

UFO

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Valley residents share close encounters with UFOs

First of two parts

By Bill Roberts
Tribune writer

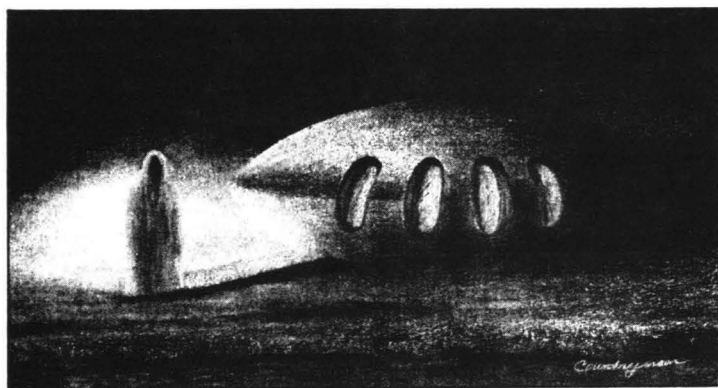
Are unidentified flying objects simply the bogey that lives within each of us? The one that believes something dark and evil waits beneath the bed at night? That suggests the sounds outside are more than leaves whipped by a mid-night storm? That envisions the tree itself, given the proper moonlight and blackness, as a gnarled, shriveled body with a soul all its own?

Or are UFOs real? Do saucerians far beyond our earthly mental abilities study us as we do monkeys at the zoo? Do they walk among us? Or attempt to communicate? Or occasionally steal us in the night?

COMING MONDAY: Did aliens capture an Arizona man?

If there is a line between such neatly opposing viewpoints, then the stories that follow almost surely grow from it. They come from reputable people — and more of them than ever are coming forward today — with detailed accounts of close encounters they dared not make public in a less sympathetic era.

"I don't go out and look for UFOs, and I don't go out of my way to be up on them," says 38-year-old Lyn Caldwell, a secretary in the flight controls department of the McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Co. in Mesa. "But I know what I saw. What I saw was so



Tribune graphic

clear and precise."

Caldwell and the others are not connoisseurs of UFO tales, nor do they live on distant continents. They are from Apache Junction, Tempe and Mesa. In each case, their UFO encounter was a memorable but one-time experience, not a regular diet sandwiched between reading the palms and studying the stars. Moreover, they are family people with professional reputations at stake. To tell their stories, they say, is to subject themselves to ridicule and criticism. Several said they didn't care anymore.

Perhaps most importantly, many of their stories are remarkably similar in description and detail, though they never have talked to each other.

What Caldwell knows she saw, as did others that day in Ohio, was an oblong, silver object that hovered about 150 feet above them. There were no death rays there or masked invaders, just simple flashes of colored light coming from an object that vanished half an hour later at interstellar speed.

Her story begins in suburban Toledo in late 1972. Her husband at the time, a Toledo police officer, was driving their 1969 Shelby Cobra toward St. Luke's Hospital to visit her brother. She was riding beside him.

Caldwell says she spotted an object not quite as large as a blimp moving above them. Red, blue and white lights pulsed from capsule-like windows across a clear, afternoon sky.

When they arrived at the hospital, the object hovered just beyond the parking lot. It would move slowly, then it would stop. It made no noise, she says.

"It was low enough that we could see the windows and the lights coming out of them," says Caldwell. "Maybe 15 or 20 other people in orderly outfits gathered in the parking lot to watch it. It was still, then it went straight up. It was like it evaporated. It was gone. When it was over, the man next to us said, 'They're going to think we're nuts.'"

Like the others, Caldwell says she has seen only one UFO. She and her husband were reluctant to discuss what they saw, and nothing about it was printed in Ohio newspapers.

Another woman who now lives in Mesa was taking care of her four young children in Marion, Ohio, about the same time. Her encounter 100 miles south of Toledo was similar to Caldwell's. Three years later in the Panhandle of Texas, a woman who today is a Tempe clothing store manager, describes a similar vehicle that landed near her home.

What these people have in common is this: They kept their stories private and only reluctantly discuss them now. What their minds saw at the time remain very clear to them, but something else also happened. The sightings evoked a common emotion that set them apart from the "normal crowd" and made them alone in the experience.

Air traffic controllers, FAA at odds on UFOs

By KRIS NEWCOMER
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

The government is blaming a power outage, but some air traffic controllers say that's not what caused apparent UFOs to appear on radar at the Denver Air Route Traffic Control Center in Longmont.

"These unidentified targets looked like actual aircraft, with apparently normal speeds and altitudes," said air traffic controller Kevin Cain.

In comments released Friday, Cain said the UFO incident occurred Tuesday — luckily at a slow time of day. The Longmont center controls aircraft flying across Colorado and Wyoming and parts of five other states.

During the incident, Cain wrote that "some controllers had a dozen or more of these targets merging with actual aircraft targets over a half-hour period."

Mitch Barker, a spokesman for

the Federal Aviation Administration, said the problem was traced to a damaged component in the center's computer system. He theorized that the damage was caused by a commercial power outage in Grand Junction the day before false targets started appearing on Longmont radar screens.

But Cain said he doesn't blame the power outage.

Cain said he believes "the new computer just went haywire for that period of time."

Neither official so much as hinted that the blips on Longmont radar screens were representative of unidentified objects.

The FAA is sticking with the power outage theory, Barker said.

"Yes, I'm sure," he said.

"I'm not saying that's the official explanation. I mean, you can never say 'definitely,'" he said.

"Of course, I can't swear on the Bible or anything. But I'm sure."

Associated Press contributed to this report.

LETTERS To The Editor

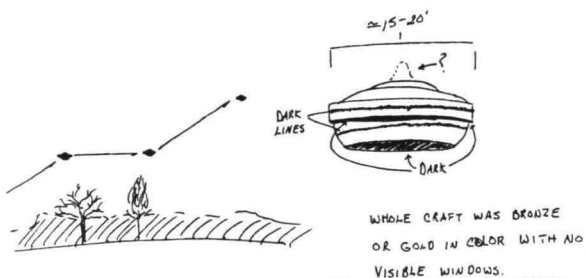
Dear Sentinel:

I have enclosed 3 photos that I took on the afternoon of 3/17 at about 3:45 p.m. from the Garcon Point peninsula. The photos were taken facing west with a Polaroid 600 camera which I carry with me on the job. (I am a real estate agent). I was able to snap 3 photos in rapid succession before the object departed to the west. I'm not sure what I photographed but it wasn't one of our local aircraft. This thing made no noise and climbed away like a rocket. I can't reveal my name because my co-workers would think I flipped out. Maybe your newspaper can identify this, because I sure cannot (I am also a retired airforce F-4 pilot). I've enclosed a sketch of what little detail I could see.

Thanks,

Astounded in Milton

P.S. My truck would not start for about 5 minutes after the object left and I noticed that I had built up a pretty stout static electric charge when I touched the door handle.



Drawing sent in by "Astounded in Milton" (The craft in his photos was too small to show up on newsprint.)

Area Bigfoot, UFO reports featured on 'Inside Edition'

Area Bigfoot and UFO aficionados will be featured on "Inside Edition" Friday.

The program airs locally on KDKA TV-2 at 11:30 p.m.

The segment is devoted to reports of sightings in Pennsylvania with particular attention to the chronicles of alleged UFO and Bigfoot occurrences in the Chestnut Ridge area.

Reporter Jeff Cole interviewed Stan Gordon, director of the Greensburg-based Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained as well as PASU consultant, John Biondi, a Greensburg psychologist.

PASU is an all-volunteer, statewide scientific clearinghouse that conducts investigations into UFO sightings, Bigfoot phenomena and other unusual and extraordinary occurrences.

Also interviewed for the program was Bill Dascani of Latrobe, who reports having seen a low-level UFO in the Norvelt area and Bob France of Vandergrift, whose encounter with a Bigfoot creature on Chestnut Ridge was the subject of a recent *Philadelphia Inquirer* piece.

Gordon, who has been the subject of other programs in recent months, says the media interest in Bigfoot and UFO sightings is more a response to renewed public interest in the unexplained phenomena.

"The public is more aware of the phenomena, that UFO citings are occurring and we need an explanation for them," says Gordon, who has been investigating them for more than 29 years but has yet to glimpse one.

'Walton Experience' continues to defy skepticism

Woodcutter says aliens abducted him in 1975

Second of two parts

By Ric Clarke
Tribune writer

SNOWFLAKE — Travis Walton is still fighting back the awful images.

The hovering craft and its blinding beam of light. The creatures' repulsive chalky skin and liquid-black eyes. The room of stars. The mysterious five-day time lapse.

And the ridicule of earthlings.

They are all part of an incident that thrust Walton into an international media spotlight and ended this sleepy farm-town 13 years ago.

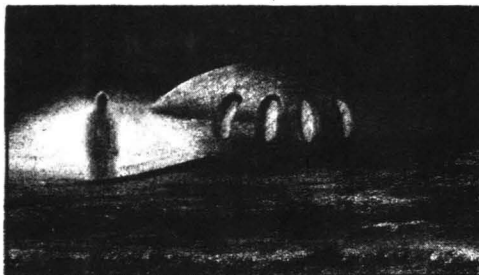
For five days in November, 1975, the 22-year-old woodcutter disappeared without a trace, then reappeared with a compelling tale of abduction aboard a spacecraft.

Walton, now 36 and a father of four, said the experience has permanently altered his life.

"It will always be there. It changed everything forever," said the soft-spoken, withdrawn outdoorsman with distant



Walton



blue eyes. "Everything that happened to me seems like a piece of something more."

But the "Walton Experience," as it has come to be known, is more than a sensational story or a personal tragedy.

It is one of the few reported UFO encounters that has stubbornly defied the skeptics.

There are six eyewitnesses who have passed polygraph tests. Walton has done the same, as well as subjected himself to psychological and physical examinations that have dispelled accusations of drug-induced hallucination or a cleverly orchestrated hoax.

Science has yet to disprove the Walton Experience.

And much to Walton's chagrin, people refuse to let it fade. It is still as much a source of fascination today as it was more than a decade ago.

To Walton, it is a source of pain. The stress surfaces in his voice as he describes the nightmare. This, he said, will be the last time he retells it.

He was one of eight loggers who were thinning trees for the Forest Service about eight miles southwest of Heber on a chilly fall day.

It was just after sundown when the men, crowded into a crew cab truck, noticed a bright light searing through the treetops. Moments later, they came upon the disc hovering about 25 feet above the ground.

"There was no mistaking this thing. This was not a glowing glob of light in the distance," Walton said. "It had a hard outline. It was plain to see."

Ignoring the advice of his frightened colleagues, Walton left the truck and approached for a closer look.

He described the saucer as about 25 feet in diameter with an array of exterior lights. Walton got close enough to hear sounds from inside the craft and to sense he was in danger.

As he turned to run, he was hit by what the others later described as a "brilliant beam of energy" that knocked him through the air.

The crew panicked and fled, then regrouped and returned to the scene. Walton and the saucer were gone.

Walton remembers waking on a table in the presence of three creatures.

They were "basically humanoid," he said, with chalky white skin and no hair. There was no verbal communication and their faces revealed no emotion.

They were wearing orange coveralls made of a suede-like material.

Their most striking feature was their huge, black eyes, which sent a chill through him when they blinked.

"It was just like they were looking right through you. They were so large," Walton said.

Looking back on the experience, Walton remembers the creatures as non-threatening.

"They remind me of these pictures you see of a human fetus," he said.

But at the time, they were terrifying.

Walton lashed out at the creatures, then bolted down a hallway that led to a dark room.

The room lightened as he entered it. The walls were covered with stars. In the center was a chair and a control panel.

He frantically pushed buttons on the panel, hoping one would open a door and provide an escape. Instead, they moved the star patterns in sudden, jerking motions around the room.

Walton suddenly felt a presence.

"I turned and there was a man standing in the doorway. It looked just like a human. I thought it was," he said.

Believing the "human" would help him, Walton allowed himself to be led out of the craft to a large hangar-like area that contained other saucers. He was taken to a room, placed on another table and fitted with a mask.

"As soon as that mask was over my face, I just grayed out," he said. "The next thing I knew I woke up on the highway outside of Heber."

Walton looked up in time to see the craft race out of sight in the night sky.

He wandered into Heber and called a relative who took him to his mother's home in Snowflake.

His family told him that what he believed was a two-hour experience actually was a five-day absence. They told him about the massive search that Gila County officials estimate cost the sheriff's office \$10,000. And they told him about the uproar his disappearance and the woodcutters' spaceship story had caused in his hometown Snowflake.

Walton said he was in a state of shock.

"They figured I was in no shape to handle it. I don't think I was," he said.

The family cloistered Walton in a brother's house in Phoenix, out of harm's way.

There he was interviewed by then-Gila County Sheriff Marlin Gillispie and inspected by doctors provided by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

Physical and psychological exams were conducted at Barrow Neurological Institute the next day.

Psychiatrist Dr. Gene Rosenbaum of Durango, Colo., gave Walton a clean bill of mental health.

"This young man is not lying. There is no collusion involved, no attempt to hoax," Rosenbaum said. "And there is no evidence of drugs in this issue."

Walton, a Mormon, said he has never touched narcotics or alcohol.

Phoenix polygrapher George Pfeffer also cleared Walton.

"Travis Walton has answered all questions in a manner that he is convinced to be truthful," Pfeffer reported.

Rosenbaum also noted that the experience had left Walton "going through a life crisis like we all do after a death or a divorce."

Walton agrees that he was "a wreck."

"I just couldn't bear to think about what happened. I couldn't talk about it. I couldn't deal with it at all," he said.

He also was hypnotized, an experience that eased the stress and gave further credence to his story.

"It allowed me to repeat the story for the first time without all this terrific fear," he said.

He returned home to Snowflake where the experience continued to take its personal toll in terms of nightmares and a continual, ominous presence during his waking hours.

"I was warned this is the sort of thing that can just take over your life," he said. "I've had to make a specific effort to live as normally as possible to try to put this into the background."

Walton said he began granting interviews as rumors started circulating and cropping up in news accounts. Eventually he also wrote a book, *The Walton Experience*.

The book has not been a moneymaker. But he maintains that was not the intent.

"I felt a need to set the record straight," he said.

He can assess his losses from the experience, however. It has cost him jobs, friends and a reputation.

"All in all, I've lost badly from this thing."

Another concern is the impact it has on his children.

His two sons and two daughters, ranging in age from 2 to 10, also are victims of ridicule, he said.

"They have heard about it from everyone but me. This is not something I permit to be discussed in the house," said Walton, who fears the children are too young to understand. "When they're old enough, I'll go into it with them."

Life isn't easy in a town of 4,000, many of whom believe he is either crazy or a liar.

Former Sheriff Gillispie stops short of making either accusation. But he is not a believer.

"Those individuals saw what they thought was a UFO. I just find that a little hard to believe," he said. "I don't have anything to support that one way or the other, but neither do they."

Sheriff's Lt. E.M. Romo, who was involved in the missing-person investigation, is less tactful.

"I think these were fantasies he was living. If you fantasize enough, you start to believe it," he said. "Maybe he had a chance to live one of these fantasies and he took it."

Walton said he is just trying to live a reality, but it's not getting a lot easier.

"We've talked of leaving, but I'm not going to run away from it," Walton said. "I can sort these things out of my life in as practical a way as possible. I'm just going to go on being me."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - April 16, 1989

200 gather for meeting about UFOs

Speaker was 'contactee'

By Stephen Steed

GAZETTE FAYETTEVILLE BUREAU

EUREKA SPRINGS — "Better not touch the hull, pal, it's hot."

Those supposedly were the first words spoken to Dr. Daniel Fry by an alien being whose flying saucer landed July 4, 1950, at the White Sands Rocket Proving Grounds in New Mexico.

Fry, who claims he was one of the first "contactees," was an engineer then. Now he's a frequent speaker at UFO conferences across the nation.

This weekend, Fry, of Alamo Gordo, N.M., joined about 200 other UFO enthusiasts who met in Eureka Springs for a three-day conference to talk about phenomena of outer space.

Most of those in attendance were believers that earthlings weren't the only living beings in the universe.

Others were curious enough to at least consider the prospect of life elsewhere.

All were serious about their work, or their hobbies.

"You bet this is serious," Russell Matthews of Baltimore, Md., said. "You won't find anyone overtly making light of what we are doing here."

He was right. This wasn't a "Star Trek" convention — there were no antennae playfully dangling from conventioners' heads, no space suits, and no jokes about "little green men."

Instead, the conference featured about a dozen speakers, most of them authors or researchers, who talked about possible sightings and possible landings of UFOs around the world. They also discussed what those aliens might have done while they were here.

One part of the conference centered on cattle mutilations, some of which has occurred in Arkansas. Others centered on the media's coverage of possible UFO sightings and on the government's unwillingness to openly investigate the prospect of life beyond Earth.

"If there's any credibility to be lent to any of this work, a lot of it is going to have to come from the government," said Vicki Cooper, publisher of *UFO Magazine*, founded in Los Angeles in 1986.

Fry, now 81, said he didn't get much help from the government — or anyone else — when he reported the landing at White Sands.

He said the spaceship and the voice that came from it startled him so much that he fell backward.

He got up only after the "alien" said: "Take it easy, pal, you're among friends."

Fry has written of his extra-terrestrial contact in a book, "To Men of Earth," which he sells at conferences like the one in Eureka



LOIS WILSON

—Staff Photo

Springs.

"There always will be skeptics and cynics," Fry said. "I knew that when I decided to come forth [in 1952] with the story."

"Who's to say something like that never happens? People always doubt these things, until it happens to them. I was a skeptic myself, even after it happened."

Fry said he has no reason to disbelieve anyone when they say they have seen a UFO or spotted an alien being.

"I'd say, generally, that if anyone who says he had contact with an extra-terrestrial and tells about it consistently and constantly for a year, I'd say he had that visit," Fry said.

Lou Farish of Plumerville, who helped organize the conference, said he hoped it becomes an annual event for Eureka Springs. This year's conference ends today.

UFO-watching is gaining credibility, he said.

Skeptics aside, Russell woman, Ottawa doctor certain of alien visits

By R.E. RAMCHARAN
Hays Daily News

RUSSELL — Exactly what several dozen citizens saw or hoped to see in the night sky over Russell County Feb. 24 may never be known for certain.

What is known is that one woman claims to have been invited aboard alien ships on several occasions, and several people claim to have been followed or chased by unidentified flying objects.

In a story published that day in the Russell Daily News, Donna Butts, 36, Russell, said that large numbers of alien spaceships would appear in the sky after dark "so people will know they are here, and that they do exist."

In fact, according to Russell Daily News reporter Irene Jepsen, nothing happened. Jepsen and three friends spent much of that night driving around Russell County, watching for the ships. She saw "a lot of activity."

But, she added, "I did not at any time think they were anything but ordinary aircraft."

Several people called her after that night with accounts of UFO sightings, including one man who said he was sitting in a pickup with his wife and children in a field north of the city. Jepsen said he claimed that at about 9:45 p.m. a cluster of lights came out of a gully and headed for the truck. When he turned on his headlights, the apparition vanished.

The next day, Jepsen said, "I did go to the area and there was

On several occasions she has been aboard the aliens' spaceships. "They take hold of you, and they have this little black box on the right side of their belts. Then they push a couple of buttons and next thing you know, you're aboard the ship."

— Donna Butts

nothing to see. As far as marks on the ground, there was nothing."

Another woman claimed that she had seen a UFO near the Pioneer exit, about 5 miles east of here, Jepsen said. That UFO was described as a "strobe light" traveling northwest.

None of these people are willing to say publicly who they are and what they saw. Nor has anyone called Russell County Sheriff Robert L. Balloun.

Balloun said he was aware of the rumored sightings, but, he said, "We haven't had any reports of anything unusual in the county at all. It's been pretty quiet; we'd like to keep it that way."

"I did have a deputy out that night and he didn't see anything at all. Apparently some people can see it and some people can't."

That so many people claim to have seen UFOs does not surprise Philip Klass, a contributing editor to Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine and a member of the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of

the Paranormal.

"There is a psychological impact," Klass said in a telephone interview from his home in Washington. "I have often said that if I could get the Washington Post to publish a story that UFOs had been sighted over Washington, I can guarantee that 20 or 30 people will call in the next day to report that they, too, have seen it."

"Some of them may really have seen something — others, sort of a 'me, too' effect. If the Post, or any newspaper, follows up with another story saying UFOs have been sighted over Washington or Hays or wherever again last night, then more people, again, not kooks, but just curious people, will go out looking."

In 22 years of investigating UFO reports, Klass said, he has yet to find one whose explanation was aliens from another planet.

"Any person who will stand outside at night on a clear night for two or three hours, I can guarantee they will see something they cannot identify or explain. It may be a

meteor fireball. It may be re-entering space debris. It may be an advertising airplane. It may be a (Strategic Air Command) aircraft engaged in refueling maneuvers."

Butts was one of two people quoted in the Dec. 13, 1988, edition of the grocery store tabloid Weekly World News. "They're coming! Space alien invasion only three years away, says top UFO expert," read the headline.

A recent issue of the newspaper featured the headline, "Space alien baby found on Mt. Everest" on the front page.

In the December story, Butts was quoted as saying she had been in contact with the aliens since 1984 and that the visits were connected with prophecies scattered throughout the Bible.

She refuses to meet with reporters, but in a telephone interview she said that she had been receiving messages from an alien named Peter or Cephas.

"Peter called himself a multidimensional being," she said. She described him as being 6 feet tall, with silver hair and blue eyes, about 60 years old — "nice build, not great, but nice."

On several occasions, she said she had been invited aboard the aliens' spaceships.

