trouble. Especially if they look like flying bananas and are bigger than jumbo jets.

So Friday night, when a handful of Alabamians spotted not one, but two giant vessels hovering in the dark sky above them, it put tiny Fyffe, Ala., on the celestial map.

Although unexplained UFOs are fairly common, the roster of witnesses makes the Fyffe sighting more than just fodder for the next Gerald Rivera special. Officers from five law enforcement agencies said they saw at least one of the two objects buzzing their bewildered corner of Dixie.

That has led those who monitor such phenomena to speculate Fyffe is not crying alien.

Fred Works, the town's assistant police chief, tracked both UFOs. The first, spotted south of the town of 1,300, had been observed by a woman who watched for an hour before calling police. She described the first one — which she saw through binoculars — as looking like a giant, upside-down banana with red, white and green lights.

Works and Fyffe Police Chief Junior Garmany saw that object, whose shape they could not determine, before they were diverted by another.

The second UFO, Works said, ap-

peared about 1,500 feet off the ground and was traveling, he estimated, 300 to 400 mph.

He dismissed as possibilities both airplanes and helicopters because the UFOs were silent.

"That's the biggest mystery," Works said.

Elton Roberts, a reporter with the Fort Payne, Ala., *Times-Journal*, said police from Collinsville, Crossville, Geraldine and one highway patrolman reported seeing strange objects in the sky at the same time.

The resulting hubbub does not surprise Stan Gordon, a UFO tracker who says unexplained sightings in Pennsylvania have increased dramatically since 1987.

"I've been involved with this for 29 years, and we've never been through a cycle like this," said Gordon, head of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained.

"There are so many new cases now that we cannot dismiss them easily," Gordon said.

UFOs, it seems, know no bounds.

George Fawcett, who tracks the Southeast from his North Carolina home, recently wrote that South Carolina, "40th in size, ranks high for the number of excellent UFO encounters the past four decades."

Another UFO specialist, Duquesne University chemistry profes-

sor Paul Johnson, said all the heady talk isn't cause to run out and buy an intergalactic Gatling gun.

"About 90 percent of all UFO sightings can be explained," Johnson said.

"Normally, people are misidentifying Jupiter, Venus, helicopters or meteors."

But that still leaves 10 percent of reported UFO sightings that cannot be explained, Johnson said.

Unidentified flying objects have at various times been described as looking like hot dogs and milk saucers, suggesting that aliens, like some of their earthly counterparts, have a sense of humor.

"We really don't know what UFOs are," Johnson said.

"The possibility that they're extraterrestrials is more prominent in the minds of Hollywood producers and tabloid writers. About 80 percent of people who have sightings don't report them because they get laughed at."

Assistant Chief Works might agree. As he fielded calls from television stations in Huntsville and Birmingham, and newspapers across Alabama, he acknowledged he was reluctant to talk.

"I'd just be satisfied to leave it be. If there's something out there, they're there. I'm not gonna worry about it," Works said.

"I'm not gonna say there are little green men running around."

CHRONICLE, Houston, TX - March 19, 1989 CR: J. Pumilia

## Woman tells of too-close encounter with aliens

By DWIGHT SILVERMAN  
Special to the Chronicle

SAN ANTONIO — Joan Burns believes her first encounter with strange creatures came at age 10, when she saw a glowing figure standing at the foot of her bed. She thought it was a vision of Jesus.

"Now I know better," she said. Burns (not her real name) is a degreed professional in her mid-50s who lives in the Hill Country community of Boerne, about 20 miles northwest of San Antonio. She says hypnosis sessions with MUFON investigator Robert Morgan indicate she has been abducted by creatures from UFOs no less than eight times.

Her three children, now in their 20s, also claim similar experiences.

Her case is just one of several that keep MUFON field investigators such as Morgan busy.

Among other incidents being studied is the story of the purported 1947 crash of a UFO in New Mexico and the apparently official, top-secret government briefing paper on the incident that surfaced in 1984.

Burns insists that what she has experienced over the years — and is now discovering in detail with MUFON's help — are not figments of an overactive imagination. She points out that she is a productive and prominent citizen in Boerne as well as San Antonio, where she and her husband work. "These things are as real to me as the birth of my children," she said.

Her most dramatic abduction experience came in July 1979. She and her husband had just moved to Boerne from San Antonio, and were living in a trailer home on a 20-acre tract of land where they were building a house.

On the evening of July 15, Burns' husband called frantically for her to come to the window. Outside were three glowing balls of light, and descending from them, floating downward, were five bizarre figures.

The creatures were similar to those described by almost every other purported abductee — thin, with grayish skin, large heads and large, oval-shaped, slanted eyes.

Her husband got his shotgun.

"These figures stood in the darkness out there, and we began to get very sleepy," Burns said, adding she dimly remembers going to bed, then nothing.

When morning came, Burns' husband found his shotgun on the kitchen table, dismantled.

Burns first contacted MUFON after reading Budd Hopkins' *Missing Time*. Details of the 1979 abduction became clear after hypnosis sessions with Morgan, she said.

"Under hypnosis, I realized that they had put my husband to sleep," she said, "and took me out of the trailer. There was one of them on each side of me. I was in a kind of trance, and I kept trying to break out of the trance. I grabbed hold of a tree limb, trying to keep from going into the craft, and they didn't like that. A light went all over me, and I was paralyzed."

Once inside, Burns said, she was placed on "a table with light coming through it, like an examining table" in a room that was filled with colored lights. She said a needle descended from the ceiling and pierced her abdomen.

Afterward, she was taken back to the trailer by the creatures and put back to bed.

Burns said her hypnosis sessions revealed she was last abducted in August 1988, when her car was "taken inside one of these craft" during a drive home from San Antonio.

"It was a drive that should have taken 20 minutes, and it took an hour and a half," she said.

One of the most controversial cases in the UFO community centers around the tale of a July 1947 crash of a spacecraft near Roswell, N.M.

Remarkably, on July 8, the Roswell Army Base issued a press release confirming that "the many rumors regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the . . . Roswell Army Air Field was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the cooperation of the local

ranchers and the sheriff's office of Chaves County."

Several days later, the Air Force retracted this story, insisting instead the recovered object was merely a weather balloon.

For years, UFOlogists have sought to pin down what really happened at Roswell. There were even rumors that alien bodies were extracted from the wreckage and were being kept for observation.

Then, in December 1984, MUFON researcher Jaime Shandera received in the mail an official-looking envelope containing an undeveloped roll of 35mm film. Shandera had been receiving tips from an anonymous source within the government that something significant would soon arrive.

The film was processed, and the result has rocked the UFO community.

It contained what appear to be photos of a Nov. 18, 1952, document briefing then-President-Elect Dwight Eisenhower on the Roswell incident.

Stamped "Top Secret / Majic" and "Eyes Only," the document told the story of Majestic-12, a "TOP SECRET Research and Development/Intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States."

The document went on to state that a local rancher reported that a UFO had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico approximately 75 miles northwest of Roswell Army Air Base, now Walker Field.

The document further revealed that, during the recovery of the wreckage, "aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements."

Also included in the narrative is the admission that "an effective cover story" regarding a weather balloon had been given to reporters.

Finally, the document reveals that a second crash occurred on Dec. 6, 1950, near the El Indio-Guerrero area of the Texas-Mexican border. The craft in this case was almost



A 1960s "flying saucer" photograph that stirred controversy was proved a hoax. Although most UFO sightings have been explained as natural phenomenon, many remain a mystery.

totally incinerated, but some material was retrieved.

The authenticity of the MJ-12 document — as it has come to be known — has generated passionate debate in the UFO community. According to a MUFON paper presented at the group's 1988 symposium in Lawrence, Kan., handwriting experts have validated President Harry Truman's signature on one of the supporting documents included on the roll of film.

And those who knew the alleged author of the document — the late CIA director Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter — say it appears to read as though he wrote it.

Skeptics, however, are suspicious of the way in which the document came into MUFON's possession and cite nagging lapses in the document's phrasing and style, which seem unauthentic.

# Accidental Tourists? Area Hosts Alien Callers

By CHRISTINE KINDL

They are definitely out there, say believers, but who "they" are and why this area has been chosen for their visits remains a mystery.

Sightings of unexplained phenomena—UFOs, Bigfoot and the like—increased sharply in 1988, and the Chestnut Ridge area seems to be a prime location for glimpsing these other-worldly events.

Stan Gordon of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained received 350 reports of the unusual across the state in 1988. Nearly 44 percent are unsolved, double the percentage in 1986.

Fifteen sightings were reported in Indiana County last year, and a number of others were called in by Westmoreland County observers.

Aircraft or unusual weather can explain most of the reports, said Gordon, but others can be tied to no known cause.

## 'SIMPLY UNEXPLAINED'

"There are a lot of theories, but these events are simply unexplained. I've been involved in thousands of cases, and seen a lot of evidence that makes me believe they deserve scientific study."

Gordon has been investigating reports of UFOs for 29 years, but has never actually seen one himself.

One person who believes she has seen a UFO is Verna Yanity, a retired beautician from Homer City.

Yanity saw a bright light in the sky last July 17, and watched until it came within 200 feet. At that distance, she said, she could tell it was a spacecraft with flashing red, green and orange lights.

The craft was shaped like a helmet with four legs hanging down under it.

## 'JUST HOVERED'

"It just hovered over the house, then started going about 40 miles an hour," she said. She and her neighbors had a clear view of the UFO, which they thought at first was a plane or helicopter.

"Then my neighbor noticed it didn't make any noise. That's when we knew it was something else," Yanity said. A second sighting came shortly after the first; again the craft hovered silently.

Yanity returned home and continued to watch the sky. "I saw it a third, fourth and fifth time at my house. At first I wasn't afraid, but in the end I got scared and came inside."

Yanity, who had no interest in UFOs before her strange experience, said the sighting gave her an "eerie feeling. But my family thought it was great. Everybody wants to see a flying saucer."

Chestnut Ridge is apparently as good a place as any to search. "It is one of a number of places worldwide where sightings occur over and over," said Gordon.

## WINDOW ON 'WORLD'

Magnetic fields or geological conditions may be behind the large number of sightings in what investigators term a "window area."



Some UFO experts feel that conditions in these areas allow a glimpse into alternate worlds or other dimensions; others theorize that conditions here, for unknown reasons, attract beings from space.

Witnesses to unexplainable events come from all walks of life.

Gordon said "very few people from the crackpot category" call the PASU hotline. Many who do call fear ridicule and shun publicity, preferring to keep their stories between themselves and the investigators.

One such witness, a Saltsburg resident, contacted Gordon to report a "close encounter" with aliens March 18, 1988.

## TWO HOUR JOURNEY

On his way home, he saw a light following his car. For no reason the car stopped, as if its power was

drained. The next thing he remembered was waking up in the front seat, disoriented and upset.

At a nearby convenience store he asked the time and was shocked to learn that two hours had passed. The trip home normally took 10 minutes.

PASU connected the troubled man with a hypnotherapist with no knowledge of UFOs. Under hypnosis, he gave a detailed account of a cigar-shaped object that shined a light in his direction.

He also described a robed, humanoid figure with large eyes and an insignia on its chest. Details of the insignia, which Gordon declined to reveal, matched descriptions given by witnesses in past encounters.

"Details like the insignia design are keys that investigators use to

verify stories," Gordon explained. "We don't publicize them. When descriptions match up, we know it's an authentic account."

## DETAILS MATCH

The Saltsburg witness described being taken aboard a small transport, which flew him to the larger craft. There he was examined by several of the robed figures before being returned to his car.

"His story was similar in many respects to other descriptions of abductions," Gordon said.

Many who claim to have been abducted have psychological problems afterwards, Gordon said. They can't convince others their experience was real, and their own view of the world is changed.

Sam Sherry, for example, described himself as "a diehard skeptic"

before his meeting May 17 with a creature he believes was a Bigfoot.

The Wilpen man was fishing at Loyahanna Creek near the Sleepy Hollow causeway when he claims he saw a creature with short fur similar to buckskin, 6-6 and weighing 700 pounds.

## BIGFOOT DESCRIPTION

"At first it was 20 or 25 feet away, but it wound up breathing down my back," Sherry reported. He wasn't frightened, he said, because he was too busy studying the creature.

"It had no visible neck, waistline or buttocks. It had long arms to its ankles, with slender hands and long slender fingers," he said.

It had eyes the size of golf balls but no visible nose; it breathed heavily through its puckered, toothless mouth, "wheezing and slobbering and spitting."

It was Bigfoot's smell that first alerted Sherry to its presence. The beast emitted a strong, musky odor, like decaying fish. "I had that smell with me for two weeks," Sherry said.

Sherry claims Bigfoot approached him and touched his arm and back as he turned to get into his car. "He felt my clothes, then he put his hands on the car and felt it, too."

## LIVING BENEATH RIDGE?

Sherry has plans to capture Bigfoot should they meet again. He theorizes that a number of the creatures were brought to earth by aliens, and suspects they live in caves beneath Chestnut Ridge.

"These reports of UFOs and Bigfoots are definitely related," he stated.

Noting that many Bigfoot sightings come from residents of mobile homes, he speculates that the huge creatures are confusing trailers with the spacecraft that brought them here.

Sherry's theory is as plausible as anyone's; no one can say for certain what is going on in Bigfoot-UFO country. But the reports keep coming in.

This year's PASU log holds a description of an oval object 250-300 feet long sighted Jan. 9 near the village of Mentle in Indiana County.

## NEAR POWER STATION

Observers said it was brightly lit and made no sound. Like many of the UFOs spotted in the area, it appeared to be coming from a power station, in this case Penelec's Glory substation.

"There was a BIG wave of sightings when the Homer City power plant was built, and a lot of sightings in Homer City around the power plant last July," Gordon noted.

UFOs have been reported hovering over power stations in many parts of the world, perhaps, says Gordon, to siphon energy from them.

Utility spokesmen generally scoff at such reports, but their frequency leads Gordon to believe that the connection is worth further investigation.

Noting that his group is involved in scientific study, Gordon suggested that anyone witnessing an unusual event write a short narrative describing the event and telling when and where it happened.

## 'MIGHT BE A KEY'

"It might be an important key to our understanding of these things. I think there's no doubt that a solution will someday be found. Whether it occurs in our lifetime, I don't know."

