

UFO

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(Bulletin Photo)

Has Interest In UFOs

Gary Metzler of Hillview Avenue, Latrobe, readies his computer to hook up with one of many national UFO computer networks. While Metzler says he has never seen a UFO, he maintains an avid interest in the subject, one which has continued since his high school days.

Latrobe Man Researches 'Ufology' Via Computer

By KIM OPATKA

Bulletin Staff Writer

Have you ever seen an Unidentified Flying Object, or has someone you know seen one? How common are sightings, and is the Chestnut Ridge really a so-called "window area" which attracts UFOs?

Do many people, even though they have never seen a UFO, believe in the possibility spaceships, aliens, and other unexplained phenomena exist? And how and why would someone spend a great deal of every day investigating a phenomenon that may never be proven exists?

These and other questions regarding the UFO phenomena will be answered in a six-part series appearing in The Bulletin this week. Witnesses, investigators, hobbyists, and others will give their views on the subject, which is at the center of a great deal of controversy over documentation of reported cases, and allegations of a government coverup of vital UFO-related data.

To Gary Metzler of Hillview Avenue, Latrobe, his research on ufology is becoming more than a hobby, as the computer programmer has run up quite a large phone bill by hooking up his computer, via a modem, to some national UFO computer networks.

Although he claims an interest in UFOs and the paranormal since his high school days, the former physics

major at St. Vincent College, says the television show "UFO Coverup Live" broadcast last fall renewed his fascination with the subject.

Part One

A six-inch stack of documents he provided a reporter with was only a portion of the data he has stored on his computer disks, he said. And with the current state of telecommunications and technology, Metzler can obtain all the information he wants and can afford by telephone/home computer.

Recent phone bills have caused him to cut down on his use of one computer network, but have not quelled his interest in the subject.

Combining his interest with an open-minded skepticism, Metzler says that while some critics say it is physically not possible for UFOs to travel vast distances, light years away, "our scientists haven't scratched the surface of what is possible and what is not."

A problem with the current ufology field, he said, is that some investigators look at only one point of view, and often become "so convinced of one certain aspect that their whole case revolves around that," rather than stay open-minded.

"I'm willing to say I don't know

and I know enough to know that I'm not sure about anything," he said. "Sometimes I think it is better to be wispy-washy about it. Nobody can shoot me down because I don't know where I'm standing. Fixation is a typical human tendency, and I don't think there is enough open-mindedness."

"One of the keys for people involved in the whole thing," Metzler noted, "is education. Nobody wants to say this is the physics of it and this is how it works. They've heard a little bit and try to base everything they know on that. Their knowledge becomes very threaded....The ideal smells of lack of education, lack of thought."

Some of the documents circulating in ufology appear to be more in the realm of science fiction, with tales of alien visitations and abductions, mutilations of cattle and even humans, impregnation of abducted females who then mysteriously "abort" the child (which is returned to aliens), and of aliens living in underground facilities on U.S. military bases.

Metzler says he takes no position on such reports, just an interest, and said he feels there is definitely a lack of communication between investigators, in addition to misinformation and secrecy by the government on the topic. Even though the government stopped officially investigating UFO cases, with the

deactivation of Project Blue Book in 1969, Metzler said not enough data has been revealed.

"Right now the field is so compartmentalized nobody knows enough of the whole story, except on a select basis, to piece together much of anything....If you read the evidence it is overwhelming that something strange is going on, but in no way can you come to any benign conclusion, which is so indicative of government involvement and coverup."

If there are aliens visiting the earth why would the government attempt to keep it a secret? Metzler theorizes that it could possibly be to avoid a mass panic, and notes some ufologists feel motion pictures such as "E.T." and "Star Wars" were made to condition people to the possibility of aliens, so they won't be as shocked when an extraterrestrial actually does appear.

Aliens may not even be from outer space, some reports state, but could be living underground, or underwater. While some persons may laugh at such theories, Metzler says there is nothing to prove it and nothing to disprove it.