"They take hold of you, and they have this little black box on the right side of their belt. Then they push a couple of buttons and next thing you know, you're aboard the ship."

Once aboard, she said, the aliens

alien visits

told her about future events, among them an impending collapse of the Bush administration that would result in Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., becoming the next president.

Klass was skeptical. "See if she can find out what horse is going to run first at Hialeah tomorrow," he said.

Also quoted in the Weekly World News was Ottawa physician Scott Corder. In a telephone interview, he said Peter was an "Amorcan," one of 70 species of aliens now visiting Earth. They came to Russell, he said, because it is the focal point of a "transmutational channel" that covers much of Kansas.

"It's some kind of an entry point that has to do with electromagnetic fields that allows them to gain entry to our plane of existence," he said.

"They want to focus some attention to that area, because it's significant to them for prophecy."

The prophecies are scattered throughout the Bible, Corder said. Many are connected with the Book of Revelation and deal with the end of the world.

Corder added that Peter/Cephas is the same person as the apostle, St. Peter.

Monday, the state Board of Healing Arts suspended Corder's license to practice medicine for his public statements about the aliens.

Ted Schultz, a writer on unconventional beliefs, is familiar with similar accounts. His book, "The Fringes of Reason," examines a number of fringe social phenomena, including flying saucer religions.

"It's interesting that this case combines both things — the classic '50s contactee and the abduction," he said.

During the 1950s, people claimed to have been contacted by alien beings, often with predictions of future events or messages for the rest of the world.

"It's hard to take any particular one at face value," he said. "It seems to me that, as far as the question of whether to actually believe them or not, the fact that hundreds of these predictions that have never come true works against it."

Abduction, the notion that people are kidnapped by aliens, has been around almost since the first science fiction novels. A ghoulish twist, that the aliens conduct experiments on their prisoners, surfaced in 1968 with John Fuller's book, "The Interrupted Journey." Similar accounts have recently been on the best-seller lists.

"Now it's a big thing," Schultz said. "It tells you something about human nature and the human mind, a lot more than it tells you about visitors from outer space."

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - May 4, 1989 CR: L. Wilson

Sentinel Writer Finally Sees UFO Herself

By KIMBERLY STEVENSON

Since the first report of UFO sightings over Gulf Breeze, I have diligently watched the sky for a glimpse of these extraterrestrial visitors. A few times I thought I had seen something unusual, but still a bit of skepticism prevailed.

However, last week, on April 27th, a Thursday night about 9:30, I routinely looked out my back door towards the City of Gulf Breeze, hoping again these UFOs would make an appearance so that I could see them.

I was amazed to see something different in the sky. I walked out on my back deck, turning off the kitchen light as I stepped out and watched as a bright object shot at a tremendous speed down and diagonally across the sky. It then made a circular pattern, then shot straight up. The whole time it radiated colors from it that grew in intensity from white, to blue, to green, to red. No blinking lights,

just radiating colors of a nature have never seen.

I have lived in this area for seven years and have watched the sky on numerous occasions and am quite familiar with the air traffic in the sky. I am very familiar with aircraft of all sorts and know what an airplane, jet, helicopter and yes, the Goodyear Blimp look like in the sky. I can assure you that what I saw was not any of these.

As I watched this object, which appeared to be right over the area of Shoreline Park, I reached inside the house and called an associate from work who came immediately to my house with a friend. I also called my neighbors next door, who came out on their balcony and watched the object and said that they could see two of them. We watched the object for at least 30 minutes. It sat in one spot for a very long time, then began to slowly descend and move westerly, towards Perdido. I called a

friend, Kenneth Payne in Perdido who was at work. He went outside with two other co-workers and they all saw the bright object and confirmed it was moving slowly. This was a little after 10 p.m.

Another young man on the beach was also watching the object and we talked on the phone with him as he looked at it through his binoculars; he too said he thought he saw more than one. He was not available for an interview at the time this story was written but will tell his story this week, along with other sightings he had on Saturday and Monday.

I have written several stories about other people's experiences of UFO sightings and always believed them, but I am sincerely convinced now that something strange is flying over Gulf Breeze.

Many reports of sightings have been flooding into *The Sentinel* since last Thursday night. A report of a sighting on Tuesday night, May

2nd, was from a woman who wished to remain anonymous, called saying her and her family were eating at Pizza Hut when they saw a bright object, they left the restaurant and followed it up Highway 98 to Shoreline Park where several people were already there with binoculars watching it. One gentleman she said shared his binoculars with them. The woman reporting the sighting, whose son-in-law was a pilot, said he saw a shape. It had shining red, green and white bright lights. The man with the binoculars told the group that he had seen the UFO on other occasions and when he saw it last week, it was so close and bright, he could not continue to look at it.

Anyone else who has had sightings recently, please contact *The Sentinel*. If you are still a skeptic, like I was, start watching the sky, you might just see something that will change your mind.

COMMERCIAL APPEAL, Memphis, TN - March 15, 1989 CR: W. Lee/COUD-I

RHETA GRIMSLEY
JOHNSON
Commentary

Life eerie since day of the UFO

FYFFE, Ala. — A little more than a month ago, aliens took over the life of this Northeast Alabama town and relentlessly held it in their grip.

Yes, the news media descended with helicopters and minicams and notebooks, and life has been like nothing of this world.

Poor Fred Works. He is a quiet, well-spoken man who has been on the four-person police force since 1972, except for one brief stint with the TVA and Browns Ferry nuclear plant. He is 35, has bright red hair, eyeglasses and

the studied manner of a librarian.

But after he and other residents here saw a UFO, Fred Works' image changed. He and his police chief, J. R. Garmany, have been portrayed on national television as hysterical hicks and Keystone Kops who see Martians riding over the cow pastures. They have been depicted in newspaper cartoons and accused of faking their sighting to boost the FYffe economy.

And, because one woman used an unfortunate description — she said the UFO looked like a banana — the jokes and jabs have been relentless. Someone even left a banana wrapped in Christmas lights in the police station. The ultimate insult came when the BBC telephoned wanting to talk with the policeman who had seen Liberace emerging from a big banana in the sky.

"We never said we saw a flying saucer, or something from outer space," protests Works. What happened was this:

On Feb. 10 a FYffe woman and her sister saw a strange, lighted craft through their window and watched it for over an hour before calling the police. Works was off duty but had remained at the station. He took the call shortly before Garmany came in to relieve him. "I knew the woman. She's no crackpot or anything."

"Want to check out a UFO?" he asked Garmany.

"Sure," the chief laughed.

"I'm not kidding."

The two rode a piece before the craft appeared above the trees, low on the horizon.

"It flew right over us. It was about as big as a basketball, and I'm guessing about 1,500 yards away. It traveled at one, steady speed and had lights illuminating it. It was a triangle shape with the corners rounded. We simply didn't know what it was."

There was no heat, no noise, no vibration, no time loss.

The two men didn't talk on the ride home, for they were listening to radio reports as others re-

ported sightings. Pretty soon there were calls from nearby Dog Town and Lick Skillet. It was hard to separate the legitimate sightings from those having police scanner fun. "One man called in and said, 'Hear my wife screaming in the background. This thing flew by and was scaring the hell out of my bird dogs, so I emptied my shotgun into it.' I think that was a prank. He didn't leave his name and there was no call-back."

By the time Works and Garmany got back to the station, a reporter was calling. After the Associated Press picked up the story, the dam broke.

Several thousand UFO watchers have visited on weekends, hoping to catch a glimpse of the UFO. On Feb. 24 there were more sightings, this time strange lights. One man has reported a craft as big as a house hovered over his pond and lit things up bright as day.

If anybody has benefited financially it's been one T-shirt vendor, the Shell gasoline sta-

tion and the two restaurants that stayed open late for crowds willing to eat unidentified frying objects.

"Some of the things that have been said about our town and the people here have been downright mean," complains Downs. "People here talk a little country, I guess, and they've had a field day with that."

He fears the close encounter with all that media attention has changed FYffe forever.

"I was riding with my little boy who is 6 the other night and he starting pointing up. First I thought there was something on the windshield. 'It's a UFO,' he said."

It was an airplane.

UFO group blasts media at meeting

By KAY B. HALL
Times Staff Writer

More than 300 ufologists attended an Ozark Mufon (Mutual UFO Network) Conference at Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, last weekend and heard the news and television media lambasted by more than one of its featured speakers.

The harshest media critics were themselves journalists who claimed that the media continues to treat all UFO sightings and/or alleged abductions and contactees with ridicule by slanted and even censored reporting.

Jim Williamson, co-publisher of "Little River News," an Ashdown, Ark., publication, spoke of his recent southwest Arkansas UFO sightings. He was one of many area residents that witnessed the "unexplainable" since January of last year.

Attempts to explain sighting

Within hours of his and other reports, a Little Rock astronomer attempted to explain it away by saying viewers had seen the planet Venus. One Arkansas farmer, of 20 years, replied to this by saying, "Well, if it was Venus, it flew from east to west and went down in a field."

Williamson, as did other succeeding speakers, cited credible UFO sightings by air traffic controllers, radar operators, commercial and military pilots, retired military officers and enlisted men, county sheriffs and police officers.

Ufologists, Mufon investigators, media and government, all represented at the conference, were in agreement on one thing, there are far more questions than answers to the UFO activity that has taken place in the past 40 years.

Sightings of UFOs have shown similar characteristics and seem to fall into three categories, that of mother ship, sometimes described as large and elliptical, cigar-shaped or boomerang shaped, the teardrop satellite ships, smaller, disc-like in shape or even butterfly shaped. Then there are smaller ball-shapes not too much larger than a basket-

ball alleged to be instruments for collecting data that also rejoin the "mother" ship just as do the small saucer-like craft.

Photos shown

Photographs, videos and slides were available for all to examine, and one of the most graphic exhibitions were the photos, film, and slides shown by Linda Howe, the Emmy award winning producer of a CBS documentary film on animal mutilations around the United States.

Her ongoing investigative reporting has included UFOs as well as animal mutilations, many mutilations having occurred here in Arkansas. The slides showed the mutilations to be hi-tech, occurring for more than 20 years, discounting devil cults and animals of prey being responsible. The precise round "cookie cuts" were not knife incisions, were not tears, but were precise, "rapid pin-point high heat incisions." Organs were removed as well as one eye (cookie cut), one ear, the tongue and in every case the rectum. No blood remained in the animals, no cell tissue damage to the incised area.

Vet scared off

A Logan County, Texas sheriff, she said, called in a well-known and respected senior veterinarian to investigate a mysterious animal mutilation. The vet could offer no solutions but told the sheriff, "Don't ask me to come back on any of these cases."

Howe alluded to an alleged spacecraft that crashed in the late 40s with aliens on board. All bodies but one were dead, she said, but the one, taken to Los Alamos, was kept alive until 1952. The secrecy surrounding this case, she said, may have been due, in part, to the reports that the creatures were not humanoid.

This "coverup" of UFO activity and EBAs (a government acronym for Extraterrestrial Biological Entity), according to Howe, is part of four decades of government lies, ridicule, harassment of "sighters" and even murder to keep its secret.



Linda Moulton Howe, right, author and Emmy Award winning producer and narrator of a film documentary on animal mutilations, talks with Lucius Farish. Jim Williamson, Co-Publisher of the "Little River News" in Ashdown, Ark.,

Skeptic changed mind

Danny Gordon, radio newsmen, winner of many Virginia and East coast awards for news reporting, from Wytheville, Va., was a skeptic until he encountered, on more than one occasion, unexplainable aircraft near his home in Virginia. He called a news conference and shared his information, corroborated by others having seen the same craft, but as his "saga" continued, and he was able to photograph what he'd seen, strange things began happening. A negative turned up missing (he still has prints) after he talked with military investigators, his phone began to hum strangely. He'd report the hum to the phone company, the line would be humming at that time, but whenever a repairman came out to check out the phone and line, it would miraculously clear up. He documented this. It happened on ten different occasions.

Speakers included Antonio Huneeus, now a New York City journalist, who showed slides, with documents, from both Central and South America. The records, some governmental and military, confirmed many sightings of unexplained craft.

Some stories considered legitimate UFO sightings and news reports

helped Howe with her research of animal mutilation cases in Arkansas. Both spoke at the UFO Conference held in Eureka Springs last weekend.

Timesphoto by Kay B. Hall

had taken the rough estimate of about 40 feet and had converted it into metrics for the readership.

Many speakers

Many spoke at the conference but one notes mention as the first recorded to have been contacted by an alien in 1950. Daniel W. Fry, a military engineer, retired, now an author and speaker, spoke on the White Sands Incident. In his eighties, his presentation was clear and eloquent.

The Gulf Breeze, Florida case and the well-known but earlier, Meier Case were both covered by expert testimony and documentation. One speaker, a tiny lady who had taught special education classes for many years in California, Rosemary Decker, made an extremely articulate eye-witness to sightings in Vista, 40 years ago.

The conference "message" was summed up by Vicki Cooper, Co-Editor of UFO Magazine. "If the phenomena (UFOs) is as widespread and mysterious as has been shown by this and other conferences, we have something of global importance that should be addressed by the government openly and not in secret."

UFomania slowly dies down as Fyffe returns to normal

By SUSAN STOCKMAN

FYFFE—The usually crowded Friday night streets of this small north Alabama town were not so crowded last week. As reports of the unidentified flying object or objects died down so did the crowds.

What three weeks ago was an estimated crowd of 3,500 dwindled to about 750 Friday night.

Saturday night Fyffe seemed almost deserted and the police department had only a single dispatcher and no visitors at all.

The police department of the town of 1,200 report that there have been no confirmed sightings in several days.

However, several people have told The Weekly Post they have seen the object, but did not report it to the police.

Jeff Ballard, state director of MUFON, was back in the Fyffe area over the weekend. Ballard said

his organization is investigating reported sightings in several Alabama cities such as Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Georgiana, and in Shelby County.

An Associated Press story that ran in newspapers this week said that the Shelby County case could involve a possible abduction. The article did not give details of the case.

While sightings have occurred in cities other than Fyffe, none have generated the amount of publicity as those in Fyffe.

The Fyffe sightings have generated media attention from all over the world, not just local or statewide.

The investigations by MUFON and by The Weekly Post are ongoing. The photographs taken by The Weekly Post reporters are being computer analyzed but no determination has yet been reached.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR:

Congratulations. I saw the (UFO) picture you made Thursday evening. I would like to add this:

I am visiting Gulf Shores, Ala., and at approximately 10 p.m. I noticed a large orange light pass overhead going southwest at a very high rate of speed at low altitude.

In five seconds it was out of sight. As a former air traffic controller for 25 years, that was a first for me. Good work.

Mark Regan
Rainsville, Ala.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - March 16, 1989 CR: R. Reid

National Media Focuses On Gulf Breeze UFO Experience

By DUANE COOK

Thanks to the Tampa Tribune series a few weeks ago, and to the Fyffe, Alabama UFO sightings recently, we have been graced with visits from *People* magazine, *USA Today* on TV, and *Cummings Entertainment* out of Hollywood about our Gulf Breeze UFO

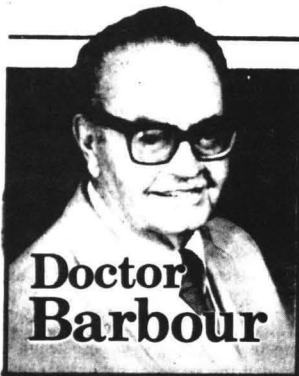
sightings which occurred primarily from November 11, 1987 through the middle of 1988.

As it stands right now, *People* may not do a story on it now since contractual commitments between Ed, our primary photographer, and a book

publisher preclude his taking part in any publicity about the UFO until his book comes out.

Meanwhile a *USA Today* on TV crew was in town this week, and *Life* magazine called to discuss a possible series based on Ed's experiences.

TRIBUNE, San Diego, CA - Dec. 10, 1988



By Richmond Barbour, Ph.D.

"Have the alien creatures changed the shape of their flying saucers? I write to you reluctant-

ly, because you may decide I am crazy. My wife and I were driving home from Las Vegas. It was near midnight, on a clear moonlit night. We topped Cajon Pass, near San Bernardino. Above us we saw what looked like a huge flying wing. It was longer than a football field, and quite wide. It moved slowly and silently from east to west. On the side there was a long row of dim lights. It was bigger than any plane ever built. We stopped to watch. It moved steadily in the direction of Los Angeles. At the next service station we asked if the attendant had seen it too. He said he had not. Dr. Barbour, we had not been drinking. Our eyesight is good. We were wide awake. We don't have hallucinations. We have

concluded that we really saw something from out of this world. Can you explain it?"

Except for the size of the object you saw, I would guess that it was one of the new Stealth bombers on a trial run. They are produced not too far from Cajon Pass. One was reported by a dozen motorists, including a couple of highway patrolmen. I talked with people who witnessed that flight. I am convinced they really saw something. I wish that just for once I could see a UFO myself!



This photograph, taken by a Gulf Breeze resident who goes just by the name "Ed," shows what he says is a UFO hovering near the town.

FLYING OBJECTS

In this series, BayLife examines UFOs and sightings in the Panhandle town of Gulf Breeze that put the phenomenon back in public focus.

TODAY

Residents of Gulf Breeze have reported seeing UFOs dozens of times. One man has taken more than 30 photographs. Still, the controversy rages on.

Inside — Where is Gulf Breeze in relation to nearby military installations? Could the reported UFOs have originated there?/4-1

Monday — The principal photographer in Gulf Breeze says his encounters with UFOs were mind-boggling. One critic says the photographs are nothing more than an elaborate prank.

Tuesday — People reporting that they were abducted by aliens no longer are regarded as latter-day lunatics, psychotherapists say. Two Floridians are among the dozens who have reported something that may be very difficult to believe.

Wednesday — Academicians and scientists aren't convinced long-distance visits from extraterrestrials are possible. Nevertheless, NASA has begun its own search for alien intelligence.

Gulf Breeze UFOs

Controversy hangs over Panhandle town

By JENNIFER TUCKER
Tribune Staff Writer

GULF BREEZE — Ringed by two-story pines and six-figure real estate, Gulf Breeze is a mostly unremarkable town severed by U.S. 98 in the Florida Panhandle.

To visitors, its most memorable feature is a flashing neon fish pointing the way to Pensacola Beach.

To 6,000 residents, its most pressing problem is a 70-mile detour around the Pensacola Bay Bridge, hit and crippled by a barge two weeks ago.

In 15 years, only two murders have torn this town. In 12 years, only 10 bank robberies have occurred.

But in the last year and a half, more than 135 local witnesses have reported seeing something they can't identify.

One prominent Gulf Breeze resident has taken more than 30 photographs of a UFO. This man, who protects his anonymity behind the name "Ed," has photographed a craft so fantastic and unfamiliar that many people believe the pictures are first-rate fakes.

Skeptics merely point to the east where Eglin Air Force Base, one of the country's largest military installations, lies like a wall-to-wall flying carpet.

The Gulf Breeze stories — told to the nation by NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" and CNN, among others — have inspired UFO researchers to undertake a dramatic debate of possibility vs. probability.

Researchers agree on only one thing: Either the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings are some of the most phenomenal ever recorded, or the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings are some of the most exaggerated ever reported.

Among the eyewitnesses are a federal judge, a politician and a prominent physician.

The neighbors

Art and Mary Hufford don't even live in town. Their homey, ranch-style house is on a sycamore-lined street in Pensacola, a bridge's drive away from Gulf Breeze.

But the Huffords remember, in perfect detail, an evening in early November 1987.

"We thought UFOs were something that happened to Billy Bob out on a boat after too many beers."

Art Hufford,
who says he saw a UFO in 1987

The couple was in their car, just two miles from home, when they saw something gray, oval and silent fly over the treetops, Art says.

The craft remained in view for several minutes, yet when they got home and talked about it, Art says they couldn't come up with a rational explanation.

"It just didn't make any sense," says Art, a soft-spoken chemical engineer with a master's degree and 25 years' experience at Monsanto Chemical Co.

Both Huffords are elders in the Presbyterian church, and Mary is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Pensacola.

"We thought UFOs were something that happened to Billy Bob out on a boat after too many beers," Art says, wryly.

But then, several weeks after their sighting, the couple saw Ed's photographs in the Pensacola edition of the Gulf Breeze newspaper. "It was like someone had taken a picture out of our brains," Art says. "That was it."

Through 1988, the couple shared their experience with others similarly affected. At social gatherings, when Art mentioned the sighting, he says people would pull him aside with whispered confessions of their own experiences.

And Art is convinced that what he saw was not a product of modern technology or man-made trickery.

"Frankly," Art says, "the debunkers make me mad. I saw what I saw."

Party invitations

Fenner and Shirley McConnell of Gulf Breeze had sent out invitations to their annual June get-together with tongue planted firmly in cheek.

The front of the invitation featured a cartoon of alien creatures rollicking through city streets, and inside they told revelers it

would be a "UFO-watching party."

Two days before the 1988 party, the couple says, their invitation sprang to life outside their bedroom window. They saw a cylindrical craft, ringed in windows and lights, hovering over Pensacola Bay.

Fenner McConnell, a physician and medical examiner for Florida's District 1, says the craft came within 75 yards of the house, and at one point "I thought it was going to land on it."

Shirley McConnell, a caterer, says she was overcome by "an eerie feeling," but she immediately recognized the craft from Ed's photographs.

The couple went outside to get a better look. It hovered for nearly four minutes and then "kind of drifted away," Fenner McConnell says.

"I'm not saying that I believe it's from another planet," Shirley McConnell says, "but it's something I had never laid eyes on in my life. People can say whatever they want about me, but I know what I saw. Ed didn't make this up."

Likewise, Brenda Pollak says the large, lighted craft she saw twice in one night during the spring of 1988 was not a figment of her imagination.