To report a sighting, write PASU at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, or call the 24-hour hotline, 838-7768. Free information about the unexplained is available by sending a SASE to the same address.

## 1989 Take the muzzle off of government workers

Your Feb. 15 Federal Report article on my UFO research activity and activism somehow skirted a key issue in my case.

That issue was resolved on Oct. 3, when the Supreme Court granted my petition for a writ of certiorari in the case of Bryant vs. Weinberger, et al., remanding the second count of the case to the lower courts for further action on my claim of First Amendment violation.

From the outset, the government's counsel had resisted the notion that I as a federal employee should have access to the federal court system to air such a constitutional claim.

The government's counsel argued that the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, with its wide range of administrative remedies for aggrieved employees, constitutes the only avenue of relief to which I (or anyone else in my predicament) should be entitled.

In so construing the law, those government lawyers (and the lower courts) chose to ignore a key distinction in my case: The government (in the person of my employer) had punished me on the job for my speech exercised off the job. Thus, by denying me access to the courts to contest that violation, the government had relegated me (and the rest of the federal work force) to second-class citizenship.

Now, as the second count of my case proceeds toward trial in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (Alexandria Division), the entire federal work force can breathe easier in the knowledge that whenever a fellow worker chooses, as a private citizen, to criticize government policy, he or she will find full protection via both the First Amendment and the federal court system.

The other principles underlying my case can be described in terms of rights:

The government has no right to deceive the public as to the true nature of the UFO problem.

The public has every right to know all the government knows about the UFO problem.

Researchers like me must retain the right to criticize official UFO-related policies and practices — without the risk of reprisal from the government.

LARRY W. BRYANT  
Director  
Washington Office  
Citizens Against UFO Secrecy  
Alexandria, Va.

CR: L. Bryant



# THEY'RE HERE!

## Our UFO contest winners

**S**OMETHING DEFINITELY is going on out there. Either South Texans have an uncanny knack for writing science fiction or a lot of people have, in effect, been seeing little blue men.

Sunday Magazine's Jan. 15 issue called for readers to send in their tales of encounters with extraterrestrials.

Well, we received a flood of mail. Either people lost their inhibitions about writing about close encounters of the third kind, or

they are merely after the cash prizes.

Anyway, we waded through more than 70 entries — one came from as far away as Florida. Generally, the stories were imaginative and, in some cases, truly bizarre.

But after going through all the entries, the Sunday Magazine staff selected the following three stories on the basis of plausibility, style and imagination. The first-place winner will receive \$50, second-place \$30 and third-place \$20.

### FIRST PLACE

by Susan Nevarez Morton

**I**n 1959, when I was 13, I saw a UFO perform a miracle.

I also went to my first cockfight. My mother and I lived with her sister, my Tia Nolberta, and her husband, Tio Anselmo. Mother and Tia Nolberta were from Durango, Mexico, and were very conservative and Catholic.

I dutifully attended weekly catechism classes at St. James Parish on the South Side. Tio Anselmo's family, however, was rowdy and passionately life-loving. His brother-in-law, Cristobal, regularly patronized cockfights at a small ranch near Pleasanton, even though they're illegal.

One hot summer evening, Cristobal invited us to the fights. I was horrified and had no desire to see poor little roosters mutilate each other. I had just washed my hair and rolled it with metal and bristle curlers.

Cristobal teased me unmercifully. "You'll look funny on the front page with those curlers on your head, if the police raid us and we make the papers."

But everyone else was anxious to go, so I wrapped a scarf around my head and reluctantly climbed into Cristobal's station wagon.

When we arrived, a cockfight was in progress in the small arena surrounded by wooden bleachers, which were filled with spectators. I steeled myself. I intended to confess every sordid moment to Father Joe at St. James next Saturday afternoon.

Suddenly, the tone of the spectators' cheering changed to a panicky buzz. People scampered down from the bleachers in a frightened rush. Hands gestured to the skies. I looked up and saw an enormous red globe, round with two shafts of white light, inching down toward us.

The police! I thought. "El Diabolo!" Tia Nolberta cried out. Or worse, the wrath of our angry, punishing God. Suddenly, the shafts of light targeted two wounded roosters that lay forgotten and bleeding on the ground. Their small, broken bodies glowed eerily for a few seconds.

Then, slowly, they both got up on their little chicken feet and began strutting around with robust, healthy enthusiasm. The light streaked back up to the red globe, which had now dulled to orange. Suddenly, at breathtaking speed, it streaked across the sky and disappeared over the horizon.

Tia Nolberta and Cristobal's wife were hysterical. They crossed themselves repeatedly and prayed in Spanish.

We piled into the station wagon and raced back to San Antonio, convinced that the orb had been either God or the devil. Regardless, that Saturday afternoon I confessed everything to Father Joe and told him about the orb through the confessional screen.

He advised me to pray my penance.

Two years after it happened, the UFO incident was still vivid in my adolescent mind. But I wished that those mysteriously healing shafts of light had touched my own dear mother as she lay dying of cancer in a hospital bed. Maybe the visitors with their magical out-of-this-world lights would have rooted out the budding germ of her disease and healed her as they had the two little broken roosters.

### SECOND PLACE

Name withheld by request

**I**t was the weekend before Christmas 1953, and most of the guys at our small base were in town. Japan in the early '50s was beautiful this time of year.

However, being detailed as one of those who must pull duty, I found it to be quite depressing. A gentle snow fell from an over-

cast sky onto the runway as Christmas chimes echoed from a distant chapel. This produced twice the chilling effect on me as I prepared for bed, hopeful of shaking my first cold of the season.

What happened next was to transform this into the most unforgettable night of my life.

Sometime later, my first recollection was that of awakening on the field. Standing under what appeared to be an aircraft, I turned to see my barracks silhouetted in the distance. Although clad only in T-shirt and shorts, I was oblivious to the elements and felt no embarrassment.

To my surprise, there was no feeling of cold as my bare feet met the steps of the telescoping ladder.

At the crew's prompting, I was guided through a blue haze onto the flight deck and seated in what resembled an upright dental chair.

As the entrance closed beneath us, illumination absorbed the blue, revealing a circular room about 50 feet in diameter. I suddenly became frightened and started to question what was happening.

**ONE OF MY** guides assured me everything would be explained and that I was not to worry. It was then I realized I understood him, even though his mouth had not moved.

My fear diminished somewhat as his mouth broadened into a smile revealing a full set of teeth.

He explained he was in command and that they were capable of speech in all languages, but preferred telepathy.

After assuring me I would not be hurt, used for experimentation or taken anywhere against my will, he introduced himself and his crew. Their names were simply for the purpose of communication and would not be subject to later recall. His reassurance that I was free to leave triggered euphoric reactions within me as they prepared to get under way.

To my surprise, there was no sound or sensation of motion as hundreds of different colored lights flashed on the control console which circled the room.

The crew of five conveyed a humanoid appearance in their tight, one-piece, metallic uniforms.

No one wore insignia or rank and all were the same height of about 5 feet, had short blond hair and blue eyes. Their leader seated himself next to me, thereby beginning the most memorable discourse of a lifetime.

I soon discovered one distinct advantage to telepathic communication. The need to explain a question is entirely eliminated, thereby saving precious time.

In answer to my first question, a large circular window on the deck slowly opened, projecting a glass-bottom-boat effect. "The screen on the console is for visual contact, but with this line of sight you may view your planet in a true perspective of what was, what is and what is to be."

He quickly responded to my puzzlement with an equally surprising assertion that they were capable of time travel.

"Have you not pondered the very origin of the universe or given thought to what must eventually happen to the Earth?" I had to respond in the affirmative, adding that my interest was not so much physical as it was political and philosophical.

"We have long perceived this."

**TO NO AVAIL**, I repeatedly thought the same questions until finally I vocalized them. Who are you? Where are you from? And finally, why me?

While awaiting an answer, I saw the Earth as no man would for almost another decade when Yuri Gagarin would orbit our planet. My host continued to ignore my inquiries as my view of the Earth changed

drastically.

The surface configuration became so distorted it was an unrecognizable void. "As you will recall from your studies, this is how the Earth appeared before it was formed." Suddenly I recalled reading the biblical account of creation in the book of Genesis. Was this truly how the Earth first appeared?

If this was a religious experience, why was it happening to me? What was the message I was to learn? Then a thundering voice deep within me said: "Void all conscious thought. Listen, concentrate and learn." This telepathic consciousness seemed to mesh with my total being creating an inescapable transcendent oneness.

I soon perceived things beyond my intellectual capacity to describe — wonderfully frightening things that would haunt me beyond the grave.

The Earth appeared in a continual state of metamorphosis as I saw it form, develop and become a white-hot bubbling mass. "This is the life cycle of your planet. There is nothing you can do to reverse it."

"The two major political forces are helpless. Place no trust in either of them. Nor is there any holy writ in existence whereby this may be precluded. Trust only in our return and we shall deliver you."

I have a vague recollection of tracking snow into the building as I returned. The only thing I am certain of is when I awoke there were wet leaves and spots of water on the floor of my room.

I hurriedly shaved and went to breakfast. Much to my delight, all symptoms of my cold had disappeared and I felt wonderfully at peace with the world. Not wishing to be considered part of the lunatic fringe, I thought it best I remain silent.

### THIRD PLACE

by Eduardo Perez

**F**ifty miles southeast of Dilley on a September day in 1979, three co-workers and I had what could only be explained as a UFO experience.

I was a rookie floor hand on a drilling rig.

Being rookie meant opening and closing all the gates between the oil-well location and the main gate at the end of a red-dirt county road.

As I closed the main gate, I heard a vehicle approach about 100 yards ahead.

When I walked up to the door of the crew-cab pickup, I saw what looked like a bus stopped about 100 feet away.

The only bus I could ever imagine being out there was an Immigration (and Naturalization Service) bus whose driver was lost.

I jumped in the back seat of the pickup and the driller told the derrick hand to proceed.

As the derrick hand tried to pull away from the gate, the pickup sputtered and died. We had moved only 3 feet from our previous spot.

After 10 minutes of checking the pickup to find the problem, we concluded the battery was dead.

Being a rookie, I was volunteered to ask the lost bus driver if it would be possible to get a boost. As I reluctantly approached the bus, I noticed it was much bigger and realized it was not a bus.

It was either an experimental aircraft or a UFO. I was about 10 feet from the craft now, so I had the first real good look at it.

The dark-gray body looked as though it was made of stainless steel. No visible wheels, no doors, no windows. It just hovered.

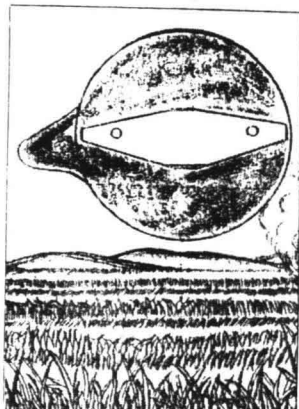
Green, yellow and white beams of light came from within. At this point, I decided to turn around and go back to the pickup.

**AS I TRIED** to turn, nothing happened. I had no control of my legs or feet. I was paralyzed in this position 10 feet from the craft. That lasted about 10 minutes, then the craft elevated straight up and flew off in a flash of light toward the west.

I was released from my state of paralysis and walked back to the pickup. I got in and asked my three co-workers if they could believe what had happened. Their response was unanimous. They, too, had experienced a state of paralysis.

As we regained composure, the derrick hand started the pickup. We continued our 65-mile trip back to Pearsall. Once there, and about to go our separate ways, we all agreed no one would believe us, and not to report our story.

This happened 9½ years ago. Occasionally, I visit Pearsall and see one of the guys I used to work with. We both cannot explain what happened that night. It's as if a small void exists in our memories. Ironically, it was an unforgettable experience. ■



Drawing by Mike Soohy

Sighting near Ebensburg.

## Cambria was UFO hotbed

By James W. Siehl  
The Tribune-Democrat

Cambria County had an extremely high number of unexplained UFO incidents in 1988, according to Stan Gordon of Greensburg, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU).

In his annual report, Mr. Gordon said information about unusual incidents was received from people in 25 other counties, as well as from Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey.

The sightings were reported by people of all walks of life, among them police officers and pilots, according to Mr. Gordon.

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

He said there is no explanation for 44 percent of the unprecedented 350 UFO cases and other strange incidents the state experienced in 1988, including numerous reports of encounters with the legendary Bigfoot and observations of black panthers and mountain lions.

There also were reports of giant footprints, unusual geological finds, beams of light from the sky coming from no apparent source, fireballs and strange animal killings.

Mr. Gordon said the wave of UFO sightings began in August 1987 and continues to date.

Some cases involve local power failures and reported landings or near-landings of objects — some with physical traces left behind.

"PASU also investigated a number of claims by state residents who felt that they had been temporarily abducted aboard a UFO, physically examined and then released," Mr. Gordon said.

Many of the sightings were concentrated in specific areas for a period of time, according to Mr. Gordon.

Fifty unusual incidents were reported in Cambria County last year, Mr. Gordon said, compared with four in 1987. Most reported sightings of UFOs, but five reported sightings of Bigfoot in the South Fork/New Germany area during August, he said.

Of those, 40 cases including the five Bigfoot sightings, remain a mystery, Mr. Gordon said.

Incidents reported in 1988 in other area counties totaled 1 in Blair; 7, Somerset; 3, Bedford; 15, Indiana; and 137, Westmoreland. Many of the cases reported in those counties have been explained and have been stable in recent years, except Indiana and Westmoreland, which experienced a number of sightings last year of Bigfoot along the Chestnut Mountain Ridge in the Ligonier, Latrobe and Derry areas.

Mr. Gordon said media coverage of his organization in Cambria and Westmoreland counties may account for some of the calls as people are made aware of the service. He said the organization receives practically no crank calls.

Below are some 1988 case highlights:

WORLD, Wenatchee, WA - Feb. 14, 1989

# There's another mystery divot

## But no clue on how it came to be

By PATRICIA WREN  
Okanogan County bureau

**TIMENTWA** — A second mystery hole and divot exists on the high plateau overlooking the Columbia River near the oddity that drew scores of scientists to the nearby Timm Brothers Ranch more than four years ago.

Two Omak duck hunters Sunday revealed the whereabouts of the second mystery slab and hole, half-buried under hard-packed snowdrifts on the 3,500-acre ranch of R.C. "Bud" Spence.