"Couldn't there be worlds in between, a parallel dimension, that co-exists with our matter, that we don't perceive? There are no reasons to disbelieve there aren't a vast number of realities we do not perceive here."

Currently, he feels ufology is in trouble, and would like to see a change in the field.

"There are factions rising, opposing factions, and they are not getting together. Everyone has his or her own goals and one of those is the

almighty dollar," he said referring to the many books and literature on UFOs. "Everybody's playing 'I've Got A Secret' and the field is split up. If in fact, it is true that the government is trying to undermine the whole thing, it barely has any work to do."

"Practically all the government has to do is keep the fighting going and no work will get done. The government could be in trouble if all the people pooled together and gave out their information."

He says it is possible many "UFO" sightings can be attributed to secret projects, such as the Stealth Bomber, but says if that is the case why doesn't the government just admit that that's what it was.

"To the general public the field may have a bad name, but really people give it a bad name, and it's not those that tell it, but those that re-tell it, who tend to take things out of context. They can make anybody look like a fool by grabbing a sentence or a piece of a sentence."

"I've read that 80 percent of Americans believe in UFOs, many have said that, but I wonder if in the face of some far-out ideas that figure would hold up....People say they believe in this but do they really?"

"I say I'd like to believe there's still some mystery left in the world, that's still what I'm saying."

The views of some area residents on the topic will be given later in the week, with Part II, tomorrow, recounting the stories of three area men, among others, who have seen UFOs in Derry and Unity townships.

PIONEER PRESS, St. Paul, MN

April 14, 1989

Extraterrestrial visits

As the president and founder of the UFO Site Center, I would like to share with the general public what I believe to be the deeper meaning behind extraterrestrial visits. Specifically, to address the "why now?" question, and to point out that these extraterrestrial visits relate to a monumental and irreversible natural disaster that — when it occurs — will eliminate the planet Earth's ability to support the life forms that have evolved here.

Our moon is going to rupture and this event — for a host of reasons — will result in the termination of surface life on Earth. Ahead in geologic time, the planet Earth will have a ring, as do the larger planets in our solar system, and which will be caused by identical factors.

Briefly, the crucial factors are as follows: Because Earth rotates, it expresses its gravitational association with the moon by tiding. The moon, because it does not rotate, only bulges towards Earth as one expression of its own gravitational association with Earth. (Appropriate side-on views of our moon show this bulge.) Ladies and gentlemen, even bulges on the grand scale lead to a natural conclusion: So long as the forces causing the bulge remain applied, they burst.

Such an event is pending and probably will occur sooner than man's ability to act. I believe that the timing of these extraterrestrial visits relates to this pending event — and the fact that mankind, without help, will perish.

THOMAS WEBER
Chippewa Falls

Greensburg Center Keeping Track Of UFOs

By KIM OPATKA
Bulletin Staff Writer

This UFO research center is lined with bookcases, hundreds of tape recorded accounts of sightings fill shelves, file cabinets are filled to overflowing, and just about any type of radio equipment imaginable, including a small satellite dish, and a computer fill the room.

Sounds like quite a center. So where is it?

It's not NASA or a huge laboratory somewhere, it's in the basement of a Greensburg man's home.

Part Five of a six-part series on unidentified flying objects looks at

Part Five

Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained's research center, and PASU's director, Stan Gordon, whose home is filled to almost overflowing with data on the subject. Gordon also serves as state section director of MUFON, the world's largest organization given to serious study on the subject.

How did this all begin?

"On my 10th birthday," says 39-year-old Gordon. "It was Halloween Eve, and that was the worst mistake," he jokes.

"My family gave me a new transistor radio for my birthday and I was tuning around to different talk shows. Since it was Halloween Eve they were talking about things like ghosts, UFOs, and monsters, and I was turning the dials and listening to all of this.