She was driving east across the Pensacola Bay Bridge when she saw it the first time, looking "too big and too bright ... and very different from anything I had ever seen before."

Nearing her home on Shoreline Drive in Gulf Breeze, Pollak pulled into the parking lot of the city's recreation center and parked.

She says she watched the craft hover over the bay — unaware that a few blocks away, Ed was taking a photograph of the very same craft.

"I was exhilarated," says Pollak, a two-term City Council member who works with Ed on community projects.

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

"And I can also tell you if this is a hoax, it can't be Ed because it would

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5 -
TRIBUNE, Tampa, FL -
Jan. 29, 1989)

make him look like an idiot and the community look crazy."

The researchers

Scientists can't help making comparisons.

In the 1970s, a Swiss laborer named Edward Meier took hundreds of photographs of a "spaceship" near Zurich.

Although some people consider his photographs authentic, others believe they are fakes, basing their conclusions on damning photographic analyses.

Nevertheless, scientists acknowledge that Meier's pictures are remarkably clever.

So it is with Ed, whose photographs have been analyzed and scrutinized by two of the country's foremost photographic experts.

Moreover, the photographs — and Ed's cooperation with some UFO investigators — have caused a political rift so powerful that participants think the case could damage the future of UFO research in America.

At odds are investigators with the Mutual UFO Network, a 20-year-old group of scientists and "grass-roots" researchers, and the Center for UFO Studies, a non-profit conclave founded by J. Allen Hynek, a leading American astronomer who died in 1986.

Network directors support Ed's story; the center does not.

The network bases its opinion primarily on the findings of Bruce Maccabee, a Naval physicist studying optics and underwater sound in addition to working with the FBI.

The center bases its opinion on its own researchers as well as on Robert Nathan, a member of the technical staff of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Intricate report

Maccabee, who published an intricate 90-page report examining the evidence, concludes that the photographs are real.

He applied the properties of physics and various mathematical theories to determine things such as the size of the ship, the distance of the craft from the camera lens and odd angles of the photographs.

More important, Maccabee says, he wasn't "biased by the idea that it's too impossible, therefore it can't be real." Critics would "rather take the approach that if the pictures could have been hoaxed then they *must* have been," he says.

Maccabee reasons that Ed could not have performed the photographic feats necessary to pull off such an elaborate hoax. "A professional magician would have a difficult time doing this," he says.

Last year, staffers at a Pensacola television station tried to reproduce Ed's photographs using a model. They gave up after their attempts failed miserably, Maccabee says.

He further admonishes skeptics for questioning the look of the craft — "Nobody knows what UFOs look like," Maccabee says.

And he points out what he considers to be the weighty circumstantial evidence in Ed's favor — including testimony from friends and witnesses, one of them Ed's wife.

Skeptics, however, side with NASA's Nathan. Although he acknowledges that he "hasn't given the pictures the kind of care Bruce has," Nathan says a visual examination reveals glaring inconsistencies — typical of double exposures.

Irregularities in photos

The spaceship is brighter and more in focus than the background, he says, and these irregularities are repeated in picture after picture.

Nathan concludes that the object looks like "a gas burner turned upside down" and that its apparent lack of symmetry is simply "inconsistent with what you would expect from a highly developed society."

Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the Center for UFO Studies, says the Gulf Breeze case has "deteriorated into a shouting match" because his organization was forced to play devil's advocate.

Investigators with the Mutual UFO Network were too quick to judge the photographs favorably, he says, and those comments biased Maccabee's analysis.

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



Alfred Chan believes the videotape he took on March 9 may show a UFO.

Stephen Schroeder / Skagit Valley Herald

UFO? Tape reveals image over Oak Harbor skyline

By MARY BAROUH
Staff Writer

OAK HARBOR — It wasn't until 16-year-old Alfred Chan watched his videotape that he saw a barely discernable object hurtling over the roof tops of the city.

Was it a bird? Was it a plane?

While others who have seen the tape are skeptical, Chan, a sophomore at Oak Harbor High School, thinks the object might be a UFO.

"I'm glad to have evidence, because I know there is something out there," Chan said.

He said he knows his story will be greeted with disbelief, but he prefers to let people know apparent phenomena from outer space "can be seen anywhere, even in daylight. And it doesn't have to be in the deserts of Arizona."

Chan is a member of the ROTC Drill Team at school, and in his spare time plays basketball and football. He also seeks information about UFOs in television documentaries and discounts science fiction movies as "silly."

His father, Dominic, a retired Navy Petty Officer, said he can't find any logical explanation for the mysterious object and is willing to believe it's a UFO.

Anyway, "people see what they want to see," when looking at the tape, he commented on whether viewers are willing to believe its an object from another world.

The tape shows a small dark object in the lower corner of the screen that rapidly disappears. Then through the clouds, the light seems to reflect off the classic shape of a flying saucer, the type depicted in 1950s science fiction movies.

The whole shadowy scene takes a matter of seconds on the screen.

Chan captured the unknown shape in the view finder of the family's new video camera on the afternoon of March 9 at their Oak Harbor home. He said he was shooting from inside the house through a window.

He focused the camera on golden clouds to the east and then panned to other parts of the skyline. Then he played the film to see how well the camera had performed.

That's when he saw "something there," he said.

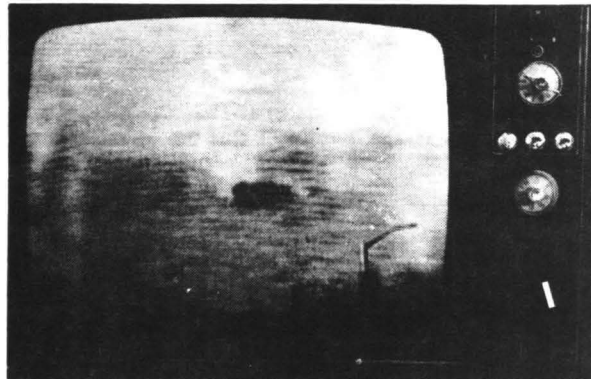
Chan called his parents and they agreed there was definitely something strange about the shape that came and went.

Whether the faint object on the tape is merely a trick of light, a quirk in the tape or a sighting of a UFO remains to be seen.

After realizing the tape contained something unusual, Dominic Chan said like many other people he didn't know what to do about a possible UFO.

He took the tape to the Oak Harbor Police.

Sgt. Rick Wallace said he



Played on Chan's television set, the videotape shows a small dark spot in the lower lefthand corner of the screen.

couldn't discern clearly the outline of the object, "but there seemed to be something moving in the clouds."

Wallace said he has no expertise in identifying this type of phenomena.

"It could have been something on the tape or the fact the camera was moving about quite a bit," Wallace said.

Chan also called Whidbey Island Naval Air Station and was told the base wasn't conducting air operations in the area that day.

"The Navy doesn't have anything that can do the type of maneuvers depicted on the tape," said Navy spokesman Howard Thomas, who has viewed the tape.

"The Navy essentially doesn't have the resources locally to technically evaluate the tape," he added.

The Air Force used to collect this type of data, but now refers

calls to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

The Chans are now waiting to see if a photo taken of the images on the TV screen will be clear enough to send for identification at the center. They decided against sending a copy of the video.

The volunteer organization has optics experts who can help identify if a sighting is a "natural or man-made phenomena or a UFO," said Director Robert Gribble.

"The center deals with all sightings in North America," Gribble said.

The number of calls varies considerably, "but now the center is handling six per day which is considered slow," Gribble added.

Gribble said that after investigation, "only about 8 to 10 percent of the reports are classified as UFOs."

Just the facts

"I deal in facts," says Jerry Brown, Gulf Breeze's 42-year-old chief of police, whose carpeted office smells faintly of cinnamon and coffee.

"Granted — anyplace, any time, anything can happen to you. But why would people call about a prowler and not call about a UFO that's landed in their yard?"

The police chief knows Ed and likes him. Yet Brown says he's concerned about the possibility "that one person, as a practical joke ... could destroy what it's taken so many years to build."

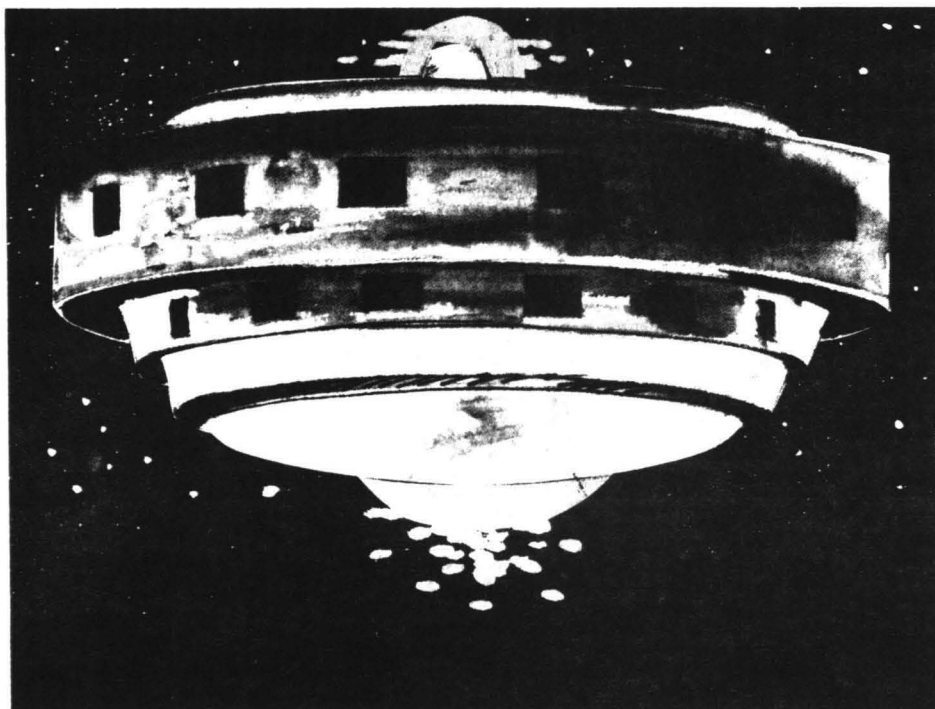
Ed's supporters, meanwhile, believe Gulf Breeze attracted the unknown visitors because of the reputation the city

already had built — as a well-off, well-educated, open-minded community.

"There is a direct correlation between education and the acceptance of the UFO phenomenon," says Donald Ware, Florida director of the Mutual UFO Network.

"I am convinced the reason one man was given so many photographic opportunities is because the aliens *wanted* us to see those pictures," Ware says.

'State of siege'



This illustration, which duplicates a drawing created by Ed, shows the color and shape of

the spacecraft that Ed says he photographed in Gulf Breeze.

Tribune illustration by JIM BREDECK

FLYING OBJECTS

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Sunday — Residents of Gulf Breeze have reported seeing UFOs dozens of times. One man has taken more than 30 photographs. Still, the controversy that began years ago rages on. Where is Gulf Breeze, in relation to nearby military installations? Could the reported UFOs have originated there?

TODAY

The principal photographer in Gulf Breeze says his encounters with UFOs were mind-boggling. One critic says the photographs are nothing more than an elaborate prank.

Inside — The Gulf Breeze photographer has compiled a commentary to accompany the pictures he took. /8F

Tuesday — People reporting that they were abducted by aliens no longer are regarded as latter-day lunatics, psychotherapists say. Two Floridians are among the dozens who have reported something that may be very difficult to believe.

Wednesday — Academicians and scientists aren't convinced long-distance visits from extraterrestrials are possible. Nevertheless, NASA has begun its own search for alien intelligence.

Ed's UFO encounters have made his life hell

By JENNIFER TUCKER
Tribune Staff Writer

GULF BREEZE — Ed isn't the "UFO type."

He's a WASPish baby boomer with a kid in college and a two-car garage. As a custom-home builder in a community full of custom homes, he depends on personal referrals for his livelihood.

He doesn't seem to need the money he could earn from a best seller based on his experiences. Yet local sources indicate he has recently signed a book contract.

Nevertheless, Ed is the guy who has taken all the photographs, made all the noise, caused all the fury. Just over a year ago, Ed says, a UFO appeared in front of his house in Gulf Breeze and he immediately took several photographs of the craft.

Ed walked into the street to get a closer look and a "blue beam" shot down from the ship, temporarily paralyzing him, he says. At the same time, Ed says he heard a loud "hum" and was instructed by an authoritative voice to "be still."

Within seconds, he says, he was raised off the ground, then thrown to the concrete as the craft disappeared. From that moment on, Ed says, a resonant "hum" always preceded the appearance of the UFO.

Seven months later, after 21 encounters resulting in more than 30 photographs and one videotape, Ed says he was abducted again. This time, the aliens removed the hum and he has not seen or photographed a UFO since, he says.

To Ed, 42, this was no phantom object, no trick of nature or imagination. It was real. It made his life a living hell.

And it forced him to defend himself, he says, not against the aliens, but against the people who call him crazy.

Words pound

"Look," Ed says in one of a series of telephone interviews, his words pounding with the passion of a clenched fist. "Before Nov. 10, 1987, I wouldn't have believed in UFOs either unless one landed in my front yard."

"Uh, no pun intended."

Ed guffaws like Gulliver in a land of Lilliputians.

If Ed has been enlightened with truths no scientist knows, then it is wisdom learned reluctantly. He can barely get through a sentence without revealing his fears or defending his position.

He describes the experience as "a state of siege."

Yet, he doesn't plead for understanding. And he doesn't expect it, really. Besides the photographs themselves, Ed's take-it-or-leave-it attitude is his most convincing argument.

And it's an argument he can't win, critics say, not with a pocket full of Polaroids.

Ed, meanwhile, has remained anonymous because he fears his fate. "I would always be known as the UFO guy."

He'd rather be known as a good businessman, a good father and a good buddy to the kids he says he's kept off the streets by welcoming them into his home.

"No, no, no. It was an awful experience. If you ever take a photograph (of a UFO), do not show it to anybody. Put it in a drawer and show it to your grandkids," he says wearily.

Ed's story is lengthy and strange, and he knows it. He says his first encounter, in November 1987, resulted in five blurry color photographs he made with a 17-year-old Polaroid camera.

Take a picture

"Put yourself in the mood of peacefully sitting in your office and looking out your front window and you see something that ... looks like it just escaped a Steven Spielberg movie," he says. "You figure you better take a picture of it."

Ed's humor about his experience is as revealing as it is disarming. Like a schoolboy trying to explain a pockmarked report card, Ed uses humor to cushion the blow. His laughter bounces and rolls like a runaway basketball, but his words slam into listeners' ears with the power of a Michael Jordan slam dunk.

For months, Ed snapped dozens of pictures. Many were taken near his home, situated in the sleepy center of town next to a large, overgrown field.

Others were taken at Shoreline Park, a spot facing the skinny barrier island called Pensacola Beach. Stray kittens crowd the wooded park, whose main features are a whitewashed gazebo and a good stretch of concrete.

Still others were taken along deserted county roads, whose curves are familiar to Ed, the builder.

Skeptics and believers agree — the photographs are remarkably unidentifiable. The craft (or crafts) captured on film are mostly spherical in shape, with dark, recessed

points that Ed surmises are windows. Lights encircle the bottom of the craft and a round bulb is perched on top.

In many instances, Ed snapped the pictures in what he describes as frenzied fear, at dusk or near dawn. Moreover, the craft maneuvered so rapidly that Ed says his opportunities for precise pictures were limited.

Alien encounters

He also was having alien encounters Ed says he couldn't capture on film. On several occasions, Ed says, he was pursued by a "blue beam" of light that shot from the craft.

He says a bowl full of bubbling residue was found in his back yard after one late-night visit. The Mutual UFO Network, which initiated investigation of Ed's claims, had the substance analyzed at independent chemical laboratories in Florida and Texas. These revealed a strange liquid high in magnesium and trace elements, Ed says.

More frightening were face-to-face meetings with the aliens themselves — what scientists call an encounter of the third kind.

The first time he saw one of the "creatures," Ed says he was awakened at 3 a.m. by the now-familiar hum that preceded their visits. When he peered out the glass doors of his bedroom, Ed says, he was face to face with a childlike creature clad in gray.

He says he saw more of these creatures at a later date, an experience that produced one of the most dramatic photographs in Ed's portfolio.

In it, the craft is pictured hovering just above the road, lights reflecting on the wet pavement. Moments after he took this picture, Ed says he realized the craft was moving toward him so he slid from the truck and crawled underneath it.

From his prone position, Ed says he could see a blue beam flash from the craft several times, each time depositing a creature on the road.

He assumed the creatures were "after him" and, riddled with terror, he jumped back in the truck

and sped away. He didn't even think about taking a picture, he says.

Officials visit

After Ed's photographs began to appear in the Gulf Breeze Sentinel newspaper — with his approval but without his name — Ed says he was visited by two men who identified themselves as U.S. Air Force personnel. Wielding badges printed with "Air Force Special Security Services," the visitors behaved "very aggressively" and demanded Ed turn over his photographs, he says.

Ed refused, explaining they were in the hands of professional photographic analysts. (Many were; others were still in Ed's possession.)

By spring, two major UFO organizations — the Mutual UFO Network and the Center for UFO Studies — had been in touch with Ed. So had dozens of media representatives, including the National Enquirer, which Ed says turned down the story because one analysis tentatively labeled the photographs a hoax.

With that, the seed of suspicion was planted. And Ed, who states vehemently, "My word is my bond," was forced into a corner full of accusations.

After taking 24 photographs with his old Polaroid, Ed began using cameras and film provided by UFO researchers — unbroken packages and factory-perfect equipment. He produced 11 photographs with the new equipment supplied by UFO investigators.

Ed also built a so-called stereo camera that allowed him to take two pictures simultaneously, creating a 3-D effect. With this camera, he took about eight photographs.

"If I hadn't taken any pictures with these cameras, I would have been branded guilty by non-photography," he says, sarcastically.

By using mathematical equations, analysts studying the photographs could determine its distance from the camera and its size. Most often, these conclusions placed the craft 65 to 180 feet from the camera, at an approximate size of 12 feet in diameter and 9 feet high.

(continued on page 8)

Unusual occurrence

These estimates correspond quite precisely to an unusual occurrence in Gulf Breeze during the spring. A circular patch of dead grass was discovered on the high school grounds, and lab analysis by UFO investigators revealed the grass wasn't killed by disease or suffocated by petroleum derivatives.

The patch had a 12-foot diameter.

In addition to providing his photographs for publication, Ed agreed to numerous psychological exams, a lie-detector test that included a five-hour interview, and an electronic voice analysis.

In each case, investigators concluded Ed was sane and honest.

"There was never any question that what happened, happened," Ed says. "But I don't know why me — why I was privy to these things."

"I didn't feel 'chosen,' I felt abused," he says. "I was tormented, a prisoner in my own house. I surrounded myself with people at work and family at home."

"My kids never knew if Daddy was going to go away and not come back."

Ed says he took the photographs to the local newspaper because he felt a kind of civic duty to warn nearby residents. Yet his reward from skeptics was name-calling tirades that labeled him "everything from an agitated fool to a schizophrenic," Ed says.

People trying to discredit him, he says, have played "hide-n-seek with the truth" while distorting the facts to fit their opinion.

Classic campaign

"What this is is a classic disinformation campaign by the debunkers in order to brand me as loony tunes," Ed says, his voice rising in defense. "They ran out of legitimate scientific criticisms of the photographic evidence. You have to keep in mind that none of these debunkers have ever talked to any of the

other witnesses."

Dozens of independent eyewitnesses in Gulf Breeze and Pensacola have reported seeing UFOs in the last year, and many of these reports coincide with the appearance of Ed's photographs.

Yet Ed has been criticized for being alone in his torment — the only one able to take photographs of the craft.

"Look, where are you at 3 a.m.? It would have been pretty bizarre to have a mass of people around me at 3 a.m.," he says.

Moreover, Ed says his closest neighbors have seen the UFO. But they are afraid of ridicule.

Currently, Ed says he has no plans to make his identity public or to sell the detailed, chronological log that he's written about the ordeal. (Sources in Gulf Breeze, however, report Ed has signed a lucrative book contract.)

"I have no monetary motive here," he says. "Sometimes, I think a book might be the right thing to do for public education, but it might not be the right thing for my family."

"What might be a lot of money to some people is not enough for me to sell my soul," Ed says.

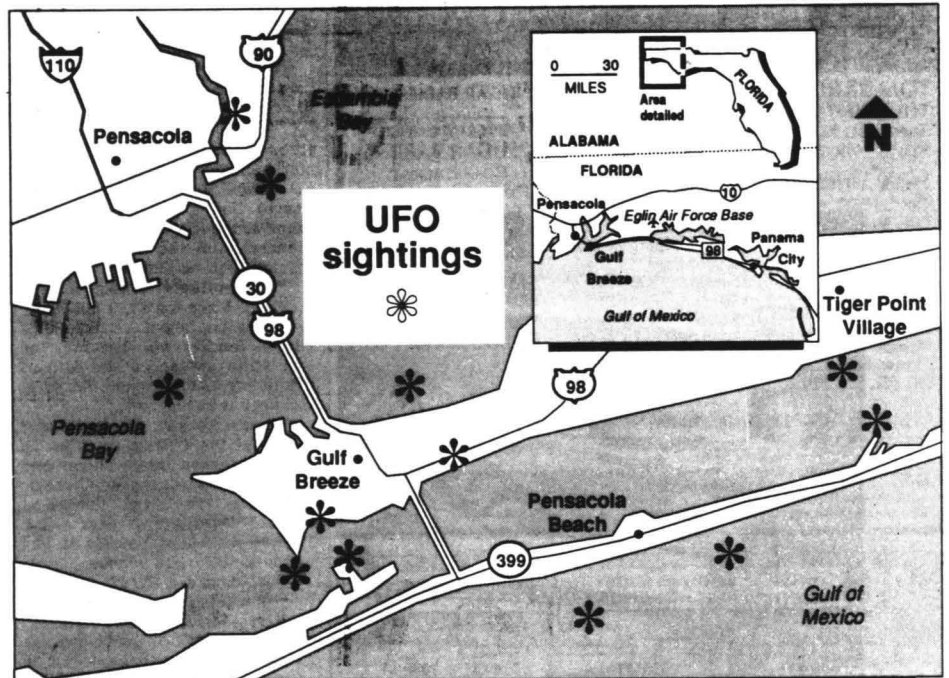
After long conversations, Ed's words are punctuated by sighs instead of laughter. He sounds less enthusiastic about the subject and more excited by the solitude he's enjoyed for several months.