The oddity seems to have appeared at the same time the three-ton chunk of dirt took flight, arced 73 feet through the air and landed intact on wheatfield stubble in an area the Timms call Haystack Rocks.

The mystery hole and oblong divot on the Spence property is considerably smaller — measuring 8-by-3-by-1 feet, compared with the 10-by-7-by-2-foot chunk that took to the air on the Timm property about eight miles away.



JIM KAMMENGGA DIGS SNOW OUT OF MYSTERY HOLE

But it's every bit as eerie, say duck hunters Jim Kammenga and Dick Manning, who stumbled upon the geological oddity in the late fall of 1984 or 1985 — they can't remember which.

Pat Spence says she no-

ticed the strange oblong piece of sod shortly after the first one was publicized in November 1984.

But because no one ever figured out what caused the first mystery hole, Mrs. Spence figured, why bother

to tell anyone about the junior version less than a mile from her home?

Kammenga reported the junior-sized mystery hole after reading a story in The Wenatchee World on Sunday that said no one had come up with an explanation for the feature at Haystack Rocks.

Manning, a special education teacher at Omak, spotted it first while duck hunting, Kammenga said. "He says, 'You know, Jim, I'm going to show you something nobody else's going to believe.'"

But the two Omak duck hunters don't buy the theory advanced by the Timm brothers and sister, who are at least half-convinced that UFOs picked up the pear-shaped sod, rotated it counterclockwise 20 degrees and set it down intact.

Sally Timm, 70, her sons Rick and Pete and daughter Margaret Derting relate several stories dating from the 1950s to Jan. 30 and 31, 1988, about bizarre lights that dashed about the heavens and close to the terrain of this rocky plateau country.

Mrs. Spence, who lives with her family in the old Timentwa Post Office downhill from the oddity, says she's never seen the strange lights the Timms describe. "And I've lived here about 40 years — long enough to have seen something."

PEOPLE'S PRESS, Owatonna, MN - Feb. 17, 1989

# Seeing not necessarily believing

**OWATONNA** — It happened in the late fall or early spring. Although the details are burnt into my memory forever, the years have clouded the generalities.

I was 14; my best friend, Angie, was 15. We were baby-sitting my three cousins. It was about 8:45 p.m. on a Saturday, and the five of us were watching "The Love Boat" in the family room on the lower level of my aunt and uncle's split-level home.

Angie and I noticed some white lights flash in the ground-level window behind the sofa, and we assumed the parents had returned early for some reason. We waited, but nobody entered the house. We then decided it must've been headlights from a car going to the only other house on that secluded dirt road in Hermantown, about a block off a dark main street.

When I noticed the lights again, I became frustrated, thinking Angie's older sister was trying to scare us. (Her family lived less than a block away.) Without saying a word, I rose from the sofa, walked up the stairs, through the front door and out into the brisk night air in my stocking feet.

I walked down a concrete path toward the driveway and noticed lights coming from the side of the house. Angie came out the door carrying the youngest child and being followed by the other two.

In the middle of the walkway, we stood transfixed, gazing silently at an object hovering quietly just above the leafless trees behind the house about 40 yards away. It wasn't a helicopter,



KELLY PEARSON  
Staff reporter

weather balloon or any type of plane I'd ever seen. I can only remember feeling apprehensive, amazed and confused as we stood there for the next 90 seconds.

My oldest cousin, then 7, broke the quiet with a sort of frightened whine that she was cold and wanted to go back inside.

The object, which I hesitate to describe here, rose into the purplish-blue, clear night sky and, in one silent glide, zipped into the distance until it became a tiny dot, indiscernible from the stars. It was the fastest moving object I'd ever seen.

As soon as it was out of sight, Angie and I turned to each other, asking in a whisper if we'd witnessed the same scene. We had.

Once back inside the house, we began wondering to whom and how we should report the incident. The police? The airport? The radio station? As teen-agers who'd witnessed something unbelievable, we decided no one would believe us, nor could anyone do anything about it.

Until today, I'd never told this story to anyone except my father

and a few close friends, but I was reminded of it recently when I heard of a similar sighting in Steele County.

About 10 p.m. last Saturday, the Law Enforcement Center received two reports from 16-year-old girls who said they saw an unidentified flying object southeast of Owatonna, three miles south of Pratt.

One of those girls, Marie Nesseth, 130 Barry Drive, told a LEC dispatcher that something square appeared to follow her car for about three minutes and flew off. She said the object had green lights in the corners and rainbow-colored lights spinning in the center.

In a phone interview Thursday, Nesseth said she was with three friends at the time, but they couldn't tell how far away the object was. They pulled the car to the side of the road, got out and watched the object until it flew off. Nesseth said she and her friends didn't want to think it was something from another planet, but couldn't think of another explanation.

According to Sheriff Bill Hildebrandt, deputies investigated the report but found nothing, and the dispatcher couldn't contact the flight service in Rochester that evening. "So we can't confirm it or say that it didn't happen," he said.

"It's probably some kind of dumb joke; you know how kids are," said Nesseth's mother, Emma.

Hildebrandt said Saturday's unexplained sightings were the first reported in several years,

adding no other counties reported similar sightings that night.

These types of reports are rare locally but usually turn out to be airplanes — which have red and green strobe lights on their wings — seen at an angle, according to Hildebrandt.

Many reports also turn out to be weather balloons or Soviet or U.S. spacecrafts flashing across the sky, said Gary Alan Fine, a professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota who specializes in rumors.

Fine said UFO sightings come in clumps and there was a rash of them about three years ago. He suggested this is due to the power of suggestion. "There are probably things up in the sky we can't identify. It's only when we begin looking for them we realize how many there are."

There are certainly unidentified flying objects (UFOs), but the debate is whether they are flying saucers from other planets or something of this earth. It's fair to say there hasn't been any kind of proof that earth is being visited by alien creatures, Fine said.

Whether the girls saw an alien craft, weather balloon or simply called in a hoax, officials may never know. Hildebrandt noted, however, that people phoning police with false reports of emergencies or serious crimes can be charged with false reporting.

I can't explain what I saw. I never reported it. In fact, I can't even prove it happened. No one can prove it didn't. But sometimes, on clear nights, when I look at all the stars in the sky, I just wonder.

**February** — A 60-foot-long object with several rows of lights, described by some as looking like a small cruise ship in the sky, was seen by numerous independent observers between 7:45 and 8:30 p.m. in a 10-mile area bordering Cambria and Somerset counties. The object passed over cars and trees — at times between 50 and

100 feet above the ground. It emitted only a slight humming sound and at times projected multiple beams of light toward the ground.

**July** — Numerous UFO sightings were reported in Indiana County during the month near the electric generating station near Homer City. For several weeks, residents reported

slowly dropping fireballs and strange sounds. On the night of July 17, several witnesses observed two objects with red and green flashing lights make two close passes near the facility. Later, one of the objects made two passes about 200 feet above the ground. It was described as circular and about the size of a large car with

four lighted, leg-like projections on the bottom.

**Sept. 2** — Ebensburg R.D. On a sunny afternoon, a man sitting by a pond at his rural residence was startled to see an orange/red spherical object come out of the sky from the north.

CR: S. Gordon





# It came from outer space

By  
BARBARA MCSWEENEY

**TALES of dwarfs running about in green overalls, taking specimens from stunned earthlings might bring a smile to anyone's lips.**

Not, though, to those of Beckenham author, Timothy Good, whose book "Above Top Secret" has just appeared in paperback.

A man who relishes these tales of the unexpected, he frankly admits that some people are "compulsive liars", and that of others "you can't believe half of what they say".

Yet, he claims, many are credible witnesses.



Timothy Good: "Beam me up, Scotty"

## 'World's top people have secretly contacted ETs'

"After all, what have they got to gain except ridicule?"

Aged 47, his interest in UFOs dates back to his early teens, when a passion for aviation and space drew him to a book which detailed sightings by pilots, missile experts and air traffic controllers.

Working all over the world as a musician, he has gathered a huge amount of evidence for the book, which took two years to write but absorbed twenty years of research.

His first book, a Vanity Press publication, came out in 1983.

"George Adamski — The Untold Story" investigates the claims of an American to have filmed a 25 ft spaceship gently humming in a friend's front yard.

A semi-professional photographer himself, Mr Good rarely goes anywhere without his camera.

He was appalled to find he had forgotten it on 15 December 1980, when, walking home to his Beckenham flat, he suddenly saw a motionless, star-like object in the wrong position for a planet.

"I dashed the remaining distance home to observe it through my telescope and take photographs and movie film."

But, by the time he reached the window, it had vanished.

"Officials explained it away as a meteorite, but a meteorite doesn't split and regroup the way this did."

He would have been more disappointed, if he had not already had an exciting glimpse of the unknown 17 years earlier.

"We were listening to a record, when my mother called us into the garden."

"At first I thought it was a planet or a balloon, but through binoculars I could see it was a sharp-edged object, translucent like glass."

"All the neighbours came out onto the street, and we sat in deckchairs watching it, until it went behind a cloud and disappeared."



"The Air Ministry said it was probably a research balloon from the continent, but that does not explain how it stayed so still."

Mr Good is used to being ridiculed, particularly in the serious media.

"But anyone who spends more than an hour with me, talking about the subject, will take me seriously."

Recently he gave a talk in the USSR, and will be lecturing in the States three times this year.

At home he has talked to the Young Conservatives, the Rotary Club and the Round Table.

"People usually begin with scepticism, and end with astonishment at the wealth of evidence."

His aim in writing "Above Top Secret" was "to alert the media to the fact that something of unprecedented significance was happening."

This is not just the reality of extra-terrestrial visits, he says, but the reality that top level people all over the world believe in them, have been in contact with them, and are concealing what they know.

The US, he claims, is not only in possession of a crashed space ship, but of four humanoid bodies found in it.

Exactly who is concealing what is not entirely clear, since "UFOs ARE Classified even higher than the H-Bomb."

And he says, "It's doubtful if many people in government itself know what is going on."

This puts the spotlight on military and intelligence agencies.

"I think I have been able to prove the case."

But he has a frightening warning: "Not all extra-terrestrials may have our best interests at heart."

"They may be creating a hybrid: samples of blood, ova and sperm have all been taken from people."

"If we were told the truth, though, we'd learn to live with it — just like we've learnt to live with the threat of nuclear war."

"Above Top Secret" is published by Grafton Books at £5.99. Signed copies are available in the Beckenham Bookshop.

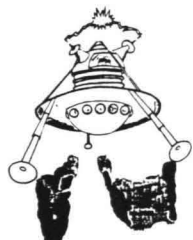
## The night we saw 'a flying chandelier'

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object with pulsating lights has been reported over Swindon.

From their bedroom window on Poplar Avenue, Pinehurst, James and Doris Fisher watched the object for more than 20 minutes.

Said Mr Fisher: "It was in the early hours of Friday that we saw it — from ten minutes to one until ten past."

"It was like a chandelier hanging in the sky with red and green lights which changed brightness," said Mr Fisher, who is retired.



"It was a mass of lights and I called my wife who said it did look just like a chandelier."

"It was in a south westerly direction and high in the sky."

● An artist's impression of the UFO reported over the Cotswolds. Among the witnesses was a policeman.

"It was very hard to tell how large it was or how far away."

"I wanted to report it to the police but I thought they would think that I was a fool."

RAF Lyneham lies south west of Swindon but a spokesman there said he was not aware of any aircraft that could have resulted in such a sighting.

Meanwhile in the Cotswolds, several people, including a police constable, reported seeing a UFO.

A brightly lit object was spotted by motorists driving along the A46 near Stroud.

Again there were a number of lights.

A spokesman for Gloucestershire police said the object had been described as larger than a helicopter, with more lights than a plane. "There were three green lights and the beams shone down in the form of a tripod," he said.

Sgt Parr said that people driving along the road had been so impressed by the sighting just after 9.00 pm on Thursday that they called into a police station and reported the matter.

He said that later a policeman, who had been about a mile away from the road, had reported seeing the triangular shaped object.

All witnesses said the mysterious object disappeared so suddenly that they were not able to say in which direction it had gone.

CR: T. Good

WEST BRITON, Truro, England — Oct. 27, 1988  
CR: T. Good

## Coming and going in a twinkling

WHILE walking my dog at about 7.35 this evening, (October 20), I saw a twinkling light in the sky towards Pool and Carn Brea. It was like a star, but much bigger and brighter, travelling at a high speed away from me. It then disappeared. After a few seconds, the "object" reappeared, towards Portreath, disappearing again to reappear towards the Redruth area.

This is the third time in six months I have seen this object in the sky, always travelling at high speed, disappearing then reappearing in a split second in an entirely different location.

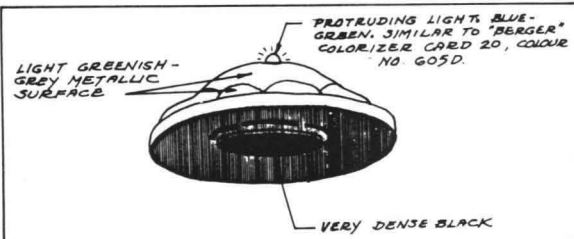
Has anyone else seen this object, or can anyone explain it to me?

My son saw it once when with me, but it disappeared so quickly he was unable to explain it. It did not reappear that evening.

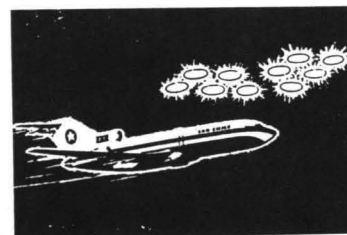
It is far too fast for a plane, and changes direction too often. It is too big for a falling star.

I would love to think I've seen a UFO — but if it isn't, then what is it?

Mrs. I. Warren  
(Not prone to fantasy)  
Camborne



An artist's impression of a UFO seen by a woman police constable near Isfield, Sussex, in 1977.



Thirty minute sighting by Captain Ricardo France and crew aboard Lan-Chile Flight 892 over Chile on December 28-29, 1971 (UFO News, Japan).



Sketch by aircraft illustrator Denis Crowe of object he saw taking off from Vaucluse Beach, Sydney, on July 19, 1965.

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England  
Feb. 23, 1989 CR: T. Good

## UFO probe into discs

UFO researchers are investigating a motorist's claim that he saw metallic discs flying down East Mayne, Basildon.