"I began to wonder about it and read, and locally I began to keep clippings from different newspapers. If something happened I would call and talk to the person, and then I began to get out in the field."

Gordon's interest in the subject started at an early age, and within the next few years local and state police and others who realized the teen-ager was serious about the subject began referring calls to him.

"A lot of people were glad I was interested and concerned and were glad to talk to me," Gordon relates. Even though he began to be accepted as a serious researcher as a teen-ager, his age did pose a problem.

Especially on December 9, 1965, when a report of a UFO crash in nearby Kecksburg came in that afternoon.

"It's a night I still remember clearly today. The television was interrupted, the police calls on the monitor were pouring in, and I was really upset because I didn't have my driver's license yet. Here it is the biggest (UFO-related event) in the area, and it was driving me crazy because it was right in my own back yard and I couldn't go out and see it."

But Gordon did begin contacting witnesses and agencies almost immediately, and the Kecksburg incident has remained a "pet project" of his since that time. Although it was labeled a meteorite, Gordon says the evidence and testimony from witnesses points to something otherworldly. His collection of documents on the incident includes everything from a list of personnel one of the Air Force units had on the scene to testimony from witnesses, to other government data released in the past few years through the Freedom of Information Act, although much of the previously "classified" information was blacked out on some reports.



(Bulletin Photo)

Longtime Interest In UFOs

An interest in UFOs that began when he was 10 has now turned into this well-equipped lab at the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained. Stan Gordon of Greensburg has an office filled with data on the subject and equipment to collect more. The whole thing started with a transistor radio given to him on his 10th birthday.

It's like that with many cases, as Gordon and his group collect as much data as possible, categorize it, and have it analyzed by professionals, everything from tape recordings of what is allegedly Bigfoot, to slivers of silver shavings, known as "space grass" which may in some way be related to UFOs.

The first organized study group he joined was called the Pittsburgh UFO Research Institute, a short-lived group formed in the late 1960s, which included many technical people and some researchers who are nationally-known in the field, William Moore and Stanton Friedman.

"There were a lot of prominent figures, but I was probably one of

the ones with the most experience dealing with people in the field," Gordon notes.

He was call coordinator for the group, and when it disbanded continued with his own UFO hotline in 1969, and the following year formed the Westmoreland County UFO Study Group. The group became well-known when during a wave of Bigfoot and UFO sightings in 1973, the volume of calls becoming so great it was hard to handle.

After the early 1970s things quieted down until 1983, the last "major wave of international UFO sightings," Gordon says, but started up again in 1987 and continue.

Reports over the years have ranged from "gorillas crossing Route 30

at Kingston and chimps climbing the guardrails....to big hairy, hulking things in the woods."

Gordon says his group has always taken all reports of Bigfoot and UFOs seriously, and although there have been hoaxes, most people feel that they have genuinely seen something and "are just looking for answers."

Excluding the hoaxes he says for the 1973 period alone he has over 130 cases of Bigfoot sightings in seven counties in the state.

"The hoaxes do happen, but most people are sincere," he adds.

He says "a lot of the UFO cases are misidentifications. If it's a natural object, sometimes the atmospheric conditions make it appear larger."

His group now receives advance notification from NASA if a rocket launch or something that will generate a lot of calls will take place. One case, in which a high altitude rocket launched an emission which made barium chemical clouds received many calls. PASU is even notified when the Goodyear Blimp passes through the area, and when a local airplane pilot plans to fly with his nighttime advertising sign.

Gordon feels the Chestnut Ridge is a "window area" for UFOs, due to the high number of reports from all areas along the ridge, the window designation given to areas which are more active in terms of sightings.

"A window area is a geographic area where on an annual basis a large number of unexplained phenomena is reported," Gordon explains. "Historically the ridge has been one of the most active areas for unexplained events."

One of the most unusual "unexplained" reports was a black panther sighting, while other incidents include strange underground sounds, reports of the earth shaking and crashes of glowing objects.