"Not to be frivolous, but I'm still the same old Ed. I've still got my feet on the ground."

"But it has affected me almost daily," he says, chuckling softly. "I'll be doing mundane chores, like pumping gas or buying bolts at the hardware store. And I'll look around and wonder."

"I wonder if they (the aliens) need gas. Or on a rainy, miserable day, I wonder if they are getting wet."

"It's just ... I know they are out there."



Tribune map by VAUGHN HUGHES

Journal excerpts reveal Ed's fear

The Gulf Breeze Sentinel published many of Ed's photographs as he presented them, even creating a special edition to showcase these images. The following are excerpts from Ed's commentary that accompanied the photographs appearing in the special section.

"After taking those original five photos in my front yard, what was unreported was the UFO shot a blue beam that froze and lifted me from the ground. The blue beam keeps you from moving even your eyelids, and your chest cannot expand, so you have to pant to breathe. While in the blue beam, the UFO can talk to you using telepathy."

"A strange hum began in my head ... I really thought I was going crazy but when I went outside, I again saw the UFO appear in the same spot in the sky ... Finally, there was a telepathic voice com-

mand that I 'step forward.' I thought to myself, 'No way' and took another picture. The voice said in another language, 'Photographs are prohibited.'"

"The UFO was hovering at the back of the house as I went out with gun and camera in hand. I pointed the camera and the gun. I wasn't really going to shoot. I was just scared. The UFO winked out."

"At 3:30 a.m., we were in bed when I heard the dog bark. I jumped up and pulled up quickly the blind on the French door. There standing only 12 inches from my face was a shielded creature looking straight back into my eyes. I fell back and it turned to leave. When I recovered and ran out, the UFO was overhead ... The UFO stopped me from following the creature so that the UFO could shoot over and beam the creature up in

the blue beam."

"At one in the morning, the sound of a waterfall rushed into my head. The UFO was out back, glowing bright orange to pale orange. It seemed to be having trouble and then dumped liquid and steam from its bottom. I took a total of five pictures on this sighting with one picture looking straight up into its power source."

"At 2 a.m., the hum returned and when we checked in the front I saw and photographed a totally different UFO, which seemed to have an energy veil shooting from the bottom."

"The sightings have changed me and my family and, if given the chance, I would simply not have taken the first picture which led to the next and next, until my contact with the UFO has become overwhelming."

Ed bristles at the notion that he has pulled a sophisticated prank.

"First, I categorically deny that I ever used those exact words," Ed says. "There is nothing that I have ever done that can be construed as a prank."

And that includes the "ghost" photograph revealed only weeks ago, he adds.

This photograph, of a young girl and a fuzzy white blur, were the combined result of a 17-year-old camera, a film defect, and a game room full of mirrors and glass, Ed explains. He attributes the blur to reflections off glass.

He did, however, take out-of-focus pictures when the kids talk turned to ghost stories.

"I did not recreate that photo repeatedly and intentionally at parties. No," Ed says. His rage also swells at the suggestion these gatherings were "ritual seances."

"Kids like to tell ghost stories ... and if that sounds like a ritual seance, I'll kiss your butt," he says, angrily.

Bill's mother, Linda Chepuit, says her son has been unfairly criticized for his honesty, and his reputation has been sullied by those who believe the UFO pictures are real.

"The whole thing has gone to such an extreme that for an average person with reasonable intelligence, it's hard to believe," she says. "But I don't think Ed will ev-

er come out and tell the truth because too many prominent people have supported him.

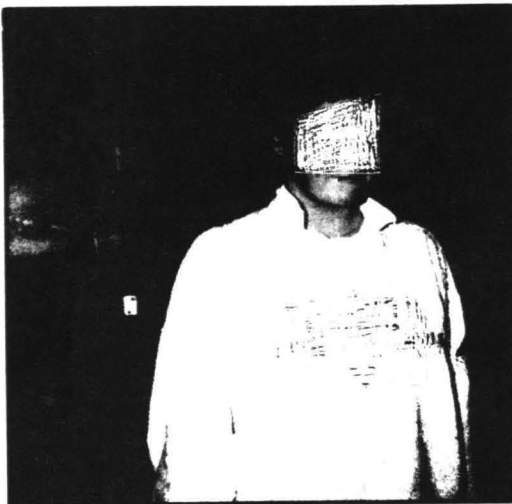
"And besides," Linda adds, "I didn't like the seances and the blobs appearing over the kids' heads."

Bill explains he has no reason to lie about what he saw or heard at Ed's house. "I believe in life on other planets," Bill says, "but I don't believe they are coming to Gulf Breeze."

Ed, meanwhile, says he won't be labeled a liar so easily.

"I'm standing up for my honesty," Ed says. "I'm not going to let somebody call me a liar without standing up and saying they are wrong."

"Listen, the most important thing to me is my family. It is my first responsibility," Ed says. "Why would I want to make this up?"



This picture of a "ghost" (white image in upper left corner) was provided by a Gulf Breeze resident who says it demonstrates Ed's photographic skills.

Photographs in question

By JENNIFER TUCKER
Tribune Staff Writer

GULF BREEZE — The controversy in Gulf Breeze is not limited to a pocketful of Polaroids.

It is made more puzzling by new explanations and startling accusations that threaten the credibility of Ed, the principal photographer of UFOs in Gulf Breeze.

At the center of the debate is a teenager and his mother.

And an old photograph that turned up several weeks ago.

Seventeen-year-old Bill, who refuses to reveal his real name, was one of a group of kids who spent a lot of time at Ed's house during the last three years. He says they participated in games and activities designed to help forget the smallness of their city.

Gulf Breeze has no movie theater, bowling alley or skating rink, and is situated in dry Santa Rosa county.

Nevertheless, he and his friends used to have a lot of fun at Ed's house, Bill says. Among the activities were so-called "spooky" games — seances, ghost stories and the like.

Often, Bill says, Ed would take Polaroid photographs of the players and some of the pictures would reveal a "phantom ... foggy thing" next to the image of the person.

"It was all in fun," Bill says. "It got everybody spooked and stuff."

One time, Bill says, Ed asked his house guests something like, "Wouldn't it be great if we did an ultimate joke?" Although Ed never revealed his plans, Bill believes the answer appeared in the form of a UFO.

"Because I saw the pictures he took of the ghost thing, I figured this has got to be it ... the prank," Bill says. "Ed never told anyone how he did the photographs. We all thought it was trick photography."

Are aliens investigating earth?

Some Suffolk residents say yes — and insist Rocky Point is site of many probes

by JENNIFER DONELAN

They're coming from outer space and they're coming because they're dyspeptic. At least that's one theory about why UFOs (unidentified flying objects) and extraterrestrials might want to visit Earth.

The aliens' digestive systems are failing and, according to this theory, they are examining humans and animals for clues on how to save their own race.

Adherents to this theory maintain this explains why human accounts of abductions by aliens so often feature rigorous physical examinations, and why animals, carefully skinned and dissected, are occasionally found at various locations around the world, including Long Island.

All this might seem far-fetched in the extreme to many, but not to members of The Long Island UFO Network Inc.

(LIUFON). This Center Moriches-based organization was founded slightly under a year ago to investigate UFO activity on Long Island. Its 100 plus members check sightings of strange lights in the sky and testimonies from people claiming direct contact with extraterrestrials.

LIUFON's hot line, which handles reports of sightings, has been busy. In 1988, LIUFON recorded 161 case histories and already is working on its fourteenth case in 1989.

South Shore residents John Ford and Richard Stout founded LIUFON after they saw a particularly memorable UFO incident last year. "We were going out at night just to see if we could see something," said Ford, "and we started to observe things, which we kept to ourselves." On April 16, at 9:55 pm, he said, "Richie and I saw an object off Moriches Bay." The object flashed and "turned the night sky to pure daylight."

Bruce Richardson, director of investigations for LIUFON, became interested in UFOs after his wife encountered two tennis-ball sized orbs of light in their house. "She got up and she went out into the living room," said Richardson. "It was dark. And she saw two balls of light [next to a lamp]. She was trying to rationalize what it was." Richardson, who didn't see the balls — "I sleep like a rock." — later tried to reproduce the effect, but wasn't able to create anything like what his wife had seen.

Since then, Richardson has learned Rocky Point is the scene of many such reports. "We think they may be probes," he said. He dismisses the possibility that they could be ball lightning, an unusual, but natural phenomenon.

Some UFO buffs, including Ford, think that animal mutilations are related to visits by extraterrestrials. Sometimes horses, cows, or dogs are found skinned and dissected, usually lying in the woods somewhere. "The mutilations out west started in the '60s," said Ford. Long Island incidents include Southampton dogs found drained of their blood, and a dead heifer in Brookhaven hamlet.

Ford scoffs at official explanations that

the animals have been discarded by laboratories, or by sadistic religious cults. The dissection is too precise, he says, and wherever the animals are found, there is generally UFO activity, sometimes even a military or police presence.

Stout, who works for the Town of Brookhaven's waste management department, was working outside of Brookhaven hamlet one day when, "I happened to notice that there was a dead heifer by the side of the road. All the

blood had been drained from it." Later on, Stout and Ford visited the site where the heifer had been. While they were investigating, said Ford, "Two unmarked aircraft came down. They lit up the area. Where we were was not too far from Brookhaven airport, but these had no registration numbers." Said Stout, the aircraft came "within a couple

hundred feet of us. Somebody wanted to see who was there."

Ford believes that the government and the police knew more about the heifer incident than they cared to let on. And he said this is part of a common pattern. Government aircraft are often present before, during and after UFO sightings and animal mutilations, but officials always deny government involvement.

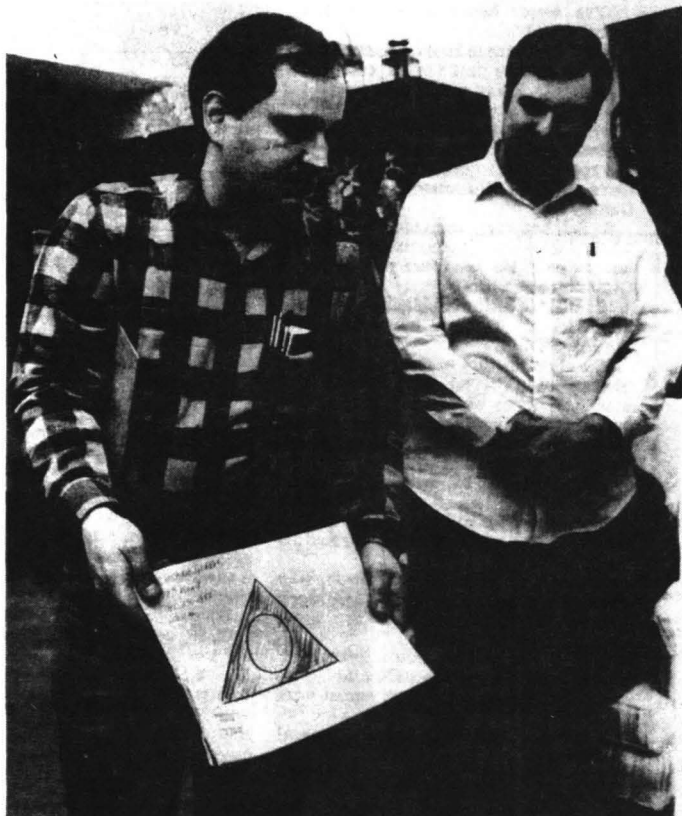
Whatever it is that these extraterrestrials may want with us and our livestock, LIUFON members do not believe their intentions are benign. "They're here for their own purposes. They're not here for our benefit," said Ford. "Something's definitely going on on Long Island."

"What we're telling you I know sounds incredible." But he added, people from all walks of life call the LIUFON hot line — "very intelligent, well-to-do people who would never want their names to come out." Many who call share an experience they may have kept to themselves for many years. "They've never had anyone to express their feelings to before," said Stout.

Have you seen a UFO? Call the LIUFON hot line at 286-3212. There is an April 2 conference in Middle Island that will feature noted UFO investigators. For ticket information, call 732-3449.



AN EYEWITNESS' drawing of a green-eyed alien.



LIUFON CHAIRMAN JOHN FORD, left, displays a sketch of a triangular-shaped UFO. At right is LIUFON member Richard Stout.

Photo by Maxine Hicks

LIUFON members do not believe their intentions are benign. 'They're here for their own purposes. They're not here for our benefit,' said Ford. 'Something's definitely going on on Long Island.'

Aliens 'buzzed' space shuttle

LONDON, THURSDAY

American radio hams claim aliens buzzed the space shuttle Discovery as it flew high over Earth earlier this month. London's Star newspaper today quoted experts saying the UFOs tracked the shuttle during its five-day flight.

They locked on to the spacecraft's controls, causing a sudden loss of power.

The Discovery's five-man crew, trained in UFO sighting, reported the close encounter to NASA.

The conversation was picked up by radio hams in the US. NASA chiefs in Houston, Texas, have refused to release the recordings. But one man in Baltimore, Maryland, claims to have taped the conversation.

It was played to the Star which said Discovery pilot Colonel John Blaha was heard saying: "Houston, this is Discovery. We still have the alien spacecraft under observation."

NASA and Col Blaha angrily deny there was any contact with a UFO.

HERALD BUREAU

KNIGHT'S DAY



Unexplainable Events

East Hampton
April 24, 1989

Dear Editor:

On Feb. 9 The East Hampton Star ran an item by Russell Drumm about a possible UFO sighting on Jan. 30 off Montauk Point. Capt. David Gaviola and two other crew members admitted to fear as they watched the strange craft send a beam of light to the ocean, and their radar quit. The captain judged it was but a mile away and made no sound. "I really thought seriously about jumping," a crew member said, as the object came closer and appeared to be a craft about 150 feet long, triangular or diamond-shaped. "I really thought it was going to stop right over us." The Jibber's radar started again as the craft cruised west, then south, and climbed away out of sight.

On April 20 the same journalist said, in "Nautical Briefs," "Montaukers, who a few weeks ago might have thought UFOs were invading, for the racket and bright lights in the air around Lake Montauk at 4 a.m., may

be relieved to know it was only Coast Guard helicopters reacting to a message from outer space." Drumm explained that the Coast Guard sent out helicopters on March 25 in response to a distress signal, which turned out to be a false alarm, automatically relayed to a satellite and to the Coast Guard.

Mr. Drumm does not say that the UFO sighting on Jan. 30 was "only helicopters." It would certainly be insulting to think that the seasoned crew of the Jibber would be "ready to jump" at the sight of a helicopter, especially one that came around 54 days after their radar blanked out. However, the reader, unless reading very carefully and with the original UFO report in hand, might easily put down the paper and conclude that the Jan. 30 sighting turned out to be a Coast Guard helicopter.

I don't think Mr. Drumm meant to mislead anyone.

Mr. Drumm is simply repeating what we have been lead to believe, that all UFO sightings are explainable as natural events or man-made objects. It is our military-minded statesmen who have misled us. Our lead-

STAR, East Hampton, NY - April 27, 1989 CR: J. Mundy

ers, who have privately acknowledged that flying saucers exist, publicly deny them. The reason given is that the people will panic, as they did over the radio broadcast "War of the Worlds." However, it is knowledge about UFOs, not denial, that will give us the tools and technology to deal with them.

There have been over 30 sightings of UFOs over Long Island in the past five years, unexplainable by natural or man-made events. The East Hampton Star reported two different sightings, one on April 16, 1987 and another on July 23, 1987. Anyone interested in the complete list should contact me.

JEAN MUNDY

Pastor: UFOs could establish scientific basis for biblical events

By GEORGE W. CORNELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Smile indulgently about it if so inclined. That's OK with the Rev. Barry H. Downing. But he firmly maintains that UFOs are real and that they have key religious significance.

He says recognizing the existence and operations of these unidentified flying objects could do much to strengthen faith and renew confidence in biblical accounts.

"It would establish scientific plausibility for the whole biblical field," he says. "It would reinforce faith and make it possible in a scientific context."

The government's effect

Downing, a Presbyterian pastor with a scientific bent, says government equivocation has caused skepticism about UFOs and so he expects some scoffing at his views.

"You have to have a good humor about it," he said in an interview. "I can't prove I'm right, but there's lots of evidence for it, and until it wins out, some people are just going to have to laugh."

He theorizes that activities of UFO-borne "higher beings" or "angels," likely from another dimension rather than other planets, are indicated in biblical events ranging from guiding the Israelites from Egypt to Christ's ascension.

A middle ground

He said postulating such activities in forming biblical faith would open a middle ground between fundamentalist literalism and liberal theology's "demythologizing" of supernatural events as only symbolic.

"It would cut down the distance between liberals and fundamentalists, and serve as a mediating force between the two extremes," he said.

"The mythological concepts would have to be re-examined, which would be important for the liberal wing. The conservative wing, which stresses certainty and wants everything locked up tight, also would be impacted."

"This would mean unlocking things."

Detailing his ideas

Downing, 50, an Endwell, N.Y., pastor, has a bachelor's degree in physics and, after having completed studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, got a doctorate at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland on relations between science and religion.

He details his ideas about UFOs and about eternity as a coexisting universe, based on Einstein's relativity theory, in a new paperback edition of his book, *The Bible and Flying Saucers*, issued by Berkely Books.

"What is clear through the biblical material is that God's will for the Jews, and eventually for all mankind, was 'revealed' by beings from another world," he writes.

"Usually these beings looked



The Rev. Barry H. Downing says UFOs have key religious significance.

very much like ordinary human beings (they almost never have wings). ... Once the 'package' of

biblical religion had been delivered, man became responsible for the distribution of the contents ..."

Biblical incidents

Downing said a hovering, UFO-like "cloud" by day, and glowing "pillar of fire" by night guided the Israelites out of Egypt, projecting some propulsive force that parted the Red Sea, leading them for years across the desert.

Other events he sees as carried out by UFOs include:

The firelike phenomenon on Mount Sinai in which Moses received the Ten Commandments, the Prophet Elijah taken to heaven in a fiery chariot, the star of Bethlehem, the engulfing light of Jesus' transfiguration, his being "lifted up" at his ascension and the blinding visitation of Paul en route to Damascus.

"All these were UFO types of reports," Downing said.

Government 'cover-up'

Downing, pastor for 22 years of Endwell's Northminster Presby-

terian Church, also is theological consultant to the Mutual UFO network, based in Seguin, Texas, and Fund for UFO Research, based in Washington.

Recalling a 1969 government commission finding that Air Force observations offered "insufficient evidence" to substantiate UFOs, Downing said the government was "covering up" and the full report never was released.

He displayed a 1975 letter from then-Sen. Barry Goldwater, R.-Ariz., saying the material was being withheld as "above Top Secret."

"If the government weren't lying in denying UFOs exist, we'd have had a religious revolution starting 40 years ago," Downing said. "It would not mean undermining biblical faith, but reinterpreting it in light of UFO phenomena."

RECORD-COURIER, Baker, OR - March 16, 1989

UFO Sighted Near Haines?

Angela Legett, age 12, Haines, reported to the state police seeing a "huge" object, saucer-shaped with red and green flashing lights, hovering off the ground.

The object, sighted last Thursday, March 9, was reportedly less than one-quarter mile from her. She watched it for two to three minutes before going to get her parents to see it, but it had disappeared before she and her parents could

return. In relation to its size, Angela stated that she thought it was larger than a football field.

The following morning, her grandmother, Mrs. Dorris Leggett, reported that at approximately 6:00 a.m. she observed a flash of bright light. She was in her bedroom at the time, with the blinds down, and thought at first that it was the headlights from a car.

The light was seen in the same direction as the UFO that was originally seen by Angela, the police report stated.

UFOs capture attention of study group

By Julie Peterson

"We saw this brilliant bright light coming across the sky at us. We were both watching it. It took about three minutes to go across the horizon. Then it took a right hand turn and just disappeared. We looked at each other and said 'Holy smoke! What the heck was that?'"

Another Orson Wells tale? A description of a jet aircraft near-miss? According to Hamilton Township resident Pat Marcattilio it was an unidentified flying object (UFO) cruising over South Clinton Ave. in 1965. It is a sight that he and his mother would not soon forget. It is also a sight that many others say they have seen.

Marcattilio, founder of a local UFO Study Group that meets at the Hamilton Township Library every third Wednesday of the month, has had three such sightings. Local residents often come to his study group to relate their experiences, he said.

"About four years ago, I wanted to see if there was any interest so I advertised in the newspaper and reserved the room at the library. The first night about ten people came," Marcattilio said. "We've had up to 45 people." According to Marcattilio there is a hard-core following of about 10-12 people who come to every meeting. Many have had sightings.

Alice Haggerty of Hamilton Township is a firm believer in UFOs. Her experience is a more personal one. "I was picking up



Pat Marcattilio of the UFO Study Group

my son Georgie (in Cape May) in 1985. When I turned toward the ocean I could see this light over the water," Haggerty related.