The 12-inch diameter discs were moving at about three feet above the road and 25 feet behind the car in front.

The same day, Saturday, five white objects and red, green and blue lights were seen over Southend. At one stage a stream of light was beamed down on to the sea.

Anyone else who had sightings is asked to contact the UFO hotline on Basildon 286079.

## Children see UFO

BAFFLING bright lights zooming across the sky have put Berkshire on UFO alert.

Five youngsters say they saw a mysterious object hurtling through the skies when they were coming home from a friend's house in Tilehurst last night.

They say it was long, with green and red flashing lights.

Simon Baker, aged 15, of Tilehurst, said: "I was really frightened. This long thing started hovering over the sky."

## I spotted UFO at 5.30 a.m.

AFTER receiving a cutting from the Echo (October 15), I am glad to hear that I am not the only person to spot the UFO in the early hours of the morning.

I spotted it on Friday, October 7, at 5.30 a.m. coming up from Beighton and darting (not turning) towards Sheffield. The very same one as your reader described, round with flashing lights going around it and no sound whatsoever.

Later in the day I rang the local paper to see if there had been any more sightings.

They said there had been more sightings around Rotherham a few days earlier, and they had written articles on it, saying it was the "Army" doing tests. I have also heard that it was the Americans doing tests.

I think it's the Aliens doing tests on us.

P.S.: I am a post lady up at 5.25 a.m. and not in the habit of seeing things or making up stories.

J.B.

Swallowstone  
Sheffield

CR: T. Good

EVENING POST, Reading, England  
Nov. 3, 1988 CR: T. Good

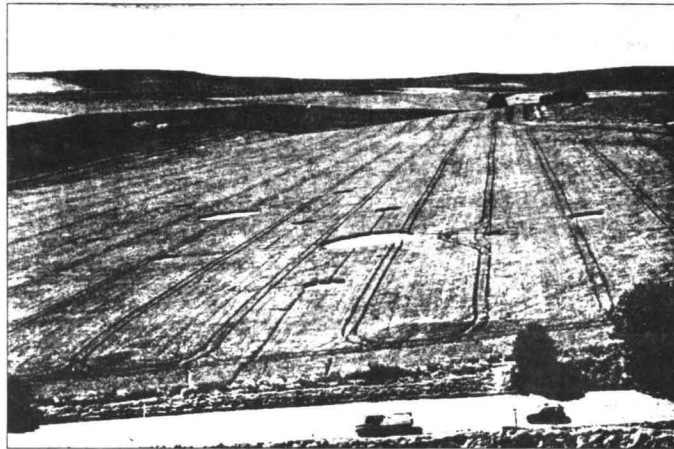
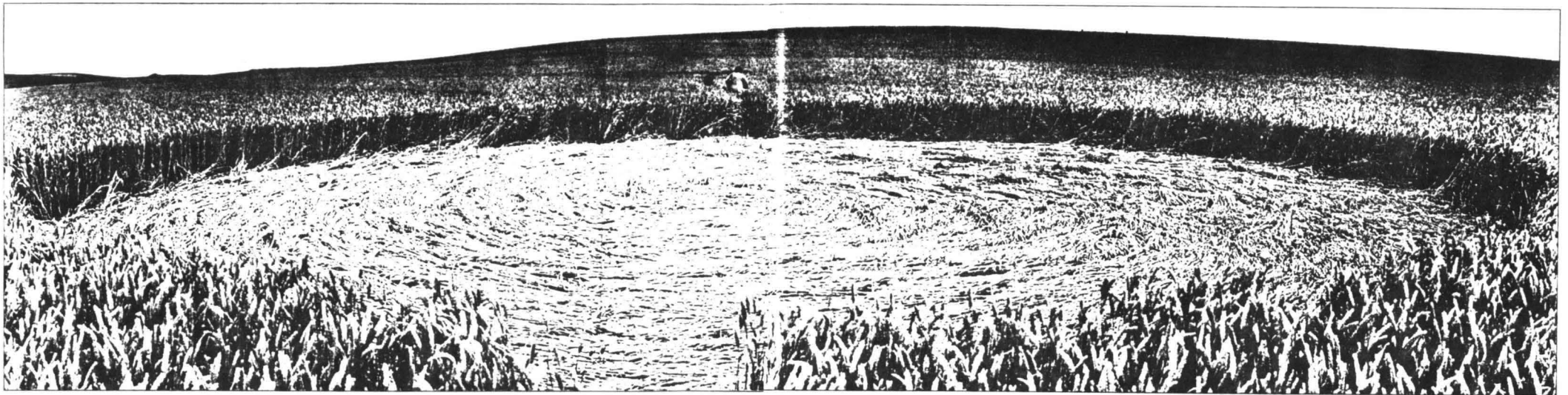
ECHO, Sunderland, England  
Nov. 8, 1988

ADVERTISER, London (?), England — March 17, 1989 CR: T. Good

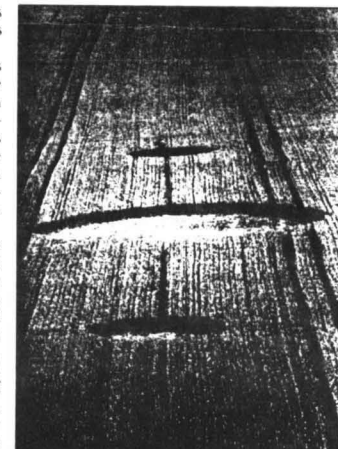
# GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES

by RALPH NOYES

Scientists remain baffled by the mysterious circles appearing in cornfields in southern England. First noted in 1980, the phenomenon, in which circular areas of corn are flattened, is increasing, not only in the number of circles appearing but in the complexity of patterns they form.



(Top) 1—The large central circle in a quintuplet of circles in a much-troubled field next to the A4 near Silbury Hill, Wiltshire. (Above) 2—View of the whole field



3—The central circle and its two outliers in the same field

THEY began again in May 1988, the circular patterns of disturbance which have been turning up in crop fields, mainly in southern England, since at least 1980. To some local farmers—Lt-Cdr. Henry Bruce, for example, who farms near Winchester—they now seem as regular as the cuckoo, as predictable (and exasperating) as untimely frost. To others who are not so regularly haunted, these mysterious circles have come as a great surprise. On a farm near Yatesbury in Wiltshire four were discovered in a field of barley, shortly before combining last year.

All farmers, of course, are familiar with the damage done to standing crops by wind, rain, summer whirlwinds and thoughtless visitors. The pliable crops to which we give the generic name of corn are particularly vulnerable; and it cannot be coincidence that the disturbances with which this article deals have occurred mainly in cornfields and mostly between May and September, when bad weather does most damage to such crops. But weather and mankind tend to leave ragged patches of no particular shape, not precisely defined areas of flattened crops, swirled into nearly perfect circles and looking as if a giant biscuit-cutter has been used to make them. Still less do we expect complex patterns of circles.

But this is what has been happening since 1980. In that year, single circles, each about 60ft in diameter, were found in three fields of grain near Westbury. They were reported in the *Wiltshire Times*, and two were carefully surveyed. Writing in his internationally respected *Journal of Meteorology*, Dr G. T. Meaden of Bradford-on-Avon concluded that we might be

witnessing the effects of a kind of summer whirlwind; but nothing like it seems to have come to scientific attention before.

In 1981 a row of three circles was found in a field near Winchester, the central one about 60ft in diameter, the other two about 25ft each. Suspicion was briefly directed at Army helicopters, but careful enquiries ruled that out.

Since then the phenomenon has blossomed. Not only are more of these disturbances (beautiful to behold though

expensive for the unfortunate farmer), appearing each year but the patterns into which they fall are also becoming more elaborate. As well as single circles of several sizes, there are doublets and triplets of circles, some of the triplets being laid out in a triangle. There have been a number of quintuplets—a large central circle surrounded by four smaller ones, regularly placed. There have been quadruplets, and one or two irregular "swarms". Most surprising of all have

been the ringed circles—simple circles contained within a ring or even two rings of disturbance.

In all these complex arrangements there are interesting combinations of the "swirl" of the grain—for example, a central circle swirled clockwise but surrounded by a ring in which the grain lies anti-clockwise. More than 400 circles have been reported since 1980, and more than a dozen different patterns have been recorded, 1988 being perhaps the most remarkable year so far.

The highlight was the discovery on July 15 of a quintuplet of circles in a field just across the A4 from the foot of Silbury Hill, near Avebury, Wiltshire. This was followed by the appearance of a second quintuplet about 10 days later, followed a week after that by three simple circles, bringing the total to 13 in this unusually troubled field (which lies in the full gaze of one of the busiest roads in Wiltshire). During the same summer, and also near Avebury, a swarm of 13 circles turned up in the area of Yatesbury; and quintuplets were found on Allington Down and near Beckhampton, both in Wiltshire.

Elsewhere, that haunted field of Lt-Cdr. Bruce's near Winchester suffered first a triplet of circles and then a striking "double-ringer", the traces of which could still be clearly seen after combining. There were occurrences farther afield, too, not only in Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire but also in Leicestershire (one) and Suffolk (one), and two or three of them have exhibited patterns that have not been seen before.

The most determined drive towards a solution to the puzzle has been made by Dr

Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1LD (£1.60 per month, inclusive of postage).

Other, wilder, guesses abound. The western counties of England, where these things have mainly been observed so far, are engagingly haunted territory, rich in henges and stone circles, steeped in romantic legends, criss-crossed by supposed "ley lines", haunted by ufologists (if not UFOs), redolent of some of the best folk-tales outside the Celtic borders. It would have been astounding if we had not had some theories of a far stranger kind than atmospheric physics can offer. (A bibliography is available, free, from me, c/o COUNTRY LIFE.)

At the other end of the spectrum, down-to-earth respondents to the many articles which have appeared in the national and local press have offered a range of earth-bound hypotheses: mating hedgehogs; vixens making nests for their young; the summer rituals of the rural British; the effects of a virulent fungus (possessing geometrical tendencies on a large scale); and military experiments.

The only certainty at present is that the phenomenon exists and will doubtless continue to surprise us. Any opinions, photographs and factual reports (obtained without further disturbing the unfortunate farmers who suffer these things) will be gratefully received and passed on immediately to experts. Particularly welcome would be well-authenticated reports from earlier than 1980 and from areas outside the West Country.

Circular Evidence by Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado is to be published in June by Bloomsbury Press.

Photographs: 1, 2, the author; 3, G. T. Meaden.

## Humming black cigar over town sparks UFO skywatch plan

SOUTHERND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - Oct. 31, 1988 CR: T. Good

A MASS skywatch may be held in Southend following an unprecedented number of calls about unidentified objects.

The East Anglian branch of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association had another 26

calls over the weekend after their hot line number was published at the end of an Echo feature about them. Now spokesman Ron West said he is considering a mass night watch on Sunday from 8 pm to 11 pm.

From a pm to 11 pm, BUFORA from the Southend and Basildon area about lights and at 1.25 am on Sunday three people said they had been watching a hovering light over Southend. At 2.30 am there was another call from watchers in Rayleigh to say they had seen a hovering light.

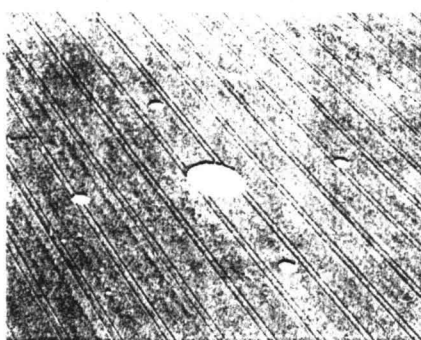
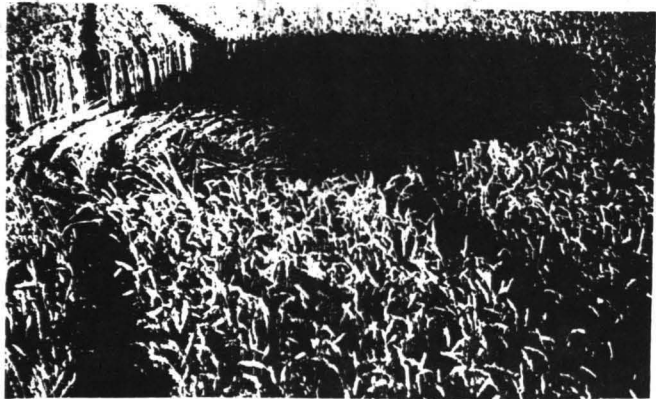
At 3.30 am six people said they had watched and heard a black cigar

shaped object which was humming. They reported it for 10 minutes before it disappeared towards London.

At 4 am the people said they had been watching an object that had been making a swishing noise.

At 4.30 am others saw a blue light hovering over Southend.





● Left: A circle of wheat flattened by a descending vortex.  
Above: An example of a quintuplet circle set seen from the air.

# Riddle of the corn rings unravelled by the wind

IN THE last nine years more than 400 mysterious corn circles have been reported in fields throughout the South of England. The phenomena — described by experts as one of the greatest mysteries of the English countryside — develops suddenly in standing crops.

Enormous swathes, sometimes comprising intricate circular patterns, are cut into fields of cereals and other arable crops such as oilseed rape and sugar beet.

A number of people have seriously believed the phenomena is the result of UFOs taking off and landing. Such illusions are now being unmercifully destroyed.

No footsteps or any other disturbance exists near the circular patterns which rules

out hoaxers, vandals or animal interference.

Many of the circles have obviously gone unreported and one expert who is making an intensive study of them is appealing for help from farmers in Suffolk and Essex who have perhaps been mystified by similar occurrences in their fields.

Dr. Terence Meaden, of the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation, says there is nothing sinister about the circular swathes cut into standing crops.

"You can cut out any extra-terrestrial explanation," he told me. "They are caused by natural vortices formed in the air in a special and unusual way."

Beyond that Dr. Meaden is more guarded, probably because he is in the middle of writing a book which he promises will reveal more



By Peter Hopper  
Agricultural editor

facts about his fascinating research when it is published in about a year's time.

However, he did assure me that there is much more to the mystery than meets the eye.

The difficulty about appeals to the public for information, particularly to farmers, was that there was usually very little forthcoming, possibly because of the dangers of attracting

unwelcome attention to crops near to harvest.