Gordon's group investigates them all, sometimes finding explanations sometimes not. The range of technical equipment in the office includes geiger counters, radio equipment for investigators to use to communicate while out in the field and other radio equipment which can pick up just about any police, air, government or UFO agency frequency which is not scrambled.

And all this in the home of someone who has never even seen a UFO, Bigfoot, or any other unusual phenomena.

"We just try to remain open-minded about the whole thing," Gordon says of his group. "Most of us have never seen anything. We just go out and try to collect the data, analyze it, and see what comes of that."

As to criticism that the UFO field is in trouble because of secrecy on the part of UFO research groups, and other investigators who will not share information, Gordon agrees, to an extent.

"We try to share as much information as we can. We don't have anything to hide. We try to share as much data as possible. We may not always share the name of a witness, that is up to the witness. But there are some people out there who are out for personal gain.

"Our opinion is that the data is no good just sitting here," he continues. "It is important to exclude the garbage and get as much together with other researchers as we can. I need two full-time secretaries to answer all the requests I get, but I don't have them, we're not funded. Our purpose is to exchange data and get it out as fast as we can. I also try to publish as much data as I can so a large number of people will have access to the information."

And while some reports of abductions, and alien encounters across the country seem a little far-fetched, Gordon says he doesn't discount them but doesn't take them just at face value either.

"If it's really going on out there no science fiction movie has ever really come close to it," he concludes.

PASU can be contacted at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa., 15601, or by phoning the UFO hotline at 838-7768.

The final part of the six-part series on UFOs will deal with the Kecksburg sighting, and include an interview with one of the firemen who viewed the object and termed it as "definitely not a meteor."

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

May celestial sightings puzzle New Yorkers

By Jay Cox
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

ITHACA, N.Y. — Maybe, Stephanie Orak thought aloud, "they" were here to visit renowned astronomer Carl Sagan, a professor at Cornell University.

Orak said she had recently seen a show on UFOs visiting Florida and had wondered, "Why don't they come to Carl Sagan's backyard?"

Dozens of people say that between 9 and 10 p.m. on May 20 "they" might have.

"I ruled out airplanes and helicopters. The only thing it could've been was a blimp. Or something else," said John Orak, who was en route to dinner with his wife, Stephanie.

On Wednesday, about two dozen people discussed what they saw.

May 20 was a nasty night of clouds and rain with a full moon.

The phones at police agencies

rang off the hook. Seventy-five callers reported a large, low-flying object or objects — perhaps eight aircraft — flying in formation.

But authorities at Tompkins County Airport had no notification from any such aircraft cruising and their checks with military sources revealed no activity.

The blimp comparison was made several times by those who observed the objects. They also commonly described other characteristics: five to eight white lights and an oval or oblong shape.

One person described it as a shield. Some saw red and green lights. Some heard nothing or a slight humming.

One person viewed it on Thurston Avenue Bridge, near Sagan's house.

Sagan, whose first full-length fiction novel, "Contact," is about beings from another world, was unavailable for comment.

Collector's Showcase



Figure 1. (Left) UFO photographed over Kaizuka, Japan, in 1958. (Right.) Wispy, spiderweb-type substance ("angel's hair") that fell from the sky, allegedly from a UFO, near Ichinoseki, Japan. Venta-Verlag UFO photo series, no. 14.

Greetings from outer space



Figure 2. "Extraterrestrial Spaceship" photographed June 16, 1963, by Paul Villa. The postcard was designed by one-time presidential candidate Gabriel Green.



Figure 3. "Flying Saucer!" photographed in 1957 by Agnes Sanborn, although the witness is listed as Dorothy Roberts. The UFO, actually a cloud, is the layered object in the center. A pinkish streak to the left is "from North American Aviation Rocket-dyne in the Santa Susanna Hills." A later version of the card, published after zip codes were introduced, is not so positive: "Flying Saucer?"