"I drove toward it. Its lights were bright and it was about as long as a pick-up truck. Then I watched it go over my head and land." Haggerty described a deep black object with one light and a flat bottom. A man walking his dog nearby had come to investigate the vehicle too, but Haggerty said, she suddenly realized that he was gone.

She remembers that all that was left was a burnt area in the grass. It was not until being hypnotized that she recalled that she and her

son had actually been taken onto the craft by the aliens, or grays as she describes them because of their color, and given "physicals," Haggerty said. Haggerty believes that the aliens on the ship purposely made her forget her experience.

When Haggerty talks about the experience she looks down and speaks forcefully. To her it was a frightening experience that she cannot explain. "At first I was very afraid. Now I just want to know why they are doing this. Why are they abducting us?" she asks. "They have no reason to do that."

Haggerty also believes that she, like others who

have been "abducted," have small bb-like devices implanted in their noses as tracking devices.

To Haggerty and others attending the meeting they need an outlet for their experiences. It is difficult for them to relate their stories without being ostracized, Marcattilio believes. "I really should call it a support group."

Anthony Falivene of Glen Side, Pa. has been attending the meetings for two years. In 1950 he had what he believes was a sighting. "At first I thought it was a fireball meteorite," Falivene, who describes himself as an amateur astronomer, said. "But it didn't have the tail and it was silent. It didn't make a sound." It was definitely a UFO he said.

Falivene said he is not sure about the cases where people say they have been abducted, but there are too many inconsistencies in the sightings to completely dismiss them, he said.

Marcattilio is a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. a group that studies UFO sightings. "In about 90 percent of the cases people do see something that can be identified," he said. The other 10 percent are actual UFOs he said.

"It doesn't scare me. It excites me," Marcattilio said of his sightings. The beings from outer space have had a lot of opportunities to do something to earthlings, Marcattilio said, but they haven't done anything yet. "They're just watching us."

JOURNAL COURIER, Jacksonville, IL - Feb. 1, 1989

Flashing lights in sky spawn UFO reports

Flashing lights in the evening sky Tuesday near Rushville were reportedly seen by several people, including one woman who now believes in Unidentified Flying Objects.

"It was some kind of a UFO," said Joanne Piluski of Rushville. "I've always been kind of skeptical, but I'm a firm believer now — there's something out there."

Piluski, 43, said she was traveling in her car around 6:45 p.m. Tuesday on Route 67 between Beardstown and Rushville when she spotted the object.

"It looked like a big basketball —

orange-colored — and was real bright and big," she said.

"It was a real bright light, too bright to be a star and too large to be an airplane, and it looked awfully close."

She said it appeared larger than two airplanes that were flying in the sky nearby. She said it was also moving too fast to be an airplane, and would stop, suspended in the air, then was "zooming" back and forth in the sky, "shooting out fireballs."

Piluski said she saw about six or seven such fireballs that would

shoot off for "a second or two" and then disappear.

She said her 13-year-old daughter who was accompanying her in the car saw it, too.

She said, when they arrived at their destination, her older daughter and others at the house saw the object also. She also said she had heard of other people in the Rushville area who saw the same thing.

Piluski said the entire sighting lasted about 10 minutes.

The Schuyler County Sheriff's Department received one call of a reported sighting. According to dispatcher Andy Clayton, a woman re-

ported that while traveling south on Route 67 north of Rushville, she saw what appeared to be a star-shaped object that was shooting out numerous objects like balls of fire. She said the large object followed her for three miles for about five or 10 minutes.

A spokesman at the Illinois State Police Department in Macomb said they had received two calls from people who said they saw lights in the sky, and one saw flares dropping out of the object. One caller, who was from Bushnell, said the object looked like it was located some distance southeast of Bushnell.

Woman's close encounter with UFO left lasting scars

By Kathy Kemp

Post-Herald Reporter

LINCOLN — Betty Cash thought the world was coming to an end.

In the Bible, she knew, it was written that a great flame would destroy the Earth. And all she could see as she stood on that lonely stretch of Texas road and stared toward the heavens was a scorching ball of fire.

"It lit up the sky like it was daylight," Mrs. Cash says, sitting in the den of her sunny mobile home on Lake Logan Martin in rural Talladega County.

"That's the first thing that came into our minds, that the world was ending. That thing was so bright, it took us a while to get our sight to where we could see it was actually an object.

"I have never been so terrified. All we could think of was how are we going to get out of here without being burned alive."

Eight years have passed since Mrs. Cash — along with her friend Vickie Landrum and Mrs. Landrum's grandson, Colby — confronted what they thought was the apocalypse.

The group had gone out the night of Dec. 29, 1980, in search of a bingo game, forgetting that the halls would be closed for the Christmas holidays. They were returning to their homes in Dayton, Texas, on a deserted stretch of road near New Caney when they had what UFO researchers would later refer to as a close encounter of the second kind.

After their eyes had adjusted to the ball of fire, the women and the young boy began to make out a diamond-shaped object that was spitting flames toward the ground. As the flames shot out, they could hear a whooshing sound, and the object — which Mrs. Cash says was about the size of a country water tower — would rise a bit higher in the sky.

Later, while she lay in a hospital bed with burns and what appeared to be radiation poisoning, Mrs. Cash would tell a fantastic tale. Mrs. Landrum and Colby, who were treated for similar symptoms, would confirm her story.

They said that 23 helicopters — the sophisticated double-rotary models that they later identified as CH-47 chinooks — were flying around the fiery object, as if they were trying to either pull or escort it to another location.

They said that although the temperature at the time was in the 40s, their car got so hot that Mrs. Cash had to use her leather jacket like a potholder as she opened the driver's door to get back in. An indentation in the dashboard of Mrs. Cash's 1980 navy blue Cutlass is actually the handprint of Mrs. Landrum, who rested her palm on the dash as she stared out the windshield, they said.

Since then, both women have developed numerous health problems, and Mrs. Landrum's grandson has shown signs of emotional distress. Mrs. Cash said she was in the hospital for six weeks with blisters, burns, headaches, vomiting and diarrhea, and she has photographs of herself that show great clumps of hair missing from her scalp.

Mrs. Cash, who grew up in Birmingham and had lived in Texas 30 years, returned to Alabama in early 1981 to live with her mother, who provided the nursing the hospital told her she needed. Divorced from her first husband in 1979, Mrs. Cash married again several years ago and moved into the mobile home by the lake.

Although many have dismissed their experience as imaginary, Mrs. Cash and the Landrums have a strong ally in the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, a international non-profit organization that investigates and documents UFO sightings.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's one of the most spectacular cases I've ever seen," says John Schuessler, a Houston engineer and MUFON deputy director. Schuessler, who

has been with MUFON since the late 1960s, investigated the Cash-Landrum case shortly after it happened and has followed it ever since.

"It's a very real situation. Something happened to them. They were mistreated by some kind of object. You can call it a UFO. That doesn't mean it was from outer space.

"Whatever it was, I'm convinced that their health state changed drastically right after it happened. I have doctors' statements confirming (Mrs. Cash's) burns. And we also had a number of people in the area who saw what they saw, only not as close."

Convinced that the fiery object was something the United States military was moving from one location to another, Mrs. Cash and the Landrums filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the government. A Texas judge refused to hear the case, but the women haven't stopped trying to get their story told in either a courtroom or — better yet, they believe — a congressional hearing.

Encouraged by MUFON and Schuessler, Mrs. Cash has written dozens of letters — mostly to government agencies and politicians, who thus far have been able to offer little more than sympathy. The government has denied any knowledge of the incident Mrs. Cash has described. Schuessler says MUFON investigators weren't able to find any military personnel who would acknowledge that a group of helicopters was in the area that night in 1980.

Most recently, Mrs. Cash has been writing to U.S. Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Ala. In a letter dated Jan. 31, Heflin told Mrs. Cash that he has contacted the U.S. Department of Defense and asked for an investigation of Mrs. Cash's claims and a full report.

"I honestly don't think we'll have to go back to court," she says. "I think the government's going to break down and do something."

In the meantime, she and Mrs. Landrum, who still lives in Texas, continue to talk publicly about their experience. Articles about their ordeal have appeared in newspapers and magazines around the world. Several television shows have featured them, including "That's Incredible," "Good Morning, America" and a syndicated special called "UFO Coverup." In the latter show, which aired last year, two other participants whose identities were concealed said they worked for the government and that the Cash-Landrum incident was a top-secret maneuver in which the U.S. military was transporting an alien craft.

Mrs. Cash says she isn't convinced that what she saw came from another planet. She believes the diamond-shaped object was a military project — perhaps a nuclear-powered torch designed to light up a modern-day battlefield, as one MUFON investigator has suggested.

If the government was responsible, Mrs. Cash says, it should have to pay her medical bills. Since the incident, she developed breast cancer that required a mastectomy, and she still has bouts with diarrhea, headaches and stomach cramps, she says.

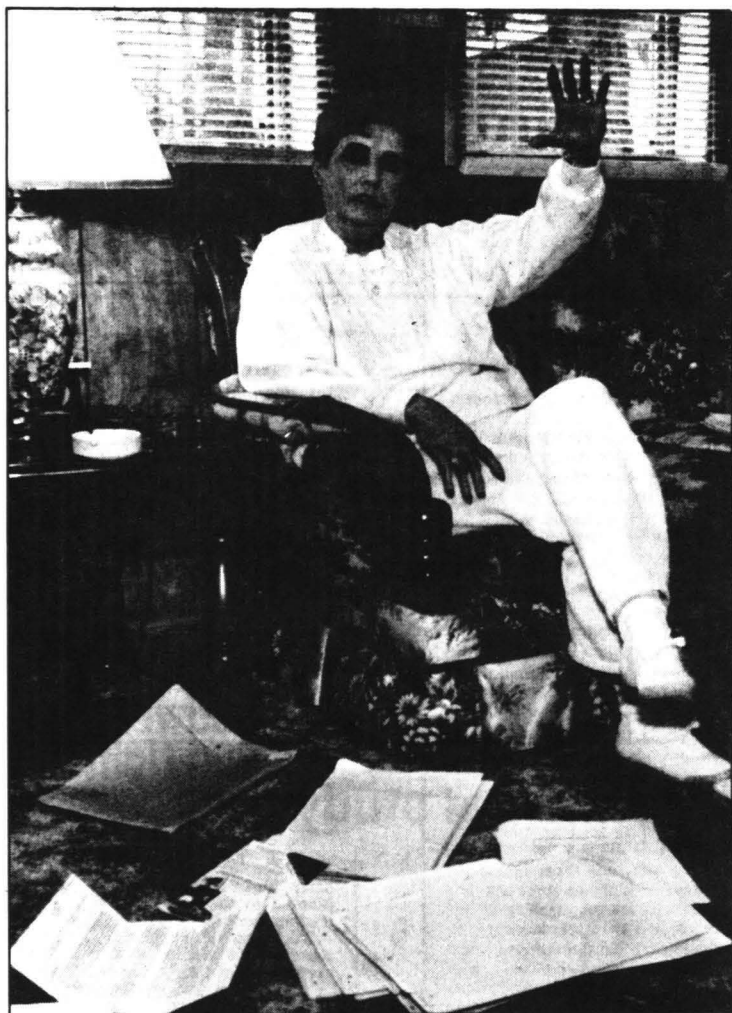
MUFON's Schuessler believes Mrs. Cash may never learn what happened that night.

"It had to be something very unusual," he says. "It burned the road below, and it burned the trees. My personal theory is that it was some kind of helicopter unit, like the one in Iran, when they attempted to rescue the hostages."

Mrs. Cash, 60, says she won't give up until someone in Washington gives her some answers.

"Before 1980, when I heard somebody talk about UFOs, I'd laugh about it," she says. "I'd think, 'Boy, these people are ready for the little men in the white coats.'"

"But honey, this made a believer out of me."



By Kathy Kemp

Sitting in the den of her mobile home, surrounded by documents detailing her UFO encounter, Betty Cash describes the impact the event has had on her life.

UFO frustrates Fyffe officials, draws crowds

By LaRue Hardinger
Staff Writer

FYFFE — Area law enforcement officers say they are becoming frustrated because they have no explanation for an elusive flying object reported by more than 100 DeKalb County residents in the past two weeks.

But how do you catch a UFO on Sand Mountain?

On Wednesday night, Fyffe Fire Chief Ricky Dobbins sat in the Grenoble Mills parking lot with other skywatchers, later jockeying his four-wheeler along trails in a wooded area on the outskirts of town.

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

DeKalb County sheriff's deputy Dale Orr kept vigil in the parking lot of Foodland in Geraldine, binoculars focused on one spot over Geraldine City Hall where the brightly lighted object hovered.

At one time Wednesday night, at least seven law enforcement officers watched and waited at Memorial Gardens Cemetery on Alabama 227 where a sighting was reported.

The search goes on. UFO-watchers from around the Southeast are expected to converge on Fyffe Friday night.

Ms. Smith said things were quite busy Wednesday as many curious

local residents began another UFO vigil. Incoming calls were innumerable and radio traffic was incessant, she said. Sightings were reported from at least 10 locations.

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

Dobbins said many UFO hunters on Wednesday night filled highways, "bumper-to-bumper," and "parked in threes or fours on hills and clear spots" between Crossville and Rainsville after the first sighting of the night was reported around 8 p.m. to Crossville police by a Rodentown man.

J.T. Turner of Tidmore Road telephoned dispatcher Connie Brothers at Crossville police, two miles away.

"He said this object came right over his house," Ms. Brothers said. "It had lights on each end and one in the middle." She said Crossville patrolman Chuck Priest and State Trooper Van Douglas spotted the "oblong lighted object" as it flew silently overhead on Alabama 227 between Crossville and Geraldine.

Since Fyffe Police Chief Junior Garmany and Assistant Police Chief Fred Works first caught a close-up view of what is believed to be the same UFO near Fyffe on Feb. 17, townspeople have begun to feel that maybe there is something up there, and like law officers, they want to know what it is.

Although a data collecting group based in Arab has recorded accounts from residents who reported seeing UFOs, no one has been able to explain the phenomenon.

At 10 p.m. Wednesday, no aircraft was in the DeKalb area, said spokesmen with Huntsville Airport, Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Fort McClellan in Anniston and Air National Guard headquarters in Birmingham, Montgomery and Nashville.

"(The object) is not hard to see on a clear night," Dobbins said. "It almost looks like a star from a distance, except for the different colored lights. I just wish somebody would bring a telescope up here and tell us what it is."

Rhonda Gipson, 26, of Fyffe spotted the object last week. "I didn't really believe in UFOs before ... but now I do," she said Wednesday.

Mrs. Gipson said she and her sister, Jill Worley, 22, watched in amazement from their car last Friday night when a brightly lighted object "bigger than a house" hovered just above treetops not far from their home.

"I was scared ... shaking," Miss Worley said. "It was nothing like I've ever seen in my whole life."

Miss Worley said the two "got out of there" seconds after the bright lights disappeared suddenly.



THE GREEN COLUMN



Circles in the corn... often six times the size of a car

Ozone crisis is blamed for the mystery rings

by
CHRIS LOGAN

SCIENTISTS believe they may have solved the riddle of the corn-field circles.

Causes ruled out include aliens from outer space, whirlwinds, helicopters and hoaxers.

Instead, experts are blaming the hole in the Earth's ozone layer for the mystery circles which appear over night on farmland.

They believe unprecedented atmospheric conditions caused by the ozone crisis are behind the baffling phenomenon.

Flattened

Scientists have detected violent disturbances in the "electro-magnetic field" in areas where the circles—some up to 80ft across—have appeared.

Research co-ordinator Colin Andrews said: "We now believe the shifts in the Earth's electro-magnetic conditions caused by the ozone layer hole may be responsible."

"One of the circles which appeared recently in Hampshire amazed us even more than the others because the flattened crops grew back in a dashboard formation."

"There were seven concentric rings of crops which

grew back, with a series of perfect spokes going out from the centre."

Many of the circles have appeared on farmland near Winchester in Hampshire. But they have also appeared in countries around the world, including America, Australia—and now Japan.

Japanese scientists who have visited Britain to examine our circles are taking the ozone layer theory seriously.

They have invited Mr Andrews, an electrical expert with Test Valley Borough Council, to address a conference on the subject in Tokyo later this year.

Environment Secretary



Nicholas Ridley yesterday turned down the research group's request for a £50,000 grant to fund a hi-tech centre to monitor the circles.

The decision infuriated the experts working on the project.

Mr Andrews said: "It now looks as if we will have to hope that the Japanese come up with the money."

KIDDERMINSTER TIMES, Worcester, England - Feb. 16, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFO fear has Elsie in a spin

A Kidderminster pensioner wants to know if anyone can shed any light on a mystery object which she thinks could have been a UFO.

Elsie Oakley of Worcester Road was terrified by a bright light she saw hovering above trees opposite her home, and wants to know if anyone else saw it or knows what it was.

Mrs Oakley (83) first saw the light at about 9 am on Tuesday, February 7. She says it looked like an ordinary light from a very powerful torch to begin with, but then she noticed a red glow among the trees which rose higher until it stopped well above the trees.

"A white cloud came over and it was shining through the cloud like a sun. Then it began to beam down through the cloud," she said.

She went upstairs but the light in the bedroom was so bright it hurt her eyes. Then the glow, which was about the size of a television screen, headed straight for the houses.

"I was so scared I didn't stop to see how far it went. I thought to myself my God, if that thing falls on us we could all be set alight."

Her first thought was that it was a UFO, and she is sure it was not her eyes or her mind playing tricks on her. The incident lasted about 90 minutes.

"I know what I saw, and I was very concerned about it," she said.

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - April 10, 1989

UFO lights over Thames

ALIEN lights have been reported over Canvey.

UFO researchers will be interviewing two witnesses who contacted the UFO Hotline after watching a disc-shaped object travelling up the Thames Estuary at a height of about 500 feet.

UFO investigator Ron West said the pair watched it for a few minutes before it disappeared behind some houses.

They said it seemed to be spinning and had red, green, blue and yellow lights.

More strange sightings were seen over Southend when people reported seeing a large round orange-red ball in the sky. They watched it for 20 minutes before it disappeared.

The East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research group is looking for more members to be researchers or investigators.

At the moment there are 65 members and anyone interested in delving into the unknown should contact the UFO Hotline on 0268 286079.

CR: T. Good

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England - Feb. 25, 1989

NEW BOOKS

Ringstead and the great UFO 'cover-up'

ANGUS Brooks was quietly walking his dogs on the cliffs at Ringstead on a clear October day in 1967 when he saw a UFO.

At least, he was totally sure that's what it was although he was unable to convince the experts.

According to Mr. Brooks, it hovered for 22 minutes, time enough for him to study it in detail and for one of his dogs, an alsatian, to get very upset indeed.

His was not an unpractised eye... as a former RAF intelligence officer and British Airways flight administrator he was well qualified to judge the size of the craft.

It hovered half a mile away from him and had a central chamber 25ft. in diameter with four fuselages making a total span of 175 feet. There was a forward fuselage and three to the rear, but as the craft manoeuvred, the fuselages were adjusted to appear at the side of the craft.

According to Mr Brooks it hovered midway between the atomic energy station at Winfrith and the American spy station at Ringstead, which has now been removed.

There was no noise of any engines, even when the craft finally accelerated skywards and disappeared from view.

Mr Brooks was later interviewed by a Ministry of Defence scientist and psychiatrist who told him that he suffered a "vitreous floaters" in his eye—in simple terms a speck that occurs after a corneal transplant which Mr Brooks had undergone.

However, he remained convinced he had seen a craft made by someone and pointed out that vitreous floaters always go up and down in the affected eye, when the craft he has seen moved in a controlled manner sideways and at angles.

Mr Brooks' experience is recounted in a new book *Above Top Secret* (Grafton Books, £5.99) which was published on Thursday and which gives details of UFO sightings all over the world.

In it, author Timothy Good claims that there has been "determined and careful political suppression on information about UFOs at the highest levels—a conspiracy of fear between the world's governments to keep the facts—and the terrifying implications of those facts—from the ordinary people."

Mr Good has interviewed dozens of witnesses and seen hundreds of declassified government papers.

He has not been able to interview Mr Brooks. But he would dearly like to hear from either him or any of his relatives.

CR: T. Good

UFO sighting

DROITWICH police have confirmed that a "big ball with flames coming out from its side" which hovered over the town was not an aircraft.

The object was spotted over Droitwich at around 12.10 am on Wednesday, December 21. Police contacted air traffic controllers who said the object was not an aircraft.

Two further sightings of the unidentified flying object were reported in Worcester and Walsall, according to Droitwich police. The speed of the ball was described as "slow".

ADVERTISER, Droitwich, England Jan. 5, 1989 CR: T. Good

EXPRESS & ECHO, Exeter, England - Feb. 21, 1989 CR: T. Good

Driver spots 'flying jelly fish'

A DEVON lorry driver was still stunned today after seeing a giant jellyfish—like creature hovering above trees near Cullompton.

Adrian Redfern, of Tedburn St Mary, was driving along the M5 yesterday when he suddenly spotted the unidentified flying object.

Mr Redfern told the Express and Echo: "It was extraordinary. I have never seen anything like it."

The mystery creature was 30 ft wide. "It kept expanding and shrinking and then it suddenly disappeared," Mr Redfern said.

The lorry driver, who was delivering a load of concrete, says that he is normally extremely sceptical.

"People might think I am mad, but I am sure it was there," he added.

PC Gerry Leyman, at Cullompton Police Station, said that there had been no further reports of flying sea animals in the area.

"Normally this is the type of thing that is dealt with at headquarters," he added.

KIDDERMINSTER TIMES, Worcester, England - March 9, 1989 CR: T. Good

Locals at risk from 'alien' kidnap

Kidderminster folk could have been involved in space alien kidnap ordeals, claim the Yorkshire UFO Society.