Perhaps a case in point was when an unexplained circle appeared in a sugar beet field near Bury St. Edmunds last September, although Dr. Meaden said he had only heard about this second-hand and had no further information about it.

"The trouble is East Anglia is very flat," he commented. "There are two things about this: to see these circles properly you need an angle, and it is my belief that they occur more frequently in hilly regions.

Wind flow is collected by hills, so vortices are more likely to occur in those regions. But Dr. Meaden does not rule out occurrences in crops on less elevated areas, that is why he requires information from the region's farmers.

He is appealing particularly to owners of light aircraft to keep a close watch on cereal crops in July and August; it is just before harvest that they are most vulnerable to vortices.

Similarly, the critical time for oilseed rape in May, again shortly before harvest. Two circles that appeared in rape crops in 1987, both in May. Standing crops pushed over at a vulnerable time stay like that until harvest, he says.

The most vortices which have come to his attention in one year is 110, but Dr. Meaden believes there must be at least 500 occurring annually throughout Britain.

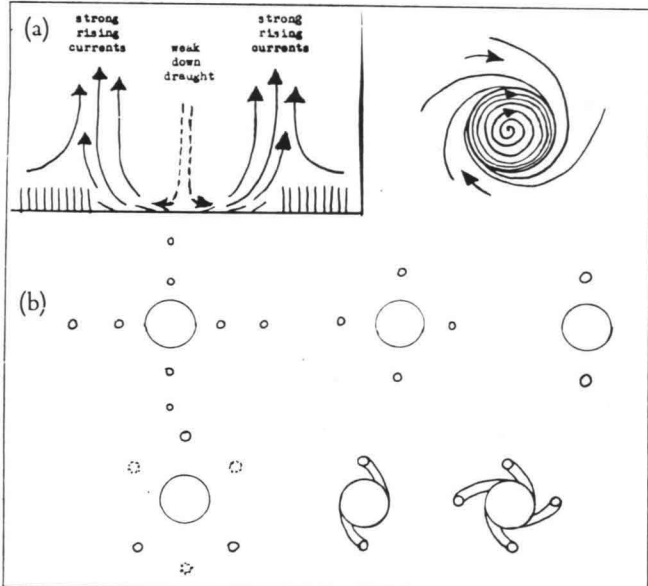
In a technical article on the subject in "Weather," the official magazine of the Royal Meteorological Society, Dr. Meaden says in concluding remarks that of the several types of vortex damage patterns found in fields of growing crops, the commonest was the plain circle, ranging in size from 2.5 metres to more than 20 metres across.

The duration of the vortex after striking a crop appears to be brief, a matter of a few seconds, and the energy of the

system is soon expended," he comments.

A variation on the plain circle is the circle with a ring around it. However, the most impressive of the crop circle systems formed by atmospheric vortices concerns quintuplet sets. The diameter of the central circle in the instances studied has varied from 10 to 17 metres across while the smaller circles which are usually nearly equal to each other in size have ranged from less than 3 metres to 8 or 9 metres across.

Photographs used are by courtesy of "Weather" and are obtainable by non-members of the RMS from James Glaisher House, Grenville Place, Bracknell, Berkshire.



● (a) Side and plan-views of the windflow within a circle forming vortex; (b) some possible vortex patterns, known and unknown.

# Schoolboy reports his second UFO

TWO teenage boys reported seeing round, flat objects, with flashing, blue, red and white lights speeding across the skies above Little Chalfont last week.

The UFO sighting was made by Luke Nicholls, aged 12, and Benny Haynes, 13, as they were playing football in Westwood Park with four friends at around 5pm on Sunday.

Four of the boys ran away, frightened, after they saw the two objects. But Luke and Benny, although scared, were compelled to stay and watch.

"We looked up in the sky and there were these things like

planes. When we looked up again they were in a totally different place," Luke said.

"They came really close to us and got really big, really quickly. There were lots of bright little red, blue and white lights, going round quickly. They were all flashing together," Luke said.

"When we saw it first, four of the boys ran away. Benny and I started walking home and as we were walking, we looked back and from the other way, the objects came back. They were not aeroplanes, I've seen quite a lot of them in the sky and aeroplane lights don't flash like that. These were going backwards and forwards too, aeroplanes can't do that either," Luke said.

Luke told his parents about what he had seen. They were not sceptical because Luke had once before told them he had seen a UFO and they had not believed him until the next day when a report in a national

newspaper had described the same objects Luke had seen.

This time, Luke's father called the police: "I don't think they believed me," said Luke. "I'm not saying what they were. I'm just saying what I saw."

BUCKS. EXAMINER, Chesham, England

Feb. 10, 1989 CR: T. Good

ESSEX CHRONICLE, Chelmsford, England

March 3, 1989 CR: T. Good

# More strange sky sightings

ANOTHER batch of UFO sightings over Chelmsford have been reported by flying object investigators East Anglian UFO.

They are the latest in a line of sightings by witnesses since the end of January.

The inverted triangle of lights seen in the area on January 28 and 29 were spotted again on February 17 at Springfield between 8.30 and 9pm.

And a large, glowing orange ball was witnessed over the county town at 11.30pm on February 15.

UFO investigator Ron West commented: "There must have been lots of people who saw that one."

But the strangest sighting was the 12" metallic disk followed by a Chelmsford man driving towards his home town on February 20.

The man was 75 yards behind the car in front of him when the disk appeared as he drove along the A12 from Brentwood. It followed the car at a height of three feet before vanishing after ten minutes.

White glowing balls were seen heading towards Chelmsford at 8.45pm on Monday.

Anyone who witnessed these incidents can contact the UFO Hotline on Basildon 286079.



GORDON BROWN: did he see a UFO during the match?

# Gordon has a Roker Park goal!

GORDON BROWN is a man with a mission — trying to crack the mystery of a UFO spotted hovering over Roker Park football ground during a match.

Sixty-year-old Gordon, from Cleadon, has been intrigued ever since he witnessed the object more than 37 years ago.

Now he is appealing for anyone else who saw it during the game between Sunderland and Portsmouth on September 22, 1951, to get in touch.

Gordon, then a soldier on leave, was in the crowd when a man next to him pointed out an object high in the clear blue sky.

The object, which Gordon describes as looking like two soup plates stuck together, gradually dropped to about 10,000 feet before zig-zagging away upwards at incredible speed, and disappearing.

All in all, the sighting, which started in the first half, lasted some 20 to 30 minutes.

Gordon, who is convinced he saw a "flying saucer," said: "I have never seen anything like it."

Anyone with information should contact Dicky on Wearside 534 3011 extension 46.

EVENING ADVERTISER, Swindon, England

March 4, 1989 CR: T. Good

# Another UFO mystery

The latest in a spate of UFO sightings has been reported by work colleagues Howard Carey and Roy Townsend.

The Austin Rover workers saw a round, brightly lit object travelling northwards over Swindon.

"I have never before seen anything that could not have been explained," said Mr Carey, who lives in Dore Road, Upper Stratton.

"But I just don't know what this was."

"My mate shouted at me to look up at the sky and coming over from

the Shrivenham Road area was a light.

"At first I thought it was a Hercules but there was no noise."

"It was bathed in a whiteish glow and had a very irregular shape."

"There was an intense blue light at the front which pulsed."

"It veered to the right and to the left and then headed off towards Cirencester at a faster speed."

Fellow worker Roy Townsend, of Alfred Street, Swindon, said: "Last night something went over and I just don't know what it was."

# Guatemalans are experiencing encounters of unexplained kind

by Vicki Barker  
Baltimore Sun

EL PROGRESO, Guatemala — Mysterious lights have been appearing in the sky over eastern Guatemala nearly every night for the past month. They have brought thousands of sightseers to this mountainous region, dominated by the headlines of the country's newspapers and become the national preoccupation of the land.

Beside photographs of "disappeared" people, above articles about battered corpses dumped on rural roadsides, newspaper headlines ask, "What are the true facts about UFOs?" Pictures are displayed with captions such as, "UFO seen in the area of El Progreso last night." Readers feast on the eyewitness accounts of doctors, lawyers, pilots, police officers, engineers and private citizens.

"We were able to observe the UFO (unidentified flying object) with absolute clarity," reads a typical account. "It suddenly emitted a powerful light and passed about two kilometers away from us. It had a number of lights below, in the rear and above, and it made no sound."

The lights, when they appear, show up between 7:50 p.m. and 8:20 p.m. Every evening about that time, hundreds of people stream into this area, about an hour's drive from Guatemala City, to see the UFOs for themselves.

"We came from the capital because we wanted to see for ourselves what these things might be," said Roderico Fretana, an unemployed father of three. "Do I believe in visitors from other worlds? Yes, I believe the possibility exists."

"We've had other phenomena like this before here," said the Rev.

Antonio Quinones, a Roman Catholic priest.

"Before the 1976 earthquake, the water level rose in this area, and lights appeared then, too."

One night, as 7:50 approached, people began scanning the eastern skies.

Suddenly, someone shouted: "There it is!"

A pulsing white light appeared over the mountains. As it approached, a group of women cried, "It's a UFO!"

"It's an airplane," said a small boy standing with them.

"No, it's a UFO," one of the women said.

"It's a helicopter," the child insisted.

"But listen, it's not making any noise. It's a UFO," the woman said.

"A UFO! A UFO!" the child cried.

The light passed across a broad valley several miles from the on-lookers and disappeared behind a mountain range. About 20 minutes later, another light winked. Then the skies were empty of everything but the stars.

At 8:20 p.m., the crowd began to disperse. Some people wondered whether they had simply seen a commercial airliner making the Panama-Mexico City run. But most seemed convinced that they had had an encounter with the unexplained.

James Baillieu, a law student from Melbourne, Australia, said, "I was looking at it through binoculars. It had two bright lights, one red, and a wedge-shaped tail.

"It looked like an airplane, but it was much bigger than an airplane."

Guatemala is a nation with a largely illiterate population. It has three active volcanoes, frequent earthquakes, an active guerrilla insurgency and a military with a

well-earned reputation for random violence. This potent brew of man-made and natural calamities keeps aboil a lively canon of modern folklore. The UFOs are being seen through the prism of that folklore.

Thus, the lights are heralding another earthquake; they are responsible for the winter's record cold temperatures; they are drawn to Mayan ruins in the area; they are drawn to a modern cement factory in the area.

More educated guesses — that is, the guesses of the more educated — suggest that the aircraft are international gunrunners, drug traffickers or military aircraft of some non-Central American nation.

Three observation posts have been set up around El Progreso, and the police and air force are investigating.

Officially, the United States has no position on the UFOs, although one embassy spokesman said that the reports are not being taken very seriously.

Guatemala's American community, too, seems diverted but unconvinced.

"Sure, I saw one of those UFOs just last night," said the bartender at an American expatriate hangout. "Elvis was driving that sucker."

Estuardo Velasquez, the director of the government's Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology, conceded that institute observers had detected the presence of some kind of aircraft in the region. But he was not about to jump aboard the flying-saucer bandwagon.

"The truth is that here at the institute we only believe what we can see. People are saying all kinds of different things about these machines, but that doesn't mean they're true."

## UFO men probe V-shape spinner

UFO investigators are interviewing a Rochford man who saw a V-shaped object spinning in different directions.

At one stage the noiseless object remained still in the night sky and then a red light left it, returned and the object disappeared.

The mystery craft, whose lights changed from blue to white, red and an orangey red, was seen by the 43-year-old Rochford man about 9pm on Monday.

He asked to remain anonymous in case his

friends ribbed him too much.

Southend airport deputy director John Burton said there was no unusual air activity on Monday night.

He said the coloured lights would have been aircraft re-equipped with strobe-type lights for better visual effect. They would look like a rotating disc.

UFO investigators had 27 calls over the weekend about lights.

The UFO hotline is on Basildon 286079.

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England  
Feb. 9, 1989 CR: T. Good

## Mystery UFO at Wingfield

A baffled Wingfield housewife saw something definitely fish in the sky and she returned from a tea-time visit to the chippy.

For she believes she saw a UFO flying across the sky above her.

The sighting took place at around 6pm as the woman strolled back to her Wingfield home from the shops.

"It was a cylindrical shape with white lights underneath and blue and orange lights moving round the top," she said.

"It moved quickly around the sky and then shot off at great speed. I don't think it was a plane because there was no noise."

Her daughter, who was playing with friends nearby, also saw the strange craft.

Rotherham UFO investigator Mick Hanson said that the sighting was unusual for the area and could possibly have been an aircraft.

He said that the nearest UFO's similar to the Wingfield case were a cone shape seen in Rawmarsh and a rectangle seen in the Blackburn area. Bright orange lights were most common for the Rotherham area although cylinders had been spotted in other parts of the country.

ADVERTISER, Yorkshire, England  
Nov. 4, 1988 CR: T. Good

THE HINDU, Bangalore, India - Oct. 12, 1988

## 'India had a superior civilisation'

BANGALORE, Oct. 11.

India may have had a superior civilisation with possible contacts with extra-terrestrial visitors, and the flying devices called 'Vimanas' described in ancient Indian texts may underline their possible connections with today's aerospace technology, an Italian scientist told the World Space Conference here today.

Dr. Roberto Pinotti asked the delegates to examine in detail the Hindu texts instead of dismissing 'all the Vimana descriptions and traditions as mere myth.'

"The importance of such studies and investigations could prove to be shocking for today's man because the existence of flying devices beyond mythology can only be explained with a forgotten superior civilisation on earth," he said.

Pointing out that Indian Gods and heroes fought in the skies using piloted vehicles with terrible weapons, Dr. Pinotti said they were similar to modern jet-propelled flying machines.

32 secrets: He said certain descriptions of the Vimanas seemed 'too detailed and technical in nature to be labelled as myth.' He cited various texts to show there were 32 secrets relating to the operation of Vimanas, some of which could be compared to modern day use of radar, solar energy and photography.

Quoting from 'Vymanika Shastra,' he said the ancient flying devices of India were

made from special heat absorbing metals named 'Somaka, Soundalika and Mourthwika.'

He said the text also discussed the seven kinds of mirror and lenses installed aboard for defensive and offensive uses. The so-called 'Pinjala Mirror' offered a sort of 'visual shield' preventing the pilots from being blinded by 'evil rays' and the weapon 'Marika' used to shoot enemy aircraft 'does not seem too different from what we today call laser technology,' he said.