By George M. Eberhart

YOU MIGHT think it's easy to find postcards of UFOs or aliens at postcard shows. After all, everyone knows what UFOs are, there are hundreds of books and films with the theme, and cartoons with extraterrestrials are common. But for some reason postcard publishers never caught the alien bug.

Yet UFO postcards *do exist!* As a serious collector of UFO literature and as librarian of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, I make it my business to know what's being published, from periodicals to paraphernalia.

Finding UFO postcards, however, is almost as difficult as tracking down a landed UFO. Not once have I seen these cards in their own category in dealer's inventories. They most often appear under Space, Astronomy, Bizarre, or the always fascinating Miscellaneous. Other times they are found with Movies, Cartoons, or various city postcards. There may even be some in the Real Photo, Roadside, or Advertising sections!

I have identified and classified five major types of UFO/Alien postcard:

"True" UFOs are postcards with photos or drawings of unidentified objects or lights that people claim to have witnessed. UFOs, or flying saucers as they used to be called, were first reported in great numbers in the summer of 1947. Sightings were frequent in the United States, especially in the peak years of 1952, 1957, 1964-66, and 1973. Throughout the 1970s, public interest and close encounters kept their momentum, but reports have dropped sharply in the 1980s. No one really knows why; if we did, we might have a better idea of what the UFO phenomenon is.

Most true UFO postcards date from the mid-1960s. An interesting 24-card series was printed around 1966 by the German publishing company, Venta-Verlag, in Wiesbaden (figure 1). Many of the UFO photos depicted are known or probable fakes, which shows that the publishers were more interested in marketing their UFO books than in scientific evidence.

The most common card (figure 2) is a UFO photo, also of somewhat

dubious origin, taken June 16, 1963, near Albuquerque. The card was published in 1965 by the Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America, then in Los Angeles. The group's founder and president, Gabriel Green, claimed to have had over 100 UFO sightings and allegedly was asked by a visitor from Alpha Centauri to run for the presidency of the United States in 1960. After campaigning as an independent candidate on an economic reform platform (his political advertisements proclaimed, "America needs a Space Age President"), he withdrew from the race to support John F. Kennedy. In 1962 he ran for U.S. Senator from California and actually received 171,000 votes in the Democratic primaries.

Gabriel Green sent this postcard for the first time on February 9, 1965, according to his handwritten note on one card in my collection: "How do you like our new postcards? This is the first one I've mailed out. Just received them this morning. —Gabriel."

A true UFO card that turns up occasionally is the photo of the Ozark Spook Light taken by Garland "Spooky" Middleton, owner of the "Spook Light Free Museum," located 11 miles southwest of Joplin, Missouri.

Another interesting card (figure 3) declares "Flying Saucer!" above a photo taken March 24, 1957, by Agnes Sanborn at Camarillo, California. Someone must have pointed out to Sanborn that the "UFO" she photographed was in reality a lenticular (lens-shaped) cloud, because a later version of the card is labeled, "Flying Saucer?"

Alien tourist postcards show UFOs visiting U.S. cities and tourist attractions. They may either be drawings or retouched photographs. The earliest one I have (cover illustration) is a 1950s' Curt Teich card that advertises Chicago's Midway Airport ("with biggest traffic volume in U.S.A."). Presumably the saucers landed at O'Hare Airport after 1961, the year air traffic at O'Hare surpassed Midway.

A postcard celebrating the Columbia City, Indiana, Old Settler's Day and Legion Roundup, July 25-29, 1967, features a drawing of a football-shaped UFO with sightseeing aliens and an old settler welcoming them.

Quantity Postcards offers at least two views of San Francisco at night with UFOs zooming overhead; but my favorite is the UFO over the San Antonio world's fairgrounds (figure 4). The address side states categorically, "Folks come from everywhere to see the Tower of the Americas."