The Society was featured in a national newspaper, which published a UFO Hotline telephone number, and claims it has been swamped with calls from the Kidderminster area.

Mr George Wild, Yorkshire UFO Society member, said: "We've had loads of calls from Kidderminster to do with sightings and abductions."

"A caller who wouldn't give her name said she had been walking in a field near Kidderminster when she saw a bright light and heard a loud buzzing before passing out."

"A girl called Denise from the Longfellow Green area said exactly the same thing happened to her—and had happened to her mother previously."

"Anyone can contact us on the UFO Hotline on Skipton 0756 752216."

First sighting of transparent UFO

TWO terrified Canvey anglers may have seen the first transparent UFO in this country.

The craft, as big as five houses and shaped like a rugby ball, was spotted by the men on a quiet early morning fish.

One looked up and saw the 200ft-long object which was emitting a slight hum.

The men were amazed because although they could see the outline of the craft they could also see stars in the night sky shimmering through it.

Ron West, senior investigator for East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association, said: "This is very exciting. As far as I know this is the first time a UFO of this type has been seen in this country."

"Translucent craft have been seen in Russia, America and Brazil but as far as I know, not here."

"The anglers were very frightened. They watched it for about half an hour, then it disappeared. It was a mother craft and I think could have been

materialising when they saw it."

The anglers have been interviewed by UFO investigators and regarded as genuine.

The Thames Estuary is said to have a window in the sky above it through which UFOs can pass.

The Research Association has now completed its full investigation into the blue flash sightings on October 27 last year.

At 3.45am a blue flash lit the morning sky and something disappeared in the sea off Southend.

The object, said by Government to be a meteorite, had been tracked by radar from Belgium.

It was seen by a Southend Pc, a police

dog handler in South London who said it passed above him, a weather forecaster at the Met office, early morning workers and aircraft pilots.

A Southend witness described a long round object with a blunt end and a cargo aircraft pilot said the light "lit up my aircraft in a blue glow."

The pilot, flying from Belgium to Stansted, contacted Heathrow airport who knew nothing and likewise the military who also did not know anything about it.

A South East Essex engineer Mr John Hill said it was definitely not a meteorite.

He saw a craft coming towards his house between 1,000

Monster craft terrifies

and 2,000 feet, round at the front and square at the back with a slight engine noise, like a hum.

There was a smaller second craft behind the larger one.

Mr Hill believed the craft could have been the American Stealth aircraft, but the answer in the House was there were no Stealth aircraft flying here.

UFO investigators believe the craft can only be classified as an unidentified flying object, origin unknown.

If anyone else saw the early morning transparent object on March 14 they are asked to contact the UFO Hot Line, Basildon 286079.

"CIGAR-SHAPED"

TIMES, Lima, Peru
March 31, 1989

UFO buffs see lights in desert

A group of foreign and Peruvian journalists joined the religious sect Rama Mission in claiming to have sighted an unidentified flying object (UFO) near Chilca, some 62km S of Lima, over the Easter weekend.

Several journalists, among them cameramen from Argentina and

the US, accepted an offer from the Rama Mission to join them in a vigil over the weekend to witness what they called the coming of their "extraterrestrial guides". One photographer from the daily newspaper Expreso took several pictures of what he claimed to be a luminous spacecraft seen hovering over the desert some 13km E of the South Panamerican Highway.

Formed 15 years ago by Peruvian Sixto Paz Wells, the religious sect Rama Mission announced in February that there would be a UFO sighting at the end of March and sent invitations to journalists both home and abroad.

Although the vast majority of journalists had already left after the first night of vigil had produced little result, three journalists stayed for another night in the hope of a sighting.

After several hours of singing, rituals and meditation by the 60-strong Rama Mission, the journalists claimed to have seen a cigar-shaped light surrounded by red and orange lights. According to the journalists, the craft hovered briefly above the nearby desert mountains before disappearing.

The photo which later appeared in the Expreso was said by one reader to resemble "more a flying Willy's jeep" than anything else."

UFOs spark new investigations

MORE unidentified flying objects have been spotted in the skies over South East Essex.

East Anglian UFO Research members are interviewing witnesses to the latest rash of sightings.

One sighting was on March 3 by an ex-RAF pilot in Grays who saw a brilliant white light in the sky surrounded by a glow estimated to have been at 25,000ft.

He watched it hover for 45 minutes before it sped off towards Kent.

Mr Ron West, senior investigator and founder of the group, said: "He said the RAF have nothing that can travel at that speed and he was convinced it was not a plane."

On March 5 a woman and her son travelling on the A127 from London to Southend witnessed another UFO.

The Southend couple spotted a red ball of light near Rayleigh. They watched it for 15 minutes.

On March 8 a mother and her sons aged seven and nine also saw an object in the sky near Rayleigh.

Shuttle crew 'saw alien spaceship'

AMERICAN space experts are analysing reports that astronauts on the latest shuttle, Discovery Orbiter, saw an alien spacecraft.

A tape recording of an alleged conversation between astronaut Colonel John Blaha and ground control has been uncovered by a former NASA mission specialist, who swears it is genuine.

The recording, which has been heard by the Evening Standard, says: "Houston. This is Discovery we still have the alien spacecraft under observance."

Ground control then replied and told

by Peter Woolrich

the colonel to change frequencies, which prevented the rest of the conversation being monitored.

Discovery did report a lack of power around the time of the alleged incident and UFO spotters are claiming this was caused by the alien craft attaching itself to the Discovery.

The extraordinary event is said to have taken place on 14 March at 6.42am, nearly 21 hours into the shuttle's mission over the South Pacific.

It was recorded by former NASA member Bob Oechsler, who said: "The broadcast came from the Goddard

space centre, which is the back-up centre for Houston, and is not publicly monitored.

"I believe that not only was it a UFO they saw, but that it impacted itself to the aircraft and interfered with the power supply. There has been a massive Government cover-up of UFOs for the past 40 years, so it would not be surprising if NASA denies the claim."

The voice tape is being analysed by NASA experts at Houston to determine if it is genuine or not.

British UFO expert Timothy Good, who himself has analysed the recording, said: "I believe it to be a genuine major breakthrough."



JOHN BLAHA

UFO man is quizzed

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 a 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 the Monday night.

STANDARD RECORDER, Southend, England
Feb. 17, 1989 CR: T. Good

More UFO sightings reported

A RECORD number of UFO sightings were reported in Grays last month as more people related their experiences to a team of experts.

Mr Ron West, founder member of the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Group, said that details of six Grays sightings in March had been reported to the Group.

Various sorts of UFO have been seen, including a craft shaped like a doughnut with red, green and blue lights around the edge.

Mr West said: "This seems to be a very popular craft and has been spotted all over South East Essex and reported to us on numerous occasions."

This UFO was reported by two different people who gave similar descriptions, adding that it had been seen in the area of Lenthall Avenue.

Another two of the

sightings also occurred in this particular area, although the type of UFO described was different.

Mr West is delighted that the response from people in Grays is now picking up and that sightings are being reported.

He said: "It is not surprising that UFOs should be seen in the Grays area because we think these objects come up the Thames estuary heading towards or coming back from London."

"Obviously, people in Grays are now starting to look at such objects and think about what they could be."

"Now we have investigators working in the Grays area, people are beginning to report these things and now we are getting as many sightings in Grays as we are in other parts of South East Essex."

If anyone has seen a craft which they would like to report, they can contact the special UFO Hotline on Basildon 286079.

by Clair Orton

Appeal as UFOs are seen over Worksop

YORKSHIRE'S UFO Society has sent out a plea to a number of Worksop residents who recently rang their telephone hotline to report sightings.

Notts Investigator James Moore is anxious to hear from witnesses

who rang the hotline. Including a woman who reported a sighting in day-

light on the A57 Worksop By-pass between Sandy Lane and the Newcastle

Avenue roundabout.

The woman claims to have seen a circular craft about 30-40 feet in diameter, and Mr Moore would like to investigate the sighting along with others reported in the Worksop area.

Another sighting in Worksop, reported to the Mansfield UFO Group in February, was at the Market Place at around 4.30pm.

A university student was walking with his girlfriend when they saw a 'long pencil-shaped craft, rocking around from side-to-side in the sky'.

Erratic

It glowed, they said, a bright blue colour, and had several small red lights underneath. After moving erratically around the sky for about five minutes, it stopped in mid-air.

The object was described as being twice the size of the moon in length, and no sound was heard.

Anyone with information should contact the Yorkshire UFO Society on 0756 752218, or the Mansfield UFO Group on Mansfield 651954.

WHAT WAS THAT?

A REPRESENTATIVE of the Victorian UFO Research Society will visit the Benayeo area this week to investigate a UFO sighting after Mrs Nella Williams told the "Advocate" on Saturday morning that on leaving her house at 7.15 a.m. that morning, she has seen high in the sky a large oblong object which remained stationary for about five minutes.

She reported that the object was very bright and shiny, with a dome shape at the rear end, and it disappeared without any apparent movement - "There one moment and gone the next", she said.

The "Advocate" spoke to the Defence Department and then the UFO Research people, who said the daylight sighting and description is very unusual and bears further investigation.

ADVOCATE, Eden Hope, Victoria, Australia - March 1, 1989

CR: P. Notman

GUARDIAN, Worksop, England - March 10, 1989 CR: T. Good

THURROCK GAZETTE, Essex, England - April 7, 1989 CR: T. Good

Panic as UFO flies in with a new TriStar

by Peter Woolrich

PASSENGERS on the inaugural flight of a British TriStar were expecting the airline to lay on something special—but never a UFO.

As the multi-coloured bright lights flashed past the windows, pilot Bob Taylor excitedly told them that they were watching an unidentified flying object.

At first, the captain thought it was another plane and had fears of a near-miss, but he discounted the theory as the object vanished and then reappeared in a blaze of colour.

Minutes later, the aircraft was plunged into panic as it suddenly dropped—some passengers said thousands of feet—out of the sky.

Passenger Susie Walton, said: "It was terrifying. People were hitting their heads on the ceiling as the plane dropped sharply in two sudden jolts."

"The lights were really pretty, though."

"It was like a bright, glistening cloud with lots of colours and left behind a trail of smoke."

"The pilot said there was nothing in the manual about how to deal with a UFO sighting."

The British Island Airways jet was over Sardinia on its way back to Gatwick from Malta when the extraordinary incident happened at 7 o'clock last night.

Safety

A number of theories were being discussed today, including the possibility that it was a missile or a satellite being launched.

But Captain Taylor says the plane was nowhere near a launch site and argues that he would, in any case, have been informed of a launch because of the safety implications.

Speaking on IRN, he said: "I've never seen anything like it before, there was no danger but it was very interesting."

"We will probably never know what it was. Who knows, we might have seen a UFO."

Several other aircraft in the vicinity also reported the unusual sight.

NEWS & ADVERTISER, Todmorden, England - Feb. 10, 1989 CR: T. Good

The night that changed his life

By Pat Swift

FORMER policeman Alan Godfrey has never consciously claimed to have met creatures from outer space.

But whatever happened to him in the "missing minutes" in the cold early hours of a November morning over eight years ago has irrevocably changed his life for ever.

Alan hit the national headlines over a year after first putting in an official report that he had seen a UFO hovering above Burnley Road near Mons Mill.

At first there was local interest and a lot of speculation about the sighting, particularly as five other officers in Calderdale and Greater Manchester had reported seeing a similar object low in the skies on that same morning.

But Alan was not the first police officer in Todmorden to put in an official report of a UFO sighting.

It was only when a senior police officer persuaded him to reveal details of tapes taken while he underwent regression hypnosis that he really created a stir on the front pages of nearly every national newspaper.

For under hypnosis, under stringent conditions and observed by police officers, Alan told how he had been taken aboard the spaceship and had been examined by creatures from outer space.

"To this day, I don't know what happened to me that morning," says Alan. "I can clearly remember seeing this object revolving and hovering above the road as I drove up towards Lygate in the police car. I stopped the car, made notes and did a sketch and then got out of the car and started walking towards it."

"The next thing I can remember is being further up Burnley Road beyond the point where I had seen

the craft, but it was no longer there."

Consciously he has no recollection of what happened in between, but there are physical clues which appear to back up his story told under hypnosis.

On those tapes he tells how he was laid on a table and examined with some kind of electrical probe fixed to the insole of his foot.

At the time of the incident he found his heavy leather police boot had been ripped and he had a small burn mark on his insole.

"It would be a lot easier for me to believe that I made it all up under hypnosis... that it was something my imagination dreamed up."

"But the truth is I don't know what happened, and probably never will."

When the details of the tapes were released to the Press they linked it to speculation about a case on which Alan had worked five months before his UFO sighting—the mysterious death of Polish-born Leeds miner Zygmunt Adamski.

Mr Adamski had disappeared from near his home on the outskirts of Leeds. He had set out to visit a nearby shop to buy some potatoes as his family had visitors in preparation for the following day when he was due to give away his God-daughter at her wedding.

He never returned—but five days later his body was discovered in the coal yard near Todmorden station.

Some of his clothing was missing; he had mysterious burn marks on the back of his head which had been treated with an ointment which scientists could not identify as anything known on earth—and he had died of a heart attack brought on by fear or shock.

There had been many reports of UFO sightings in West Yorkshire around the time and Coroner Mr

GWENT GAZETTE, Ebbw Vale, Wales - Feb. 2, 1989 CR: T. Good

Many more saw lights

RECENT reports of strange lights in the sky over Ebbw Vale have prompted many more Gazette readers to come forward with their sightings of the mystery UFO.

Last week, what was described as mass of lights, has been spotted over the mountain-side of Ebbw Vale.

Andrew Puckette, 31, of St Cynidre Close, Ebbw Vale, noticed the phenomenon on Thursday afternoon, at about midday, as he was on his way into the house.

He said: "A group of lights went across the sky. It seemed to turn and disappear towards Tredegar. I was really shocked."

"I told my mate, Neil Morgan from Hilltop, about it. We went up to Scotland the next day, so we didn't see the Gazette's report on it."

"When we came back and saw it in the paper I realised that that's what I had seen."

And Andrew wasn't the only one to see strange lights in the sky.

Chris Holloway, of Garden City, Ebbw Vale, rang to tell us of her sighting that happened in the first week of January.

She said: "I'd forgotten about it, but after reading about the lights in the paper I wondered if I had seen the same thing."

She and her daughter Louisa, were looking out over the Garden Festival site from their window, when they saw the strange phenomenon.

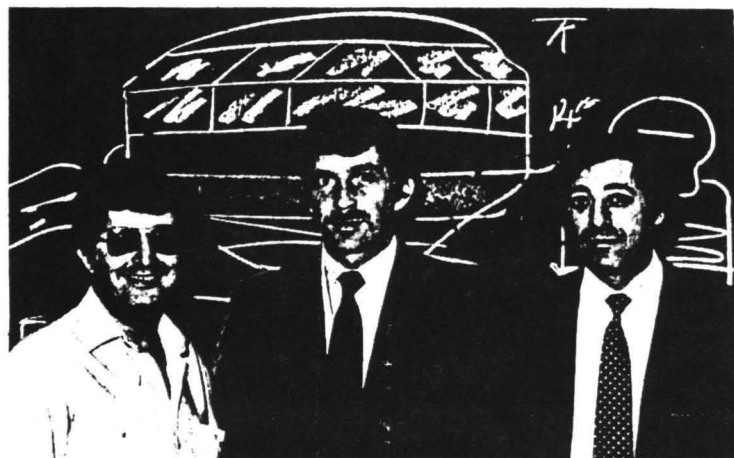
She said: "We saw weird bright lights flashing across the sky, they were coming from Cwm."

"There were streaks of white light, but not like lightning, as these were more vivid flashes, rather than the light breaking across the sky."

"My husband said that it could be because of the changes in temperature. It was a little bit unnerving when you saw it at first."

"I haven't seen it again after that night and no one around here has said they saw it. Maybe we were lucky to look out and catch it when we did."

●If you have seen the lights in the sky write in or ring the Gazette: County Buildings, Market Street, Ebbw Vale, 304589.



Alan Godfrey, centre, pictured at a recent UFO lecture at Manchester University with UFO-logists Harry Harris, left, and Mike Sachs. On the blackboard behind are drawings of the object he sighted and one of the alien beings he described under hypnosis.

James Turnbull in recording an open verdict, said he could not rule out speculation about creatures from space.

Alan was one of the local officers working on the case and was surprised that no major investigation was launched.

But although he was discharged from West Yorkshire Police on medical grounds due to an injury he had received before all these strange events, Alan is still bound by the Official Secrets Act.

"Because of this I am not allowed to talk about the case," he says.

After he became a major news story, Alan felt that he was being subjected to harassment in the force. "Life was being made difficult for me," he said. "I was no longer 'one of the lads' and superiors sent me for medical examinations in efforts to show I was having hallucinations, but the doc-

tors all gave me a clean bill of health mentally."

Eventually Alan and the police parted company when an old injury incurred during a struggle while on duty was the official reason for his medical discharge.

"I felt I could have continued in the force, even if only at a desk job," he says.

But losing his job also cost him his home as he could no longer afford to meet the mortgage payments, and he had to turn his hands to other trades.

"It put a strain on everything and life has been difficult," he recalls. "The police even raided my leaving party to check for after-hours drinkers."

Alan is regularly sought by TV and radio chat show hosts and the Press.

"Whenever there is another major sighting, I start getting calls for interviews again."

But don't the fees from these TV and radio interviews help compensate for the difficulties he faced on first leaving the force?

Alan smiles wryly. "There's a sliding scale for interview fees, and I'm definitely on the bottom rung of the ladder!"

His financial fortunes could change if one of the Hollywood film giants decides to take up an option on using the transcripts of the hypnosis sessions as the basis for a future film.

But in the meantime, Alan is settling into his new life, although he still misses police work.

And has he seen any further strange objects in the skies?

"I don't look," he says emphatically. "If one landed right in front of me, I'd turn around and run. I wouldn't want to get involved."

SWINDON STAR, Wiltshire, England - Feb. 23, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFO reported by Barbury couple

MORE mysterious lights have been seen in the sky above Wiltshire.

The couple who saw the latest aerial display are convinced they were not from any aeroplane.

The latest sighting was at Barbury Castle, near Chiseldon, late on Friday evening. Eammon Smythe, 18, says he watched the lights for more than half an hour with his girlfriend Elizabeth Free.

"We first saw a triangle of orange lights moving slowly low to the ground."

"They seemed to pass behind some trees and when a car came along they went out."

"Then they came back on, were joined by another group and moved off towards the horizon. There was a red glow in the sky with yellow and gold streaks."

Mr Smyth, who lives in Wood Street, Old Town, Swindon, said other people must have seen the lights because they were so bright

(Paper Unknown), Auckland, New Zealand Jan. 23, 1989 CR: G. Conway

Wellington police see 'UFO' in night sky

Two policemen were among six people who reported sighting a large bright white object hovering in a triangular pattern high over Wellington's eastern suburbs early yesterday.

The police said they received four calls about the object at 12.30am.

Radar screens at Wellington airport were clear at the time.

A spokesman said the police were baffled by the sightings but one possible explanation was light reflecting off ice particles in the atmosphere.—NZPA

TRANSLATION

City and country of incident: Bogota, Colombia
Date of incident: April 2 (?), 1989
Name of newspaper and date of clip: JORNAL NOTICIAS, April 3, 1989
City and country of newspaper: [City Unknown], Portugal
[CREDIT: Antonio Huneus]

UFO HALTS AIR TRAFFIC AT BOGOTA AIRPORT

Bogota's international airport of Eldorado in Colombia was put in a state of alert after a UFO flew over it, forcing airplanes which were preparing to land to divert to another airport located some 500 kilometers from the Colombian capital, reported several passengers. The UFO, which did not emit any sound, was detected on radar and observed by several people. Passenger Teresa Sanchez stated that the captain informed that his plane had changed its course due to the presence of a UFO. On the other hand, operators at the control tower of Eldorado, revealed that their radar screens detected the presence of a strange object, which flew over the airport zone and disappeared suddenly. "It must have been an airplane with its lights off," asserted a skeptical Colombian policeman, who confessed that he didn't believe in UFOs. The airport returned to normal activities after the incident.

Probe into mystery of 'Warminster Thing'

WEATHER expert Terence Meaden is hoping to solve a 24-year-old UFO mystery which baffled the nation.

Reports of the so-called Warminster Thing brought experts and cranks alike flocking to the Wiltshire town for all-night sky watch sessions.

The phenomena were catalogued in books, newspapers, radio and television. Some put it all down to imagination but others set out to prove that Warminster was at the centre of some sort of intergalactic highway with regular visits from extra terrestrials.

Some of the more bizarre reports at the time came from people driving around Warminster whose cars suddenly failed and they then saw lights or heard strange noises. There were vivid descriptions of fast moving inexplicable lighted objects in the night sky, whirring noises, physical and mental after effects on some of the witnesses.

For some years it became Warminster's main claim to fame and earned the community the unwanted title of the country's flying saucer capital.

Now physicist Dr Meaden from Bradford on Avon has decided to review all the evidence and he hopes to re-interview many of the original witnesses. Earlier

By Roderic Eldridge

this year Mr Meaden discounted claims by UFO believers that mysterious circles in Wiltshire fields were caused by alien spacecraft. Mr Meaden said they were caused by natural whirlwinds.

But he says the Wiltshire Thing which happened 24 years ago on Christmas Day deserves further investigation. He said: "A mysterious entity which locals call the 'thing' made itself known in Warminster and district through its strange noises and rooftop 'hammerings' which affected the barracks at Knook and several residences in Warminster.