According to the Italian expert, the 'principles of propulsion as far as the descriptions were concerned, might be defined as electrical and chemical but solar energy was also involved.

For instance, the 'Tripura Vimana' mentioned in 'Vymanika Shastra' was a large craft operated by 'motive power generated by solar rays,' Dr. Pinotti said, adding 'its elongated form was purely much closer to that of a modern blimp.'

Sophisticated design: According to Dr. Pinotti, the huge 'Shakuna Vimana' described in the text 'might be defined as a cross between a plane and a rocket of our times and its design might remind one of today's space shuttle.'

'Surely, it expresses the most complex and sophisticated aeronautical design among all the other descriptions of

Vimanas mentioned in the 'Vymanika Shastra,' he said. He described the author of the treatise 'Vymanika Shastra' as a man 'attempting to explain an advanced technology.'

Dr. Pinotti, who has made an exhaustive study of the history of Indian astronautics, said another text, 'Samarangana Sutradhara' had 230 stanzas devoted to the principles of building Vimanas and their use in peace and war.

He said ancient Aryans knew the use of the element 'fire' as could be seen from their 'Astra' weapons that included 'Soposamhara' (a flame belching missile), 'Praavapna' (which caused sleep) and four kinds of 'Agni Astras' that travelled in sheets of flame and produced thunder.

He said the car that was supposed to go up to 'Suryamandal' (solar system) and the 'Nakshatramandala' (stellar system) cannot be dismissed as a myth because of the 'technical nature' of its description.

Dr. Pinotti said depictions of space travel, total destruction by incredible weapons and the fact that Vimanas resembled modern unidentified flying objects would suggest that India had a 'superior but forgotten civilisation.'

'In the light of this, we think it will be better to examine the Hindu texts' and subject the descriptive models of Vimanas to more scientific scrutiny,' he said. — PTI

LOWESTOFT JOURNAL & MERCURY, Suffolk, England  
Oct. 28, 1988 CR: T. Good

## Mystery of the silent UFO

A MYSTERIOUS flying object with flashing lights has left a Mutford man puzzled.

Mr James Edington, a Lowestoft chemist, saw a diamond-shaped object passing over the village from west to east at 8.40 pm on Tuesday night.

A spokesman at Ellough Airfield said Sikorsky helicopters had orange luminous markings and flashing lights.

Mr Edington said: "When helicopters go over the windows shake as if they were going to fall out. My wife was indoors that evening and she heard nothing. I can't understand it."

The Ministry of Defence and Civil Aviation Authority were unable to say if any other aircraft had been flying over Mutford on Tuesday evening.

"I was standing with an

MANSFIELD & SUTTON OBSERVER,  
England - Jan. 12, 1989

## Anyone see these UFOs?

MORE strange shapes have been spotted in the sky over Mansfield in recent weeks, and I would be pleased to hear from anyone else who saw them.

One was a large UFO with three smaller shapes surrounding it, one seemingly in front leading the larger one.

Another UFO was observed for over an hour at Southwell as it hovered and then

It was a bright ring of yellow light in which smaller red, green, blue and yellow lights kept flashing on and off.

If you saw these, or any other UFO, get in touch with me at the address below.

Mr W. BLYTHE,  
8 Padley Hill,  
Mansfield.

CR: T. Good

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EXPRESS, Burnley, England - Oct. 4, 1988 CR: T. Good

## ACTOR BILL SEES STRANGE LIGHTS

MOST people, if they think they've seen a UFO, will hesitate to mention it, fearing they may be thought a crank.

So, when well-known Burnley amateur actor and producer Bill Goulding saw something in the evening sky last Friday, he was glad his wife, Mabel, was with him and could see it too.

And when Bill got to work in Hebbden Bridge yesterday morn-

ing he was amazed to find two of his colleagues independently reported seeing exactly the same thing around the same time.

Now Bill is really curious. "We were driving on the Bacup road out of Burnley on Friday evening when we saw four extremely bright white lights in the sky just ahead of us. I stopped the car and we watched them in complete silence for about five minutes. They looked like two sets of car headlights

but they were brighter than anything I've ever seen.

"I looked at my watch and it was exactly 7.15 p.m. The lights were absolutely still and there was no noise and then they began to move off into the distance, banked a little and disappeared," said Bill.

He and Mabel tried to get a closer look with binoculars but it was difficult to make out much other than dazzling bright lights, he added.

Bill, a senior social worker in the Rossendale area, says his colleagues described exactly the same thing. Bill says he has always had an open mind about such things, but he is sure what he saw couldn't have been a common aircraft. "I have served in the RAF and I've never seen an aircraft with lights like that and staying still with no noise. There were no navigation lights or anything and the lights were a very, very bright white," he said.





## Tiny Colorado town believes in 'Bigfoot'

SUNDAY CAMERA, Boulder, CO  
Feb. 26, 1989 CR: M. Quire

By JULIE HUTCHINSON

Camera Staff Writer

GREEN MOUNTAIN  
FALLS, Colo. — Bigfoot believers, take heart.

Something is out there.

Since 1944, folks around here have been reporting evidence of tall, hairy, long-armed creatures in the woods of the Pike National Forest above this pretty little town west of Colorado Springs on Ute Pass Highway.

"Possibly they're a branch on the evolutionary tree of man that died out. What else makes any sense? They're not

### But footprints, hairs don't sway expert

from outer space."

So said Dan Masias, a 30ish Colorado Springs native who in 1980 saw strange footprints outside his home here.

"We couldn't figure it out," said Masias. "Who in their right mind would be up here in the middle of the winter, walking without any shoes?"

On March 28, 1987, when Masias and his 11-year-old son, Jeff, were up late watching TV, they saw two long-armed creatures running

down a road that passes their house, they claim.

Masias and his son measured the snowy footprints left behind. They were 11½ inches long, and they resembled nothing either ever had seen.

A bottom dresser drawer is filled now with newspaper clippings and correspondence, the result of Dan Masias' impassioned search for answers.

"There's a lot of people who have been here a long time who mention they've seen

bears walking around on their hind legs, things like that, over the years," said Bob White, 57.

In 1944, White saw something during a campout with other Boy Scouts that he never forgot. White, now a scout leader, still tells that story on dark nights around bright campfires.

"It was standing across from us in the trees," recalled White. "Suddenly, it ran over on its hind legs and kicked out our fire and ran away. It was big, furry, more man-like. I told my parents about it. They decided it was a bear. But bears don't run on their hind legs.

"I think it was what's been talked about over the years. There's other wild animals out here, and if they don't want you to see them, you won't see them," said White.

Enter Dr. Vaughn Langman, a native of the area who is a Louisiana State University zoophysiolgist.

Langman heard about "the creature" from his parents, who live in the area and are acquaintances of Masias' 32-year-old wife, Fawn.

"I would be delighted to think there's something up there unknown ... that hasn't been discovered in the last millennia," said Langman.

Langman had photographs of the creature's footprints analyzed by LSU museum staff.

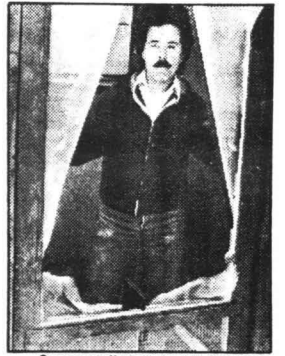
"We thought it would turn out to be some known species that had become extinct in the area that had a small resident population building back up. They came up with absolutely nothing. We don't know what it is.

"I'm of the opinion it's grizzly or something," said Langman. "People in Colorado wouldn't know a grizzly if it bit them on the foot."

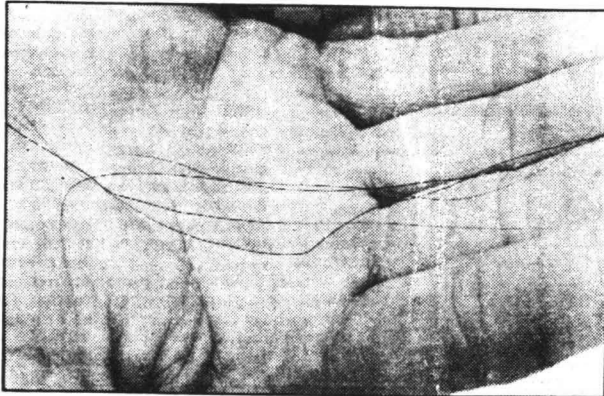
But the plot thickened last summer when something crashed through the back door of a cabin next door to the Masias home, as its occupants slept. Left behind, snagged on the torn screen door, were long, light-brown hairs.

Dan Masias is keeping most of the 50-odd, 5½-inch-long hairs in his bank safety deposit box. But he did share a few strands with the NBC TV program "Unsolved Mysteries" that aired Feb. 15.

The Masias home was under siege for a week earlier this year as a crew filmed scenes recreating the sightings of the creatures. Two actors — wearing \$60,000 suits left over from a Disney movie — played the



Camera staff photo by Jay Quadracci  
**EVIDENCE?:** Dan Masias shows damage done by "creature."



**LEFT BEHIND:** Laboratory analysis done for "Unsolved Mysteries" concluded that the long, light-brown hair found in a screen door in Green Mountain Falls belongs to a primate. No primates are native to the Rocky Mountains.

TIMES, Los Angeles, CA - Feb. 19, 1989 CR: R. Saaco

### Sasquatch Puts Willow Creek on Map

## The Bigfoot Burger and Other Delights

By JOE CEMPA, Reuter

WILLOW CREEK, Calif. — If not for the legend of a smelly 8-foot tall human-like beast, little would set this Northern California town apart from thousands of other American hamlets.

Often called the "Bigfoot Capital of the World," Willow Creek straddles California 299 about 50 miles from the Pacific Ocean amid lush groves of cedar, fir, pine and oak.

More than four dozen of Willow Creek's 800 residents claim to have seen the elusive man-ape, and a thriving industry has been built around the mystique of "Bigfoot," or "Sasquatch," as the Indians called the creature that leaves 16-inch footprints.

Willow Creek businessmen name their shops after the elusive creature and sell maps of sightings to tourists eager to clamber around in search of the beast.

Visitors can shop at Willow Creek's Bigfoot Lumber & Hardware, search for clothes at Sasquatch Second Hand, examine antiques at the Bigfoot Curio Shop, enjoy a round of golf at Bigfoot Country Club and cap off the afternoon with a Bigfoot Burger.

As summer approaches, Willow Creek softball enthusiasts will organize tournaments and fire up barbecues for another round of Bigfoot Days.

Local beauties will preen, primp and sell raffle tickets.

She who sells the most tickets by the end of the season will be crowned Bigfoot Queen under the watchful eye of a huge Bigfoot statue in Bigfoot Square during a four-day celebration over Labor Day Weekend.

"It's definitely helped the area," said Terri Castner, president of the local Chamber of Commerce. "The legend has been fantastic for our town."

The chamber's tourist information booth sits a convenient two or three "Bigfoot steps" behind a massive redwood Bigfoot statue.

The legend has been part of Northern California Indian lore for centuries.

When a road-building crew in 1958 discovered 17-inch tracks, heavy 55-gallon metal barrels tossed about like toys, a 700-pound tire thrown over a cliff and large human-like droppings, Bigfoot entered the 20th Century here.

A story appeared in the local newspaper, wire services picked it up and Willow Creek found itself basking in Bigfoot glory. But an expedition by a New York zoologist and several magazine investigations failed to find concrete evidence of the creature.

According to legend and unsub-

stantiated modern sightings, the man-apes have slanted foreheads, broad nostrils, coarse body hair, a shrill scream and a putrid smell.

Several years ago, variety store owner Al Hodgson took plastic impressions of large tracks he found in a creek bed.

"All I can say is that the tracks were actually there. I couldn't tell if they were fake or not," he said. "One would think that by this time, there'd be some solid proof. A bone, a body, something."

"Lots of people come up here just because of Bigfoot. We're known as the gateway to Bigfoot country. They're very interested in the statue and looking for Bigfoot in the woods," Castner said.

MAIL ON SUNDAY, London,  
England - Jan. 22, 1989  
CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

### Nicholas launches his Loch buster Sacked

COPPER-TOPPED BBC newsreader Nicholas Witchell hopes his latest literary effort will be a monster success — he has rewritten a book called *The Loch Ness Story* which he first had published at the tender age of 19.

Witchell, who has been fascinated with Nessie since he first visited the Highland loch at 13, has persuaded eminent zoologist Dr Denis Tucker to break a 29-year silence to reveal his

thoughts on the legend.

Dr Tucker was sacked from the prestige post of principal scientific officer by the British Museum because of his obsession with the monster.

As a wide-eyed teenager, Witchell built a wooden shack on the shores of the loch, and lived in it for three months before going up to read law at Leeds University.

But he failed to spot the monster.

## American monster has moneymaking potential

SCOTLAND'S world-famous Nessie is on the brink of a "monster" challenge to her supremacy as the world's most famous denizen of the deep.

The threat to Nessie is Chessie, who has emerged from the depths of the Chesapeake Bay on the east coast of the US.

And business interests around the bay near Washington DC are beginning to cash in on their very

own monster. Already several restaurants are bearing her name — and now the chamber of commerce in Annapolis is considering using Chessie as bait for their tourist industry.

Executive vice-president Penny Chandler said: "We haven't used it as a tourist attraction yet, but in years to come Chessie may become a promotion to attract visitors here

and might yet become as famous as Nessie."

While speculation over the Loch Ness Monster goes back hundreds of years, the first reported sighting of Chessie was only in the 1960s — and since then there have been about 50 reports of a monster in various shapes and sizes.

One of the latest was by library clerk Nellie Walston, who described herself as a level-headed grand-

mother, and who was crossing a bridge into Annapolis on her way to work when she saw Chessie.

"There was a long neck out of the water with a head shaped like a football. It was 2ft. to 3ft. thick, and it was followed by a hump."

"I saw it for a few seconds before it disappeared and it was no trick of the imagination or trick of light. I had never really thought about it, but I know what I saw."

And like Nessie, this US version has been video-filmed and photographed, but nothing has ever been clear enough to establish what it really is.

Exiled Scots living in the area scoff at the tales of Chessie. Said one: "It's simply a figment of their imagination and not another Nessie — they just want to have a Loch Ness legend of their own."

PRESS AND JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland - Jan. 16, 1989 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

# Scientific sleuth on trail of ghostly lights

By RICHARD STEWART  
Houston Chronicle

**MARFA** — Forty years ago Yoshi-Hiko Ohtsuki, then a 13-year-old schoolboy, saw a strange, luminous ball of light drifting over the trees in northern Japan. The experience led him to become a physicist and to lead a lifelong search to unravel the mystery of a phenomenon he calls ball lightning.

The second time he saw one of the ghostly mystery lights was last week on the moonlit, bone-dry flatlands southeast of Marfa. It was a highlight of Ohtsuki's 40-year drive to unravel the mystery of the lights.

"It was very exciting," Ohtsuki said. "We succeeded in capturing a 10-second image of the light on video tape."

Ohtsuki is a professor of physics at Waseda University in Tokyo and is chairman of an international

committee trying to unravel the secrets of mysterious globes of light reported all over the world.

Stories of hundreds of sightings of the strange lights southeast of Marfa and along an eerie dirt road in the deep woods near Saratoga in Hardin County brought Ohtsuki and a Japanese television crew to Texas.

Some people believe the lights that dance across the flats near Marfa are the ghosts of departed Apache warriors, luminescent

rocks or swamp gas. Others simply ascribe them to refraction of car headlights. Scientists say there aren't any luminescent rocks in the area and the bone-dry brush is definitely not a swamp.

Car lights and swamp gas are the most common explanations for the lights reported along the spooky and deserted Bragg Road in Hardin County. The 8-mile-long sand road is arrow straight between FM 787 and FM 1293. It follows the path of a railroad branch line that served Saratoga from 1901 to 1934.

Local folklore says the light is an otherworldly lantern carried by the ghost of a decapitated train brakeman.

Like Ohtsuki, Sour Lake resident Rob Riggs has spent much of his life searching for the truth behind the mystery lights.

In 1964, Riggs, then a teen-ager, saw a large orange glowing ball flying through the air near Pine Island Bayou not far from Bragg Road. The light he saw looked like a full moon gliding along the horizon. Riggs, now a 43-year-old English teacher at a trade school, said he hopes to start a full-scale investigation into the causes of mystery lights and phenomena he thinks are associated with the lights.

When Ohtsuki first saw a "ghost light," his Buddhist parents told him not to tell anybody about it. Such a light, they explained, had something to do with a death.

"I knew what my parents told me was not true and I decided to find a scientific explanation."

While Ohtsuki turned to science to solve the mystery, Riggs turned to philosophy.

He studied philosophy at the University of Texas and, later, in India. He has also made hundreds of trips down Bragg Road, but only once saw the glowing ball of light there.

When he heard that Ohtsuki was coming to Marfa to study the lights, he urged the scientist to come to Saratoga to study the phenomenon there, too.

Riggs thinks there are three kinds of mystery lights. There are large orange balls like the one he saw near the bayou and smaller, more intensely glowing balls like the one he saw on Bragg Road. There are also smaller lights — which often look like large red stars — that move and turn in dramatic angles in the sky.

He thinks fluctuations in natural magnetism may cause the lights to be seen more in some areas than in others. The geometry of the earth causes these magnetic hot spots to be most commonly distributed along a

line near 30 degrees of north latitude. He has no data about light sightings along 30 degrees south latitude, but expects the lights to be seen there, too.

Saratoga and Marfa are both very near the 30th parallel, as is a Mexican mountain range where Riggs said he's seen dancing lights and several other parts of the world where people see the mystery lights.

Ohtsuki said light sightings are often reported on an island in southern Japan that is on the 30th parallel.

Both Ohtsuki and Riggs agree that bursts of cosmic ray energy caused by solar storms seem to excite the lights. Periods of increased sunspot activity — also caused by solar storms — are also periods of increased mystery light sightings.

Riggs thinks the lights might be some sort of exchange of energy between other dimensions and the universe as scientists now know it. "Ohtsuki's parents might have been more right than he knew," Riggs said. "There might be something very strange going on with those lights."

Ohtsuki offers a much more scientific explanation.

He thinks the lights are caused by sub-atomic decay in pockets of plasma caused by pulses of power. The power comes from solar energy or from lighting-like electrical discharges. The presence of faint traces of hydrocarbon gases and an airborne ultra-fine dust-like mixture of minerals he calls aerosol helps formation of mystery lights, Ohtsuki said.

Ohtsuki's international committee on ball lightning has recorded 2,100 sightings of mystery lights all over the world. Ohtsuki said he thinks up to 80 percent of unidentified flying object sightings in the world might really be ball lightning.

Ohtsuki's team and the television crew set up a camp in the desert-like flatlands about 20 miles from Marfa. Ultra-sensitive video cameras kept a vigil 24-hours a day.

They saw the mystery light at 2:30 a.m. on the last day of winter.

"At first it was long and thin like a string," he said. "It remained so for about two seconds and then shortened into a ball. It was like that for about 10 seconds, then went out and appeared again as a ball for about three seconds."

The Japanese researchers spent several hours combing the area looking for a road or signs of a car or other source for the light they saw. "There was nothing. Nothing but the light," Ohtsuki said.

A side trip 600 miles across the state to Bragg road wasn't as productive. Heavy rains had turned the road to mush and the only lights that appeared turned out to be from rare cars that splashed down the road.

Ohtsuki said his readings showed no hydrocarbon gas traces in the area, but very high concentrations of aerosol.

He still isn't sure exactly how the mystery lights are formed, but said he is sure that Marfa and Saratoga's ghost lights are the same phenomenon as he saw in Japan 40 years ago.



Richard Stewart / Chronicle

Japanese physicist Yoshi-Hiko Ohtsuki has spent the night sky. His work has taken him to West Texas to study the Marfa lights and to Saratoga.

FLORIDA TODAY, Cocoa, FL - Dec. 20, 1988 CR: M. Saunders/COUD-I

## Politics getting in way of scientific evaluation of strange Mars objects

Several months ago, blissfully ignorant of science politics, I made a request through NASA for copies of the original Viking spacecraft photos of Cydonia, a Martian desert speckled with features that are beginning to make a lot of people scratch their heads.

The controversial images include a five-sided pyramid and a shadowed mesa suggestive of a Sphinx-like face. Impressed with new details uncovered by recent imaging techniques, a science journal splashed the results on its cover in May.

When the package arrived, the NASA wags had thrown in a few unsolicited gems — glossies of two unrelated geological formations in other Martian regions. One is a high plateau with contours resembling Kermit the Frog; the other is a meteor impact crater bearing "smile lines," referred to as The Happy Face.

No notes of explanation were attached. None was needed. It was a deft pre-emptive strike, reducing straight-faced contemplation of Cydonia to a heap of smoldering rubble. The government gagmeisters were, after all, professionals who had proclaimed Cydonia a "trick of light and shadow" 12 years ago.

Nevertheless, I asked Paul Butterworth, head of the photo archives department at Goddard Space Flight Center, what he thought of a study conducted independently in the early 1980s by Goddard engineer Vincent DiPietro. DiPietro had resolved sharper, and more mysterious, details of the Cydonia images through computer technology that didn't exist in 1976.

Butterworth chuckled when told the Kermit/Happy photos arrived in the mail along with the Cydonia glossies. But he had little tolerance for DiPietro's work. "DiPietro is not



BILLY COX

FLORIDA TODAY

a professor in the area of image processing and he's making mistakes common to all amateurs," he said. "I think he's wasting his time."

DiPietro, who copyrighted his computer techniques and published the results in a booklet, was livid when he heard that.

"What do I have to do to break through this code of lies or untruths or whatever you want to call it?" DiPietro fumed. "They're contaminating some remarkable features in Cydonia with this Kermit the Frog stuff. They're comparing apples and oranges. The Frog and the Happy Face are obvious geological formations that stretch for miles and miles. The object on Cydonia is one mile wide, a mile and a half long, and has bisymmetrical features — eyes, a hairline, a mouth — in exactly the right places."

DiPietro said he was getting sick and tired of having his efforts trampled by critics making specious analogies. He said he was going to make some noise.

The next day, Butterworth called back, sounding a bit chastened. He said a superior wanted to know if I had received the Kermit/Happy pix through his office. I told him I'd already tossed the envelope away, but that the glossies bore consecutive ID numbers on the

back. Obviously, someone on an official level had done that.

Soon afterward, Butterworth reported that the Kermit/Happy photos had been released by the Jet Propulsion Lab in California, not by Goddard. "It's a fairly deliberate attempt to discredit the (Cydonia) face," he conceded.

JPL photo archives curator Jurrie Van Der Woude said he didn't see anything wrong with mailing the unsolicited photos to the media. The real shysters, he said, were people claiming the Cydonia objects were anything other than what the government-funded experts said they were.

He blasted yet another Cydonia investigator, aerospace writer Richard Hoagland, who's been urging NASA to re-examine the Viking photos. Hoagland claims the implications are so compelling, the space agency should at least run its own computations, just to see how they jibe with outside studies revealing coherent geometrical relationships among the Cydonia objects.

Shrugged Van Der Woude, "In the last five or six years, there's been this one character in the country who's been making these wild claims. Whenever he writes another article, we get all these requests for photos and we mutter obscene things about his ancestors and go, 'Oh, damn it, doesn't the press ever learn?'"

"So whenever we got a request for the Cydonia photos, we'd also shove in photos of Kermit the Frog and the Smiling Face, more or less as a tongue in cheek thing. We figured, OK, to heck with it, they're scientific photos of legitimate geological features, too. But we have discontinued that practice."

And I just stuffed a slam dunk in Moses Malone's face.

Kermit the Frog for the defense — new lows in the arena of scientific inquiry.



Chronicle

SUNDAY POST, Dundee, Scotland - Jan. 15, 1989

WITH THE year only days old, Nessie just had to surface. BBC six o'clock newsman Nicholas Witchell tells me he's persuaded eminent zoologist Dr Denys Tucker to break 29 years of silence following his dismissal by the British Museum.

What's that got to do with Nessie? One of the reasons behind his sacking, he believes, was his single-minded belief in the Loch Ness Monster.

The doctor was a Principal Scientific Officer at the Museum who carried a boyhood fascination for Nessie to the conviction of the need for a proper investigation.

His attempt to persuade the scientific establishment ended his career at 39. Since his Nessie crusade, he hasn't held a steady zoological job.

Nick himself has written a book about Nessie, to be published shortly by Corgi.

"The Loch Ness area is the perfect place to get away from the newsroom which is why I spent Hoagmanav visiting



CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

friends there," he tells me.

"Me? I believe there's something in Loch Ness. And I'd like to see a new generation of scientists carrying out a proper investigation."



## Read all about it . . . and more!

By JOHN LETHLEAN

MICHAEL JACKSON'S FACE IS MELTING

HUMAN TOOTHPICK!  
World's thinnest anorexic thinks she's still fat!

Faith healer fixes cars by touch

I DIED AND SPENT 20 MINUTES IN HELL

IT'S been a great week for Joe West. The BBC wants his help with a story.

No, not this one: HALF-MAN, HALF-APE DOING FINE AFTER SHOCKING TRANSPLANT — A human rights advocate says Soviet scientists have transplanted a chimp's head on a man's body in one of the most horrifying medical experiments on record.

Nor this: CANALS OF MARS ARE FULL OF FISH — The surface of Mars is etched with canals that are full of water, and teeming with fish.

The BBC certainly had not the slightest interest in DOGCATCHER NABS CIRCUS WOLF BOY — Sideshow wolf boy Jose Rodo was sightseeing in a strange city when a dingbat dogcatcher mistook him for a flea-bitten mutt — and speedily locked the flabbergasted man away in the local pound!

Or: OUR NEW PUPPY IS A KILLER RAT — An elderly couple mistook an oversize rat for a dog and took it into their home where it showed its appreciation for their kindness — by killing their cat.

How about: Abortion doctor vows to quit after FETUS SCREAMS IN TERROR.

Nope. The story the BBC wants to know more about is: GIRL BURSTS INTO FLAMES — IN SHOWER — A pretty young college student mysteriously caught fire and burned to a crisp while showering after gym class. 'All we found were wet ashes around the drain,' say puzzled police.

Even Joe West can understand why news organisations don't show much interest in following up the stories in the *Weekly World News*, of

fact and fantasy has snuck into Australia, and picked up a growing cult audience.

Bohemians slip into an Acland St newsagency for their \$1.55 copy. Businessmen grab theirs from McGills at lunch time. One Collins St investment banker has an airmail subscription.

Distributors Gordon and Gotch say they sell about 1000 copies each month mainly in Victoria.

The stories are so outlandish, the editors take

to be entertained, they buy us."

*Weekly World News* was launched in 1979 by *National Enquirer* publisher Generoso Pope, who died last year.

West was one of the original reporters, and is the third editor.

"We didn't set out to create a truly outrageous newspaper. It just sort of evolved that way," he said.

"Mr Pope always said he'd read papers like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, and there'd be a paragraph tucked right away about a two-headed baby born in Sumatra.

"He said nobody ever followed these up. So he wanted us to concentrate on picking up these unusual, off-beat stories. Which we've done."

Last week's issue, for example, carried a story on a Brazilian anorexic known as the Human Toothpick who still thinks she's overweight (with grim photos); a man who eats 50 cigarettes a day; a family who died when fermenting grapes turned their home-winery into a gas chamber; Marilyn Monroe's night with a corpse, and a man who cons his way into university girls' dorms posing as a professional stripper, when in fact he's simply doing the act for his own kicks.

And that's in the first few pages!

Mr West said the paper had three full-time staff who scoured more than

100,000 pages of newspaper, because the supermarkets are extremely conservative.

"And the legal restrictions are enormous. We have a company of lawyers retained in Washington DC and they 'legal' the paper every week.

"Every story, every short, every headline.

"So within those parameters, we try to be as outrageous as we can."

Domestic stories attract the greatest legal scrutiny.

"If we do a murder story out of California,

obviously the legalling is very heavy — more than you would get on a daily paper. If we do a two-headed baby born in the jungles of Sumatra, then the legalling is less strict."

Mr West said *Elvis Presley Lives* stories always sell a lot of papers, and UFOs are a popular, recurring theme.

He has no regrets about leaving Scotland and the police force for the unusual life of less-than-serious journalism.