"Then followed an eventful period with reports of numerous happenings involving moving or hovering lights, unaccountable forces or winds and bizarre sounds. In some of the cases, related by Arthur Shuttlewood in his books, people in the open found themselves struck by inexplicable forces or winds, while in others the engines of moving vehicles inexplicably stalled when in the vicinity of mysterious lighted objects.

"Of most interest to me are experiences regarding unexplained luminous phenomena or forces at ground level in which

people, animals, cars or houses were affected, or which involved hovering or vertically moving lights."

Dr Meaden who works for the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation says that he would like to interview anyone who was involved at the time. And he also feels there must be more recent cases which have so far gone unreported. He intends conducting the interviews with his scientific knowledge to see if there are clues to the causes of the phenomena.

He has some ideas of his own on possible causes and is keeping an open mind until there has been time for more research. But he is quite positive on the flying saucer theory.

"That I regard as totally unacceptable although it will upset a lot of UFO people. That is the kind of answer produced by a non scientist totally mystified by what has gone on."

Dr Meaden says that once he has completed a study on the Warminster Thing the results will be collated along with other information and may well be published. Anyone who can contribute to the investigation should telephone Dr Meaden in confidence at Bradford on Avon 2482 or write to him at 54 Frome Road.



■ Dr Terence Meaden: hoping to solve UFO mystery which baffled the nation

Mum calls police after 'UFO' sighting

Massive rise in activity

RON West, an investigator with BUFORA, the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, told the Star this week there had been a "massive" increase in the number of reported sightings of objects in the sky in the last four days of January.

"Over the period January 28-31, there were over 70 reported sightings in the area," he said.

EXPECT

"Normally, we would expect only 10 or 20 over such a time.

"They were mainly triangular objects," he added.

"The East Anglia UFO group are interested in hearing from anybody who witnessed lights in the sky on the 30th and the object on the 31st, and would like them to contact us on Basildon 286079," said Mr West.

STRANGE things have been happening in the sky above Harlow.

The mysterious chain of events started on Monday evening last week (January 30) at about 8.30 pm when Lin Pike, of Little Catins, spotted bright lights over her home.

"They were as bright as floodlights", she said this week, "but they weren't floodlights. After a while they became red.

"I was indoors when I saw them. I rushed outside to look closer and called my neighbours out."

The next morning, Tuesday, Mrs Pike was getting her children ready for school when she saw "a big black thing" in the sky.

"It was moving slowly across the window in the direction of Roydon then all of a sudden it disappeared upwards," she said.

"I called the police, because the whole thing was so unusual and I wanted to know what it was."

Mrs Pike described this object to police as "a box-like object, bigger than a passenger jet, hovering and spinning."

"It was black and surrounded by a haze. There were no lights and no noise."

Mrs Pike's children, Greg (nine), Craig (12) and Gary (13), also witnessed the strange occurrence.

Their mother said:

By ALISON PHILLIPS

"Obviously they were excited as it's such a strange thing to see. Later they thought it was a bit of a giggle."

"A next-door neighbour, Claire Prindiville (11), also saw it and when my sons came home from school they said their friends had noticed strange things in the sky as well, so it's not just me."

Mrs Pike added: "I didn't really hold any opinions about UFOs before, and I can't say I'm convinced even now, but I would like to know the explanation."

Mystery object seen over Little Catins

Strange sightings in the skies . . .

ESSEX CHRONICLE, Chelmsford, England - Feb. 17, 1989 CR: T. Good

FOLLOWING reports of a number of UFO sightings over Essex at the end of January, East Anglian UFO have released details of the objects.

Now the unidentified flying object investigators want to hear from anyone who spotted the mysterious space machines.

On January 28 a triangular or shield-shaped UFO was sighted over the Tiptree area in the evening. Its colour changed from bright to a dull white before it shot across the sky towards Chelmsford.

And there were sightings of two separate UFO's on January - one of them being witnessed by three people.

Three bright lights were seen over Chelmsford at 8.30pm. They were in an inverted triangle formation and made no sound. The bottom light moved off at one point before retaking its former position.

The mystery triangle was also spotted at the same time by a Wickford man and by someone living at Tiptree at 8.15pm. Both people said the lights were over Chelmsford. The trio remained stationary for quite some time before moving slowly off.

Then on January 30 a man walking his dog at 8.30pm in Chelmsford saw what he thought was a star, but then the object started pulsating red, white and green.

Another silent object was seen over the county town the following day between 7.30 and 8.30pm. This one had 10 lights each side - four bright and six dull.

If you saw any of these flying objects contact the UFO Hotline on Basildon 286079. The team would also like to hear from you if you have had a paranormal experience.

And East Anglian UFO would like to hear from anyone who would like to train as a flying object investigator.

Said group founder Ron West: "Investigators work in pairs interviewing witnesses. They fill in a sighting form and take it from there!"

GUARDIAN, Workop, England - March 10, 1989 CR: T. Good

Did you see this UFO?

AS the foremost local investigation group researching the UFO phenomenon, we would like to make an appeal to anyone who saw anything unusual in the sky during the evening of Sunday 12th February last.

A young University student was walking with his girlfriend across Workshop Market Place at nearly 4.30pm, when they saw up in the sky in front of them what they first thought to be an aircraft in some sort of difficulties.

The long pencil-shaped craft was rocking around from side to side in the sky, it glowed a bright blue colour, and had several small red glows underneath. It moved erratically around the sky for about five minutes, when it suddenly stopped quite still, motionless in mid-air.

The couple watched in amazement as it first changed colour to a bright yellow, then saw it shoot off at incredible speed towards the direction of Ollerton. During this time, no sound was heard, and they described the object as being twice the size of the moon in length.

We are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed this same object or anything strange in the sky since Christmas 1988, to contact Mansfield UFO Group on Mansfield 651954 or 751889. All calls will be treated in strictest confidence.

MR D. J. WALTERS (Name and address supplied).

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England - Feb. 24, 1989 CR: T. Good

Is there anybody out there?

UNIDENTIFIED flying objects are filling the skies over Essex, says Ron West of the Anglian UFO Research Group.

"January this year has been very busy, second only to October last year," said Mr West.

"There have been 60 reported UFO sightings, mainly along the north bank of the Thames area."

Despite the huge number of sightings, October remained the group's record month with 130 reports.

Most of the sightings were of lights that behaved oddly. They tended to be more than one and often three.

Witnesses reported seeing them within a 10-mile strip along the north bank of the Thames between Thurrock and Southend.

The group's hotline number is Basildon 286079.

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England March 26, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFO illusion

● EXPERTS now believe that a UFO sighting by passengers on a British jet was the Northern Lights.

Witnesses saw a huge multi-coloured, cloud-like object close by at 31,000ft.

Moments later the British Island Airways plane dipped sharply as it passed over Sardinia.

But yesterday a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, which investigates UFO sightings, said: "As far as we are concerned it was the Northern Lights."

The lights are caused by unusual atmospheric conditions.

It's another world

A FEW handfuls of soil and tree bark could soon prove once and for all that alien creatures are trying to visit Planet Earth (quite why is another matter).

They were collected by Eric Morris, one of the North West's top UFO investigators, from a site near Newquay, Cornwall, four years ago, soon after a strange craft is alleged to have crash landed close to an RAF base.

Morris, aged 33, from Crewe, returned to the area a week ago to find the location razed of almost every natural and man-made contour, including a picturesque cottage.

Sensing a conspiracy he now plans to have the soils he thoughtfully saved from the alleged point of touchdown analysed this weekend by a leading biologist at Sheffield University.

He said: "The case bears remarkable similarities to an incident near the USAF base at Bentwaters in Suffolk in 1980 when we believe American servicemen and Ministry of Defence officials totally cleared an area shortly after what people say was a space ship came down."

Morris has also made a video of the sci-fi puzzle which he is hawk-ing around television producers.

CR: T. Good



Idaho rancher hit by mutilation of cattle

By Dianna Troyer
The Associated Press

MALAD CITY — Bizarre cattle mutilations — in which the animals' reproductive organs have been cut away — don't intimidate rancher Tom Williams, although such incidents frighten several of his friends.

Williams, who owns a cattle ranch about 10 miles south of Malad City, has lost two animals to mutilation in the past couple of years. The most recent one was killed last month about a mile from his home.

He and others suspect the animals' organs are used in Satanic cult rituals. Mutilations have been occurring in the area for about 10 years, he says. There have been news reports in the

past of such occurrences, though responsibility has never been fixed.

Friends ask whether he and his wife are afraid to live "where crazies come down" to mutilate cattle.

About two years ago, one of his cows was killed about one-eighth of a mile from Williams' home. A circular incision was made on its stomach and the animal's heart, entrails, ears and tail were taken.

The next year, Williams kept an extra close eye on his livestock and nothing happened. This year, after he relaxed his guard again, he lost an animal.

Reported mutilation incidents share some similarities: The animals didn't struggle, no footprints were ever found around the animals, there was no blood around

"It looks more like an initiation ritual, where someone is assigned to get this or that. The marks are so definitely symbolic. I almost have to say they're artistic."

Tom Williams
Malad City-area rancher

the cuts and the incidents usually happen a couple of weeks after Halloween.

On the same day Williams found a dead 400-pound Hereford steer, his neighbor Rex Daniels lost a 1,200-pound registered Hereford cow that would have calved in spring.

In the morning, Williams went to feed his calves as he always does and spotted a dead one lying on the ground about 200 yards from his mother-in-law's house.

At first, he thought it might have bloated, but when he saw the precise incisions and missing genitals, he knew the cattle mutilators had struck again.

So he contacted law-enforcement officials. They took samples of meat and hide, and after lab testing, he should know in a couple of months what killed the animals.

He suspects the calf was shot with some type of poison to kill it instantly. A pin hole was found on its right hip.

"There were no bullet holes. There were virtually no marks that you could see."

Both mutilations must have been done quickly by experts, he speculated. "Someone understands what they're doing. They've done it before."

All the cuts were made with such a sharp instrument that hair on the animal was literally cut in two, Williams said.

"I've skinned and butchered a lot of cattle," he said. "I can't even cut a hide or leather that perfectly. Someone had a steady hand."

He doubts someone mutilated two of his animals to get revenge on him. "It looks more like an initiation ritual, where someone is assigned to get this or that. The marks are so definitely symbolic. I almost have to say they're artistic."

NEWS, Birmingham, AL - May 7, 1989 CR: L. Phillips

Satanists or UFOs? Who carved the cow worries farmer

By Frank Sikora
News staff writer

MAPLESVILLE — The mutilation of a cow in Chilton County last December first set off speculation about satanic cults.

Now, UFOs have zoomed into the picture.

It all started when a cow turned up missing in a wooded area adjoining a pasture. The animal belonged to Millard Reynolds, a Chilton County lumberyard owner and cattle farmer.

The cow had wandered off when the herd was moved to a new grazing area.

Several days went by and one Tuesday morning a neighbor called and said, "I think I found your missing cow."

Reynolds went to the area and found a shocking — and mysterious — sight. The animal had been beheaded, the body cut in two.

The back half of the body was gone, but the front remained. The head was about 100 feet away.

"I've never seen anything like that," said Reynolds.

But the real mystery, he said, was the fact that there was no blood found anywhere.

"It looked to me like somebody used a chain saw to cut her in two like that," he said. "I examined the head and the cow hadn't been shot. Usually people shoot a cow if they want to butcher it for the meat. But if they wanted the meat, why'd they leave the front

It looked to me like somebody used a chain saw to cut her in two like that.

Millard Reynolds, cattle farmer

shoulders and all? It's just a mystery to me."

Reynolds believes that the butchery might have been the work of a satanic cult who killed the beast to use in a ritual.

But usually such groups in Alabama have been using goats or chickens, which are easier to deal with than a cow.

And satanic groups, when they do kill an animal, tend to be messy in the work, leaving blood as they dig out the heart or some other organs to use in rituals.

Now, a group that has been looking to the skies for signs of UFOs, says it also will look into some of the cattle slayings to see if there is a connection between the slaughter and sighting of unidentified flying objects.

"It's always kind of a pat answer to say that a satanic cult is responsible," Jeff Ballard, state director for MUFON (Mutual UFO Network).

He says there have been mysterious cattle mutilations in 30 states — mostly the West and Midwest — and in many of them there have

been sightings of UFOs.

He says the precision of some of the cattle killings — some appeared to have been cut with heated instruments or lasers — has raised questions with MUFON which believes there is "the possibility of non-human perpetrators."

"We're not saying this is the case; it's just something we want to look at," he said. "But some of the wounds have been clean incisions, almost bloodless. There has been an absence of blood. The eyes and other organs and glands have been cleanly removed."

He said he is sending letters to cattlemen's associations and law enforcement agencies to see if there have been such cases in Alabama.

"We just don't feel that all such cases should be written off as satanic rituals," he said. "It's an easy answer for something which may not have an easy answer. However, if it turns out these are satanic cults, then I'll leave it alone."

There have been reports of slaughtered animals in Marshall and Cullman counties, also believed the work of satanic cults.

In Mobile, law enforcement officers have come across a number of abandoned houses and other buildings which appear to have been used for rituals.

Police there found an altar at an abandoned house.

"The satanic thing is a fad," said Sheriff Department Sgt. Charles Flowers. "A lot of this stuff is young people dabbling around in it. But a lot of people get panicked. It's all blown out of proportion."

HERALD-JOURNAL, Spartanburg, SC - April 7, 1989 CR: G. Fawcett

ONE DEAD REPTILE

Bishopville's flame dims without Lizard Man

By DAVE MONIZ
Special to the Herald-Journal

BISHOPVILLE

Despite talk that NBC's Today Show was sending a film crew to town yesterday, Lee County shrugged and went about its business.

Even cave dwellers know that Lizard Man has slithered back into a tiny news hole.

The Korea News stopped calling

months ago. The front-page story in the Houston Chronicle is now only a fondly remembered slice of hype.

Kenneth Orr, the Florence man who strapped a machine gun to the top of his camouflaged Toyota, is but an inventive warrior whose 15 minutes of fame expired in embarrassing ignominy.

Lizard Man, Willard Scott and friends may soon learn, is one dead reptile.

"Why is NBC coming here?" Lee

County Sheriff Liston Truesdale asked rhetorically, smiling slightly.

"I'd like to ask them the same question. It sounds like they don't have much to do."

NBC soundman Corky Gibbons II said it "beats me" when asked the question. He said reporter Lucky Severson had not told him what or why they would be filming.

It's been almost nine months since 17-year-old Chris Davis reported seeing a slimy, 7-foot crea-

ture attack his car near the Scape Ore Swamp in Browntown. From that story sprang laughter, embellishment and then an industry.

Davis reportedly passed a polygraph test administered by Truesdale and from that point the story grew into a promotional monster.

Truesdale acknowledged that there's been talk of a hoax, talk of a coordinated effort by civic fathers to attract a few media moths to Lee County's sometimes dim flame. The sheriff shot that down quickly.

"Ninety percent of the people who made money on this thing were from out of town," he said.

And anyway, why care about it now? Lizard Man drew his last puff five months ago, a lifetime in terms of the national attention span. Truesdale pinpoints the time of Lizard Man's death as around October or November — "when football season started up."

At the height of the craze, Lizard Man was the talk of big-time newscasters and a tall tale millions thought worth repeating. Bishopville has seldom seen anything like it and some admit they miss the attention.

Alva Kelly Jr., a Bishopville service station owner, has packed up his inflatable green dinosaurs (they look like lizards on steroids) and called it a craze. He is planning to make a scrapbook from all the newspaper stories about Lizard

Man and he fondly recalls the crush of tourists last summer.

"I sure do miss the attention. . . and the business," he said.

As Leon Butler, the owner of the Bishopville 5&10 put it: "I think Alva probably made more money selling T-shirts than gas."

Butler didn't do badly. He estimates he sold between 1,600 and 1,800 T-shirts.

"I think it almost got a little out of hand," he said.

What with amateur Rambos and wild-eyed bounty hunters (one radio station offered a \$1 million reward for Lizard Man) Truesdale was briefly a celebrity. In addition to dealing with people like Orr — "He called his truck the Lizard Buster" — he fielded dozens of calls a day during July and August.

A television station in Seattle offered to fly him out for an interview. Radio stations in England and Australia called for live spots. He estimates that tiny Bishopville was host to about 50,000 Lizard seekers last year.

At one point, he contemplated moving his office because spectator-journalist traffic threatened to slow down emergency vehicles. Seated in his office waiting for NBC's film crew, he figured that Lizard Man was good for the county.

"In all of this," he said, "nobody was getting hurt, there was nothing foul or ugly about it."

"It's all been decent and fun."

SUN POST, San Clemente, CA - March 16, 1989

Pet killings plague OC community

NORTH TUSTIN — Residents of this Orange County community have been shocked by reports of killings and mutilations of cats and other animals, possibly at the hands of Satan worshippers.

About 100 people packed the North Tustin Municipal Advisory Council meeting Wednesday night to demand an investigation into the pet killings in this community 30 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

The council, which makes recommendations to the county Board of Supervisors, voted to urge the board to set up a central reporting agency for the incidents and launch a public information campaign.

The animal deaths and mutilations were made public this month by resident Janet Hampson, who said she has compiled reports involving nearly 50 animals, including cats, rabbits, gerbils, birds and possums.

Richard Paddock, a Sheriff's Department spokesman, told the group formal reports to authorities are never made in many cases of animal mutilation.

"We've only had two documented cases in two years," he said. "The most recent case was in August 1988."

However, some pet owners complained that after they called the Sheriff's Department to report mutilations deputies visited their homes but did not take reports.

— AP DISPATCHES

It's a Tree Stump, Optical Illusion — or Argentine Cousin of the Loch Ness Monster

By ESTEBAN BAYER, Deutsche Presse-Agentur

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Scotland's legendary Loch Ness monster may have a cousin in Argentina, if reports of sightings of a strange lake creature are to be believed.

Residents and tourists at the Andes winter sport resort of Bariloche are convinced there is a Nessie-like beast living in the deep blue waters of Nahuel Huapi Lake at the foot of the Patagonian mountains.

The monster has been nicknamed Nahuelito, a diminutive of the lake's name, chosen the way the Scots arrived at Nessie for their phenomenon.

The Argentine version reportedly has been seen for several minutes at a time, bobbing along the surface of the 318-square-mile mountain lake.

It has been described as a sort of giant water snake complete with humps and fish-like fins. Others say it looks like a swan with a snake's head, or like the hull of an overturned boat or the stump of a tree.

Reports of its length vary from 15 feet to 150 feet. Many people are convinced that this could be the world's last remaining dinosaur. A spate of sightings were reported early in February, by visitors to resorts in mountainous southern Argentina. Coming as it did toward the end of summer vacation, the monster

story seemed made to order for that time of year: journalists everywhere call "silly season," when real news is hard to come by. As a result, Nahuelito has been hogging the front pages here.

Television news programs repeatedly have shown the first "film recordings" of the monster. Yet apart from a few unclear lines on the calm surface of the lake, the films confirm very little.

There has been speculation as to the age of the monster. In the centuries-old history of Patago-

nia's native Indians, there is mention of an awesome creature that had no head, legs or tail.

Bariloche, one of the country's best-loved vacation spots, has absolutely nothing against Nahuelito. In fact, the townspeople have taken to the idea of having a monster in their midst.

Not surprisingly, tourist officials have seen the commercial possibilities behind the "discovery." Friendly-looking Nahuelitos can already be seen smiling from advertising posters and on T-shirts

around the resort, which draws more than 100,000 guests in winter as well as summer seasons.

Self-styled monster experts have emerged to deliver their considered opinions on the habits of the creature. Apparently it is rather moody and only surfaces in the summer when the wind is still.

Witnesses say a sudden swell of water and a shooting spray signal that the creature is coming to the lake's surface.

Anyone wishing to find out more from the locals about their unusual

visitor soon finds himself in a confusing whirl of half-truths, myths and ghost stories.

The dinosaur theory is a favorite, but suspicion that a secret, submarine-type vessel may be patrolling the deep is running a close second.

Also going the rounds is speculation that the thing could be a result of nuclear experiments carried out by German scientists when Gen. Juan Peron was in power in the 1950s.

The few researchers who have seriously looked at the phenome-

non have given Argentina's Nessie the thumbs-down.

They say the Nahuel Huapi "sightings" are probably optical illusions, perhaps caused by some physical disturbance of the lake's surface.

Yet this has done nothing to dispel the monster myth.

"Leave the creature in peace, don't use it for profit and don't hunt it down and put it in a museum," advised Luis Gasen, one of the many tourists who claim to have spotted the beast.

TIMES, Los Angeles, CA
April 16, 1989 CR: R. Saaco

TIMES, Crisfield, MD
Sept. 28, 1988

Bigfoot In Somerset?

By David Bremer

"Bigfoot, or something like it, was said to be roaming the Hopewell area back in the early 1950's," says Mark Opsasnick of Greenbelt, Maryland, who has collected a file of 250 Maryland sightings and would like to have more information.

By October of 1976 the creature, if indeed there was one, apparently had moved closer to town. "According to the Salisbury Daily Times," reports Mr. Opsasnick, "there was a report of a Bigfoot-type creature emerging from a wooded area near Rubberset."

Other reported sightings on the Eastern Shore during the 1950's and 60's include several in the Green Briar Swamp of Dorchester County. Sightings have also been reported in Wicomico and Worcester counties.

Mr. Opsasnick directs the privately funded Bigfoot Information Project (BIP) and serves as a clearing house for Bigfoot related data as well as a venue for increasing public awareness of this seemingly endangered animal.

BIP is an affiliate of Mark Chorvinsky's Rockville, Maryland based Strange Research And Investigations and seeks to preserve Bigfoot related information for future generations. Mr. Opsasnick earned his BA from UMCP in 1984 and is a professional interviewer with the Prince George's County Government.