"I was a policeman in Glasgow and I was sick

and tired of getting the hell beat out of me on Saturday nights. I thought, there's got to be a better life than this."

Now, at 48, he works very hard at keeping the *Weekly World News* the world's most outrageous newspaper.

And waiting for the story that can top his favorite: *MAN BLOWS UP ON OPERATING TABLE* — about a man, swabbed down with alcohol before surgery, who burst into flames.

He knows it's out there, somewhere!

such liberties with the truth, and exaggeration of the facts is so far beyond belief, that *Weekly World News* is a virtual parody of a newspaper.

Like its notorious sister publication the *National Enquirer*, it's a paper people love to hate — and buy.

When Joe West took over as editor in 1982, sales were 450,000.

With an unrelenting

Can you solve alien message from space?

Experts reveal representatives from 60 planets are coming to Earth to discuss trade pact agreements.

— *Weekly World News*

Mummies from outer space found in Siberia

Soviet scientists say they've found the mummified remains of 600 space aliens in a bog in northern Siberia.

— *Weekly World News*

quest for the world's most bizarre stories, and an editorial approach that could never be described as shy, West has more than doubled sales. He has no qualms about the paper's approach.

"We set out to entertain," he said. "I don't feel my function as editor of this paper is to inform.

"If they want to be informed, they buy the local daily. If they want

800 publications each week, from all over the world, for the wackiest stories.

The paper has never been sued, which Mr West describes as remarkable.

"We have many restrictions here in the US," he said. "We sell in the supermarkets, so you can't have sex and you can't have graphic vio-

## Writer says it may have been close encounter of a second kind

Dear Editor:

Case History: Wyoming, 1976. Pat McGuire, a rancher of an Irish-Catholic family, and born in 1942, claims to have seen scores of UFOs at his ranch and has been abducted twice. He first reported a number of sightings and also two cattle mutilations on his ranch. His original opinion was that "some sex cults from the university" were responsible for the mutilations, and his brother-in-law was determined to "catch the guys who did this." One evening they observed what appeared to them to be a "flying saucer" descending toward a ridge. Through the telescope Pat watched as the UFO hovered, then moved around the ridge. A cow, which had been under the UFO, was now gone and the next morning when they drove over to the sight, he found a calf bawling for its mother, but this time no trace of the cow. The McGuire case is only one of hundreds of similar reports from around the nation.

In your paper, dated Nov. 30, 1988, there was an article titled "Cow's Death Linked to Satanic Cult." However, the assumption that a Satanic Cult was involved may be way off base. It is my opinion that this inexplicable occurrence may be the result of Extra-Terrestrials.

As quoted from your own newspaper, "Why would anyone kill a longhorn cow and remove both eyes, one ear, the heart, sex organs and udder?" Anyone having any knowledge about Satanic Cults would know this does not fit their pattern. They would take the horns, the head, maybe the heart, the hooves and tail to be used in their rituals. Normally, the cow would have been reported missing. Currently I don't know of any cults that use a cow, but that's not to say that they don't. Goats seem to be more popular.

To quote you again from the article, "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." This last quote, when my wife read it to me, was what caught my attention. The parts of the cow were removed surgically, precisely, and without ripping up the cow like a butcher. If you'll notice, everything that was taken was a key part in the physiological make-up of the cow and it was all done without spilling a drop of blood. There is no way to cut into a living creature without drawing blood, unless you start to think about laser technology and how that cuts and seals blood vessels. Perhaps this was not done by anyone here on earth, much less a Satanic Cult, and the people who delight in the spilling of any kind of blood, even their own. Perhaps this is a close-encounter of a second kind, meaning physical evidence has been left behind.

We may be on the verge of coming into contact with something very few people can believe in, even when evidence like this is being left behind for us. I personally feel for Mr. Benham and the loss of his favorite cow, but if the pattern for this type of activity holds true, then others in the area may one day find the same thing just a few hundred yards from their houses. If you do, please contact the authorities and touch nothing. Thank you!

(Name withheld by request)

STAR HERALD, Cabot, AR - Dec. 7, 1988

## This man knows full range of strange

By Susan Baer  
Washington Bureau of The Sun

**I**"I'll probably be wearing black, I usually do," he said on the phone, telling a future visitor how to recognize him at the subway where they were to meet.

Hmmm. Strange.

But alas, accurate. You couldn't miss the guy. Thick shock of near-black hair and mustache and beard, black trench coat over black jacket over black shirt tucked into black pants held up by black belt with matching black boots slipped over black socks accented by a black watchband.

StrangeARAMA.

"I can't explain it," he says of his monochromatic wardrobe. "It's just a personality thing, just an aberration."

But who'd expect anything less from Mark Chorvinsky, founder and editor of the year-old *Strange Magazine*, a publication of strange — abnormal or paranormal — phenomena with an international base of both contributors and subscribers that the 34-year-old University of Maryland graduate publishes from his home in suburban Maryland?

UFOs, monsters, poltergeists — they're in there. Frogs dropping from the sky, living dinosaurs, magnetic stone circles — they're in there. It's all fun stuff, but treated in a very serious, scientific and scholarly manner.

What exactly are we dealing with here? What do the 3,000 *Strange* subscribers — enough to subsidize the magazine — read about?

Anything outside of the ordinary or the norm, says the self-proclaimed "Renaissance Man of the Strange," a magician since age 7 who, this year, performed at the White House. Anything that gives one, "a feeling of disquieting strangeness, something that you would see or hear that sends a chill down your spine, that makes your hair stand on end." He smiles and the eyes behind his glasses ignite. "Those are the stories that attract me. The provocative, strange things that make you go, 'Ooooooh, that's weird.'"

The strange thing is, there's something terribly, well, normal, about Mr. Chorvinsky, a filmmaker whose featurette "Strange Tangents" was shown at the Cannes and Berlin Film Festivals as well as the American Film Institute and Library of Congress.

Yeah, he collects dead, petrified, disgusting-looking fish, yeah, his bookshelves teem with volumes like "High Weirdness" and "The World's Most Fantastic Freaks" ("If you can't find books on strange things here, you can't find them anywhere," he says), but the guy's no wacko.

In fact, when he investigates strange phenomena — which he's been doing for the last five years everywhere from Clinton, Md., to London — he takes a very practical approach, remaining "skeptical and open-minded simultaneously." He says he believes in nothing, but accepts the possibility for all things. "It is really a strange world and you have to be ready for anything."

And when he and members of his newly formed Strange Research and Investigation are called to investigate a case, "it's irrelevant to us whether it turns out to be a real monster or that somebody mistook a bear for Bigfoot." Many of the cases, he says, "turn out to be explicable," like the one he investigated this summer in Selbyville, Del., where he traced a 20-year-old legend of a swamp monster to two men who dressed up in costumes.

If Mr. Chorvinsky, who owns a film studio in Kensington and Dream Wizards, a store of strange and magical stuff in Rockville, can call himself "more skeptical than anyone on the planet," it's perhaps because he's never come face to face with any bona fide strangosity.

"I've never seen a UFO. I've never seen a monster. I've spent time with really strange artifacts around the world, but I've never seen them do anything strange."

A Maryland resident since age 3, Mr. Chorvinsky says his fascination with life's unknowns dates back to the fourth grade when he read a book, "Stranger Than Science."

He's been hooked on the inexplicable ever since. Known as the world's foremost authority on crystal skulls — mysterious life-size skulls made of quartz crystal whose origins

Rockville



THE SUN/PATRICK SANDOR

### Black-clad Mark Chorvinsky calls himself the Renaissance man of Strange.

are unknown — he's given lectures on the anomalous, made a pilot for British television on magic, and is working on a biography of the legendary Merlin the magician.

Along with his magazine, he now puts out an annual list of the 10 strangest events of the year (the "Strange" year begins and ends in October). No. 1 on this year's list is the report of a Lizard Man monster in Bishopville, S.C. and no. 10, the recipient of the "Hard to Believe" award, the "Elvis Lives" rumors — rumors he believes he's pretty much debunked.

And, for the last two years, he's worked with a partner on a book on the monsters of Maryland. This state, he's proud to say, is a hotbed of monster lore (and the third and latest issue of *Strange Magazine* features a story on Bigfoot sightings in Maryland). "Monsters can put a state on the map and I'd like Maryland to be known for its monsters," he says, rattling off tales of the Snallygaster, Chessie, the Spectral Dogs (blue dogs sighted in Frederick county), the Goat Man of Prince George's County and the Dwaywo (a hair-covered bipedal creature).

His friends and family just shake their heads at his tales of the Dwaywo and other assorted strangers. "They know me," he smiles. His wife, Laurel Chlat, manages their store but has no interest of her own in para-anything. Says the man dressed in black, "The strangest thing she did was marry me."

For more information, write to P.O. Box 2246, Rockville, Md. 20852.

## Footprints spur rumors of 'Bigfoot'

By Debbie Myers  
News Editor

**LOST NATIONS** — After spotting footprints over a foot long, some folks are saying "Bigfoot" has visited the county, but a conservation officer suspects pranksters.

"Allowing for freezing and thawing, the prints are 16 inches long and about 4 to 6 inches wide," said Robert Like, conservation officer. "It's hard to say if the print is bare or wearing a shoe. It's either a shoe or something that fits over a shoe to look like a foot or something."

"There isn't anything that I can see that can lend credibility to it other than somebody playing a joke," Like said. "Anything is possible, but some things are highly improbable."

The prints were first called to Like's attention about a week ago. This week, some area residents who had heard about the prints were venturing out to find them. Others have been content to simply tell someone else about the large prints.

"The only thing that would lead me to believe it was a hoax was further back into the section the way the person was walking changed as they went up the hill. Not the normal type of walk where a person's going up the hill and putting more weight on the ball of the foot. This would indicate the person was walking flat-footed — wasn't walking naturally which would indicate something added to the foot to make it larger," Like explained.

The prints went "about 400 yards and then they kind of ended," he said. This is in a semi-wooded and scrub brush area, he noted.

"This is the first time in Lost Nations" for such prints to be seen, Like said. "That throws the credibility against it being a factual animal or person unless the bugger's migrating south and just passing through."

The prints have not been seen in other parts of the county, he said.

Like said he had heard someone from the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Department would take a plaster mold of the prints.

"It had been talked about, but I don't know if it had been done," said Ray Rhoades, undersheriff.

Along with the prints, some say a ball of hair or fur was near the prints.

"I can't verify that one way or another. What you'll find are a lot of things and a lot of things they see have no relation to what actually we're looking at or investigating," he said.

There are so many variables, a ball of fur could be from an owl making a kill on a rabbit.

As for checking out the information, Like said it is being handled the same way other reports are. He compared it to sightings of black panther, mountain lions and bears.

"We handled this type of thing frequently and we don't disregard any theories — we look at the evidence," Like said. "If it looks like we can't do anything we have to wait for more reports."

"This is the type of thing that starts building up. You have to have an open mind about what you hear. But credibility wise, you have to be really strict on the standards that you go by," he commented.

"Every year I get reports of people seeing bears and seeing bobcats and mountain lions and I don't discount anything. Anything is possible but for the most part highly improbable," Like said.

## Making tracks

### Report of bigfoot prints called tall tale

By Robert Musial  
Free Press Staff Writer

Has bigfoot, the abominable snowman's American cousin, been stomping around Hillsdale County lately?

Probably not, say Hillsdale authorities and a Michigan man who investigates such phenomena.

County Sheriff's Sgt. Tom Wilmer said Tuesday that squirrel hunters reported finding several huge footprints along a wooded path in the Lost Nations State Game Area Feb. 6 in eastern Hillsdale County, which is south of Jackson.

Deputies who photographed the tracks and took a plaster cast of one print in the frozen mud said it measured about 22 inches long and 10 inches wide.

"It looks like a large, bare human foot, a very large bare, human foot," said Wilmer, one of the deputies who investigated the tracks.

But Wayne King, the director of the Michigan/Canadian Bigfoot Information Center, said Tuesday he was skeptical.

"That sounds too large. Last time we had one that size, it turned out to be a hoax," said King, an autoworker who runs the center out of his Caro home. King investigates bigfoot sightings and claims to have twice seen the creature in Tuscola County in the Thumb.

Wilmer said police believe the tracks are fake because there have been no sightings of the hairy humanoid or any other evidence in the area.

Wilmer said another thing made him doubt the tracks.

"They started near one road and led over to another road and unless he had a limousine, I'm not sure why the tracks would just disappear there," he said.

Unless Elvis drove over from Kalamazoo to pick him up.

## Soviets attempting to restore contact with Mars probe craft

**MOSCOW (AP)** — A top-level commission sought to find out why contact was lost with Phobos II, but Soviet media said the Mars probe has already succeeded in finding water vapor and radiation belts around the Red Planet.

Ground stations lost all but sporadic radio communications with the multimillion-dollar satellite on Monday.

Official Radio Moscow said Thursday that the scientists were working to restore communications with Phobos II, but that it already had transmitted pictures of the surface of Mars, the moon Phobos and "other unique scientific data."

"For instance, the presence of water vapor has been registered in the atmosphere of Mars for the very first time," it said.

"Soviet research centers are now trying to interpret so far unexplained optical phenomena on the pictures of the Martian surface. The pictures show an enigmatic strip 23-25 kilometers (about 15 miles) wide and a large spindle-shaped formation," the radio said.

The evening television news program "Vremya" on Wednesday dismissed what it said were Western news reports that the situation was "catastrophic."

The report showed detailed maps of

the surface of Mars compiled from photos taken during the mission.

Loss of the mission would prevent the probe from dropping two landing craft to the surface of Phobos, Mars' largest moon. That operation had been scheduled for early April.

The Soviets lost a twin spacecraft, Phobos I, in September when it drifted off into space when ground control gave it some incorrect commands.

The satellites, part of a \$480 million project including 22 countries and the European Space Agency, were launched from Soviet Central Asia in July.

U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists had planned to measure movements of the moon Phobos by tracking radio transmissions from one of the landing craft.

The experiment was designed to measure wobbles in the moon's orbit around Mars, and in the orbits of the moon and Mars around the sun, said Jim Wilson, a spokesman for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

Wilson said researchers hoped the measurements would provide information about the nature of gravity, the internal structure of the moon Phobos and the weight of asteroids passing near Mars.