If anyone remembers the earlier Somerset County sightings or has additional information please contact us at the Crisfield Times by calling (301)968-1188 or writing us at P.O. Box 230, Crisfield, Maryland 21917.

Mr. Opsasnick can be contacted directly at: 114 Rosewood Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 or by calling (301)474-7230; after September 19 call (301)985-5408 between :30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

CR: M. Opsasnick

STANDARD NEWS, Mountain View, MO
April 26, 1989 CR: L. Willett

Cattle mutilations suspicious

By Dick Jackson
Standard News

L.V. Galusha discovered a 1100 pound mutilated cow in a remote area of Shannon County near Teresita Tuesday afternoon at around 2:30. Galusha, who was looking after some cattle for their owner, Atason Seagraves, said he had last seen the cow alive the previous afternoon.

The cows uterus, rectum, utters, lower jaw and tongue had been skillfully removed, but there was no sign of a struggle, causing Galusha to comment, "She was wild. I don't know how they got to her." Galusha said there was no blood, blood trails, or body parts found near the carcass, nor any evidence the carcass had been moved. The cow was found in a small clearing surrounded by tall overgrowth.

Galusha said he lost two other cows the same way nine years ago. "Whoever is doing it must be a real professional," he said. Shannon County Sheriff Larry Rutledge confirmed that there was absolutely no blood and in addition he said there were no tracks into or away from the scene. The pasture, off county road T, in which the carcass was found is protected by a locked gate, and the back entrance had not been used, according to Sheriff Rutledge.

He said he was receiving some outside help in his investigation, but would not reveal the source of his assistance. The mutilation is being handled as some type of cult activity, according to Sheriff Rutledge.

Sheriff Rutledge said he has received information about several cattle mutilation which occurred near Ashdown, Ark. in March of 1989 and that there are some similarities.

The Ashdown mutilations were investigated by Linda Howe, who has been active in mutilation studies since 1979, and has recently published a book detailing her findings. When informed of, the mutilation near Teresita, Ms. Howe described it as a "Classic example" of the type of mutilation which have been reported world wide for at least the past 12 years.

In describing the patterns associated with cattle mutilations, she said the tongue, sexual organs, rectum, utters, lower jaw, and in some instances the tail are removed by "bloodless, cookie cutter type cuts." Howe said tissue samples taken from the cows near Ashdown were studied by Dr. Altschuler, a hematologist in Denver, who reported that the cuts were made with heat at over 300 °F. In his report, the doctor described the cuts as "pinpoint" and said they were made so rapidly that there was absolutely no tissue damage.

Tissue samples were collected from the mutilated cow near Teresita, and sent to Dr. Altschuler for study.

Ms. Howe believes the mutilations are not related to cult activity, and she questions how would cults get access to the high tech equipment to make the cuts, and how would they get the bulky equipment into and out of the fields. Her study concluded that the mutilations are the work of alien life forms and she said the mutilations usually occur in connection with unexplained sky activity.

The Ashdown mutilations are in fact connected with sky activity,



MUTILATED- the lower jaw and tongue were removed from the cow above, which was discovered in a rural area of Shannon County near Teresita last Tuesday.

according to Jim Williamson, a reporter for the Little River Press in Ashdown. Williamson said there have been continuous reports of orange lights in the sky near Ashdown since January 1988, including a craft they nicknamed "Big Bertha," that was seen by the newstaff of the Little River Press in January 1988. The craft was at least as long as a football field and made absolutely no noise, according to Williamson.

Williamson said they are still investigating the lights and the mutilations, but have reached no conclusions. He said they also checked into the background of Linda Howe and found her credentials to be "sterling."

The investigation into the mutilation near Teresita is still under investigation, and Sheriff Rutledge asked that anyone seeing any suspicious lights or vehicles, please report them to his office.

Hysteria blamed in students' afflictions

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — What seemed to be a mysterious illness that affected student musicians and triggered the evacuation of 2,500 people from a concert hall was a case of mass hysteria, authorities said.

Eighteen youngsters fainted or developed nausea, dizziness or headaches Thursday during a performance of the 40th annual "Stairway to the Stars" student concert, produced by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

But Fire Chief William Pajaras said Friday that blood tests revealed no cause of the illnesses and no toxic fumes or other factor could be found at the civic auditorium.

District Supervisor Eugene Tucker suggested the youngsters were "reacting to heat and stress and general anxiety from earlier in the day when one or two youngsters fainted."

The show featured 1,100 members of the district's bands, choruses and orchestras from the fourth through 12th grades. (AP)

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock,
AR — April 17, 1989

BIG FOOT TRACKER

By David Foster

The Associated Press

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Even a Bigfoot believer like Paul Freeman concedes the supermarket tabloids get carried away:

"HUGE BIGFOOT MONSTER TERRORIZES THE ROCKIES! It stunk like a sewer, roared like a lion and clutched the leg of an animal in its hand."

"BIGFOOT ATTACKED US! Blood-Crazed Creature Savages Camera Crew and Pounds 2-Ton Truck Into Junkyard Scrap."

Freeman smiles at the outlandish stories, which he collects in a cardboard box. "There are some crazy people out there," he says.

Freeman himself has been called the craziest of all.

But he knows otherwise. He says he has seen Bigfoot. Four times. He swears it's true, and he is out to convince a doubting world that the legendary ape-monsters, perhaps a thousand strong, really do roam the dark woods of the Pacific Northwest.

"I know they are there, and I know what I see," Freeman says. "Nothing has to be proven to me. But I'd like to prove it to the public, so they'll say Freeman's not really a kook."

Bigfoot — or Sasquatch, as the Indians called the beast — is one of the Northwest's enduring legends. More than 750 sightings of the creatures or their oversize footprints have been reported over the past century, mostly in the evergreen forests stretching from Northern California to British Columbia.

Yet no Bigfoot has ever been killed or captured.

No carcass or bones have ever been found.

A few purported Bigfoot photographs exist, including a picture taken in October by Freeman's son, but they always seem to be out of focus, too dark, or too far away. What looks like Sasquatch could be a misshapen tree stump or someone in a monkey suit.

Skeptics point to hoaxes, like the time a Washington man created a whole Bigfoot family by stomping around with three whopping pairs of feet he had carved of wood.

But if you want to believe, talk to Paul Freeman.

Drive with him eastward from Walla Walla, where the flatlands of southeastern Washington rise into the Blue Mountains of the Umatilla National Forest. Listen to Freeman's tales of safaris into the forest's 177,000-acre wilderness area. Behold a lonely land of wind-bared ridges and dark, forested canyons.

Bigfoot country, Freeman says: "You can go in there all summer and not see anybody."

Not that nobody sees you.

Freeman tells of suddenly skittish horses, of normally doc-



Paul Freeman poses in his Walla Walla, Wash., backyard with plaster casts of Bigfoot tracks he says he saw in the Umatilla National Forest.

ile dogs growling fiercely at the darkness. "Your skin gets kind of crawly and the hair stands up on your neck," he says. "You know you're being watched, but you don't know from where."

Freeman, 45, does not seem the type to spook easily. He is beefy, bearded and, at 6-foot-4 and 265 pounds, approaches Sasquatch proportions himself. He's a meat-cutter by trade; an outdoorsman and hunter by nature.

He says he too was a skeptic — until June 10, 1982, when he was working as a watershed patroller for the U.S. Forest Service and met up with a shaggy, reddish-brown Bigfoot nearly 8 feet tall.

"He was 60 yards away," Freeman recalls. "I watched him walk the length of two football fields. He'd take a few steps, look back at me, and take a few more steps. Then he went up over a hill and disappeared."

When word got out, Freeman became an instant celebrity, but the fame was spiked with ridicule. Reporters hounded him. His supervisors doubted him. Anonymous callers said he was crazy and threatened to take his three children away.

Freeman quit his Forest Service job and moved away, drifting through a series of jobs. A gnawing need for vindication, he says, drew him back to Walla Walla in 1984.

He has been on the spoor of Bigfoot ever since. He says he is in the woods three days a week and figures he has sunk \$50,000 into the search, funding it by driving trucks part time and tapping profits from the sales of a meat-cutting business and two houses.

What can he show for his effort?

There is a trunk filled with plaster casts of Bigfoot tracks; and hair samples that, according to Freeman, experts cannot identify as man or beast.

Near the kitchen door of his rented home, a map is webbed with lines marking where he and son Duane, 22, have tracked Sasquatches. In the freezer sits a

chunk of suspected Bigfoot scat.

Last Oct. 5, Duane snapped three color photos that he and his father say show a creature they spotted 35 miles east of Walla Walla. The best one shows a black, ape-like shape in a clearing 150 yards away.

Duane says it made a believer out of him, but the fuzzy pictures do less for one who wasn't there. "I was shaking a lot," Duane explains.

Freeman says that Bigfoot was on the small side: about 7 feet tall, maybe 700 pounds. The biggest, he says, top 8 feet and leave 18-inch footprints. Uprooted trees attest to their strength, he says, but unlike the monsters that stalk tabloid headlines, they are gentle and shy.

The secretive animals evade detection by sticking to dark canyons, foraging at night, and even altering their prints to resemble bear tracks, Freeman says.

"Sure, they're that smart," he says. "If they didn't have a lot of intelligence, they'd be dead by now."

They eat mushrooms and skunk cabbage, elk calves and salmon, Freeman says. Come winter, they may hole up in caves, which he says would explain their awful stench.

Freeman has received moral support from at least one researcher in the murky world of "cryptozoology," the study of questionable creatures.

Grover Krantz, a Washington State University anthropology professor and veteran Sasquatch seeker, has examined some of Freeman's plaster casts and found them rather convincing, complete with fingerprint-like dermal ridges.

But another Bigfoot researcher, Canadian author Rene Dahinden, denounces Freeman as a publicity-seeking huckster.

Forest Service officials don't know what to think.

"I've spent a lot of time in the woods, and I've never seen anything that would lead me to believe that Bigfoot exists," says Wayne Long, a fire management officer and the Umatilla's de facto Sasquatch spokesman. Then again, he adds, "you can go out in the woods all your life and never see a cougar, but that doesn't mean they don't exist."

Freeman says he'd just like to get a good photograph, or maybe some bones. He has heard there are caves deep in the Umatilla's wilderness and says that might be where Sasquatches hide their dead.

"If I could find some bones," he says, "it would pay me back 100 times over what I've spent."

So far, Freeman says, his Bigfoot work has paid him only \$2,000, mostly from appearing in an ice cream commercial featuring people who do unbelievable things.

DAILY NEWS, Hillsdale, MI - March 16, 1989

Art Kapa and Doug McCoy, who have labeled themselves Bigfoot investigators, were in the county Tuesday to investigate the prints.

While out-of-towners have been snickering and making jokes about the prints, Kapa of Mayville and McCoy of Peru, Ind., are not laughing.

They are not willing to simply dismiss the prints as the work of a prankster.

Their findings — well, so far they are nearly convinced the prints were not made by someone trying to be funny. So convinced that they are offering \$100 to the person or persons who can prove they made the tracks.

However, before the men make a final decision, they want to talk with folks who may have been the first or among the first to see the tracks. Also, they are interested in talking with residents who think they have seen Bigfoot but have been afraid to report it to authorities.

What I find interesting is that the same day the investigators stopped by the Daily News, we had an article in our paper about an organization that debunks such things as Bigfoot.

Lincoln Miller, a Hillsdale man, has been named to the education sub-committee of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, an international organization formed in 1977. The committee is said to be dedicated to debunking the unscientific and protecting a gullible public from being bilked or harmed.

Well, there you have it folks, a recap of the latest Bigfoot situation. The Bigfoot investigators plan to keep us apprised of the matter and as most of the readers know — we'll be sure to let you know if the men give out a \$100 reward or find Bigfoot.



My Prerogative Debbie Myers

My job not only gives me the chance to be out and about downtown Hillsdale and Hillsdale County, but it also enables me to meet a variety of interesting people and this week was no exception.

Late Tuesday morning, I met two men who came to the Daily News office hoping to learn more about the large foot prints that were found early last month in Lost Nations.

Researchers to explore near Springs for Bigfoot

By DICK FOSTER
Rocky Mountain News Southern Bureau

GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS — Some believe he's a primitive subhuman, others think he's an alien with strange powers. Either way, Bigfoot has obsessed and eluded a handful of speculators, two of whom hope to find clues in Green Mountain Falls.

It was in Green Mountain Falls, a moun-

Chariots of the Gods author holds fast to ancient-astronauts theory

BY SALEM ALATON
Globe and Mail Correspondent
NEW YORK

A SA YOUNG MAN working in his family's hotel business in Switzerland, he would hold forth on his theories about ancient civilizations, and the guests would say: "But Erich, why don't you write a book?"

The first book, published in 1968 in German and two years later in English, was Chariots of the Gods? With its appearance, the Erich von Daniken phenomenon was under way.

The horns depicted on certain Easter Island monuments ran a typical von Daniken revelation, could have been modelled only on the antennas of extra-terrestrial beings, as the island had no horned animals. Mayan temples had been built as landing platforms for ancient astronauts, he speculated, and the losers of an intergalactic war probably settled the Earth thousands of years ago.

With the third book, Mr. von Daniken's U.S. publisher an-



In 1972

home in the Swiss hamlet of Feldbrunnen.

"The last four books," he continues, "which were all best sellers here in Europe, and also South America and even India, have not even been translated into English, so the English-speaking public doesn't even know what's going on."

Mr. von Daniken says he continues to fly 100,000 kilometres each year, doing research around the world for his continuing output of books, as well as lecturing and making television appearances. His books have sold 48 million copies, he estimates.

The latest, The Eyes of the Sphinx, will be published in Europe this spring. The book, which will be in German, focuses on his recent travels to Egypt, where, Mr. von Daniken says, he discovered unusual animal bones in the "gigantic sarcophaguses" beneath the pyramids.

"I am absolutely convinced that this planet was visited some unknown thousands of years ago by extra-terrestrials, and these extra-terrestrials did influence our

forefathers in religion, mythology and so on," he says.

This premise has not changed since Mr. von Daniken wrote an early piece titled Was God an Astronaut? which appeared in the former Der Nordwesten, a German-language weekly based in Winnipeg. But the author has acknowledged numerous "errors" in his early work, and published a 1985 text in German titled, Did I Get It Wrong?

"In that book, I speak about the errors in previous books," Mr. von Daniken says, "but then again, I naturally come up with new arguments which are stronger and not refutable."

HE ADDS: "When I was young, I was not so self-critical and, naturally, when you are young, you are very enthusiastic, so you jump on every indication, and you believe yourself that this is a good argument."

Mr. von Daniken also says his reputation was damaged because of a campaign against him waged by what he identifies only as "a relatively small scientific group in the

United States."

He concedes he spent more than two years in a Swiss prison on charges of tax fraud, which he says he did not commit. He believes that this incident was used unfairly to discredit his work.

A spokesman for his former German publisher, however, says the market simply changed for Mr. von Daniken.

"We think his best time was in the sixties and seventies, not in the eighties," says Ulrike Ramsauer, speaking from the Econ-Verlag publishing offices in Dusseldorf. (Mr. von Daniken signed with Bertelsman AG in 1983.)

But Mr. von Daniken counters that Europe is now having "a real wave of, let's say, esoteric literature." He said people are ever hungrier for answers not furnished by the major religions. He still believes in a single God.

"I would turn in my tomb if I am making a religion out of what I am writing," he says. "Because it's not a matter of 'believe it.' It's a question of 'check it.' The facts are here; I present the facts, now make up your own mind."

tainside community west of Colorado Springs, that a brown-haired creature was seen by some residents March 28, 1987.

In a second incident last August, a creature shoved a hairy forearm through a cabin screen door, leaving hairs behind. Analysis at a national laboratory in San Francisco showed the hair to be primate, but could not define it further.

The incidents have prompted two Bigfoot researchers to plan trips to the area this spring in hopes of gathering more evidence.

Bob Brienzo, an English teacher from Omaha, Neb., and Erik Beckjord, operator of the Crypto-Zoology museum in Malibu, Calif., have different theories and are not associated.

But both men are attracted by the solitary creatures who have been sighted throughout the world, yet whose bodies or skeletal remains never have been found.

"This is speculation, but these may be extra-terrestrials, operating on some kind of a different physical system than we are,"

said Beckjord.

"I've dug up about 500 reports of sightings of Bigfoot, and not one of them has ever resulted in a dead body."

Brienzo, who has tracked the creatures since 1967, is convinced that Bigfoot exists. However, he labels Beckjord's theory the product of a "small fringe element."

"It's hard enough to prove that an unknown primate is alive in North America. Whatever people might be willing to listen to you and give your viewpoints some validity, you're going to lose them when you say that it's coming from a UFO or something," said Brienzo.

He admits, however, that things about Bigfoot are unearthly.

"The thing that sounds unbelievable is the weight. We can speculate, from the body mass of bears and gorillas and reports of sightings, that the weight of a bipedal animal of the build people have seen would be 300 to 600 pounds and in some cases over 800

pounds," Brienzo said.

"I've been out after a winter night, where the outside temperature dropped to 40 below, chasing tracks that go for miles. And these tracks are in frozen ground an inch deep. The weight it would take on that foot to sink like that in frozen ground is enormous, too heavy to be normal," he said.

The tracks also take Bigfoot out of the realm of hoaxes, he said.

"No hoaxster is going to be out there on stilts at 40 below carrying two tons of lead on his back making tracks," said Brienzo.

Brienzo is not disturbed that no bodies have been found. The creature is undoubtedly rare, lives in remote locations, and may, like many primitive species, have burial customs, he said.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO
April 10, 1989

POST-TELEGRAM, Bridgeport, CT - April 23, 1989 CR: R. Collins

Physicist offers guided tour through other worlds

("Parallel Universes: The Search For Other Worlds," by Fred Alan Wolf; Simon and Schuster)

If Shirley MacLaine can forge a successful second career writing best sellers based upon voices from the distant past talking to the present, Fred Alan Wolf ought to have a blockbuster on his hands.

Wolf, whose main career is physicist, not movie star, presents ideas about multiple worlds and time travel that make the channelers, flying saucer freaks and astrologers seem unimaginative by comparison. It is fascinating and unsettling that Wolf's contention that we live side by side with other worlds and other versions of ourselves and loved ones is based upon science, not mysticism.

Quantum mechanics, theories concerning the behavior of subatomic particles, has always been disturbing to anyone who studies it. Even Albert Einstein, whose theories of relativity combined space and time, was never comfortable with the alien quantum ideas.

A key quantum tenet, the uncertainty principle, states that it is impossible to measure fully such quantum entities as electrons or photons of light. We can determine their position, but not their energy, or we can measure energy but not position.

So sometimes light is a wave, sometimes a particle; it all depends on how you look at it. If an experimenter sets up his apparatus to measure light as a particle, that's what he'll get. If he sets out to measure waves, he'll get waves.

That is spooky, but it works in the real world. Just as Einstein's famous formula, energy equals mass times the speed of light squared, ultimately translates into atomic energy, so do quantum formulas provide the basis for modern electronics equipment. If electrons didn't behave like ghosts, disappearing one place and turning up, sometimes, on the other side of a barrier, such high-tech wonders as the scanning tunnel microscope wouldn't be possible.

Wolf, who earlier wrote the American Book Award-winning "Taking the Quantum Leap," delights in guiding the average reader on tours of the strange quantum world. His narrative paints an understandable, if often unbelievable, picture of what is happening on a quantum scale.

In a classic quantum experiment, first performed only three years ago, a single photon of light was trapped and sent through a maze of mirrors to a final detection point. As the photon traveled the maze, the experimenters had a choice of two different kinds of detection apparatus; in each experiment, the decision as to which apparatus would operate was made in a split second after the photon began its trip.

What this experiment showed,

Wolf explains, is that the single photon could travel two different paths simultaneously. Even stranger, in any given experiment the photon's behavior matched the apparatus setup, no matter which apparatus was used — as if the unit of light knew what kind of apparatus it would encounter before the scientists had made their choice.

That suggests to Wolf that we live in a universe where both the future and the past are in constant communication with the present, a universe where time travel is a possibility.

Wolf's mission in "Parallel Universes" is to explain this century's two leading achievements of theoretical physics — quantum physics and Einstein's relativity — and to describe a theory that would combine them. The mathematics of both theories point to the notion that we exist side by side with an infinity of other worlds — worlds that may share most characteristics with the world we see but that also vary in important details.

Wolf's strength is that he uses analogies and elegant language to describe sophisticated science. Any literate person can follow these ideas. A drawback is that there is much one must take on faith, for the logic behind these theories is based on complicated mathematics that the book does not provide.

However, Wolf does hint at some of the wild math behind his words. When we took high school algebra, the idea of a negative product of a squared number was dismissed by the teacher as "an imaginary number." If you take minus 2 times itself, you get a plus 4, just as you get a plus 4 by squaring a plus 2.

In normal math, there is no way to get a minus 4 by squaring any kind of 2, so the idea is imaginary. But in relativity theory, as explained by Wolf, time is an imaginary geographic dimension, represented by imaginary numbers.

That is weird stuff, and physicists often ignore some of the more outlandish aspects of it when talking about life in the regular world. But Wolf argues that quantum physics and relativity aren't just something to pull out of the closet when we talk about outer space, black holes and how electrons exist within atoms. Applying these strange quantum and relativity ideas to everyday life, he comes up with time travel, parallel worlds and other proposals that might bewilder your average New Age swami.

One cannot quite say that Wolf has shown that fact is stranger than fiction, because his book presents theories that are not necessarily facts. But he certainly demonstrates that physicists can spin ideas more fantastic than those of the metaphysics crowd.

— JON VAN
(CHICAGO TRIBUNE)