Human-made UFOs include rides or toys that mimic flying saucers. I only have two, but there must be others. Figure 5 shows a "Flying Saucers" ride at Disneyland's Tomorrowland, "where a guest may pilot his own ship in free flight, above the ground."

Then there are the five flying saucer toys apparently careening through a blue sky on a mission of mystery. The information on the address side is ambiguous: "Flying Saucers: 20th Century phenomenon. Special Features: Anti-gravitational core, imaginative gyro-pilot. Cruising range: Fully interplanetary. Propulsion: Pseudo-atomic. Speed: Ultra-sonic. Winter Base: Mars. Summer Base: Michigan."

Cartoon aliens are often depicted in Gary Larson's "The Far Side." His aliens (figure 6), whose names nearly always start with the letter Z, reveal such human traits as curiosity and reckless driving. Jim Davis' Garfield, also a master punster, greets alien visitors from the planet Greet ("Greetings") in a 1978 card.

Most of the cartoons are variations on the "Take me to your leader" joke, with the extraterrestrials encountering an assortment of earthlings: Mike Peters' fire hydrant E.T.'s greet an earth dog; gun-toting aliens drawn by Baloo shoot a snowman they intend to dissect; and thirsty, one-eyed sauceroids stop by an earth satellite for some brewskis on a German advertising card published by the Pilsner Urquell brewery (figure 7).

Movie aliens are best represented by the series based on Columbia Pictures' "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" (figure 8), directed by Steven Spielberg. In 1978 a *Close Encounters of the Third Kind Postcard Book* was published by Prime Press in New York, with "48 full-color detachable postcards" showing scenes from the movie.

A series of Star Trek postcards features the occasional alien, but I prefer my E.T.s as visitors to earth, rather than us as the intruders on alien turf. A classic Twilight Zone card depicts a tiny metalman terrorizing Agnes Moorhead in the episode "The Invaders," originally broadcast on January 27, 1961. You don't find out until the very end of the show that Moorhead is the real extraterrestrial.

So, there you have five good reasons why "UFO/Alien" postcards should have their own deltiological niche in auction lists and inventories. And if UFOs really turn out to be alien spaceships, think how valuable these cards will be some day!

Write to George Eberhart about your UFO cards c/o J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 West Peterson, Chicago, IL 60659.



Figure 4. This UFO superimposed over the San Antonio skyline was photographed by Preston Taylor, Jr. Curtschcolor, 3US TX 478-B.

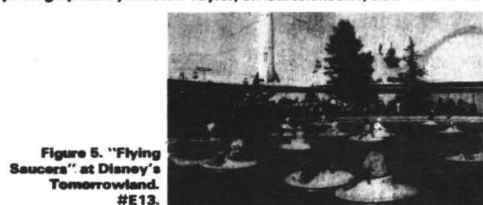


Figure 5. "Flying Saucers" at Disney's Tomorrowland. #E13.



Figures 6, 7, and 8. Left: Gary Larson's aliens have an accident at the Statue of Liberty. Right: "At last we can drink the excellent Pilsner Urquell!" Below: The aliens visit Devil's Tower, Wyoming, in Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."



CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA
June 23, 1989 CR: J. Laurino

A Thought Beam To Other Worlds

BY GENE EMERY
REUTERS

In an effort to prove that there is intelligent life in space, a self-styled financial adviser is recruiting people to pay \$10 each to take part in a plan to beam thought waves to extraterrestrial aliens.

Alan Shawn Feinstein, who publishes two financial newsletters with a reported national circulation of 200,000, is calling the project "Operation Indigo" and says more than 5,000 people have already signed up.

Feinstein usually advises his clients to invest in various stamps, coins and autographs. But in recent weeks he has been sending out a four-page letter urging people to mail him \$10 and two stamped, self-addressed envelopes.

In return, they receive a three-page letter marked "confidential" that tells them to look up at the sky at precisely 10 p.m. EDT on June 29 and spend a full minute repeating the questions: "Is there any way we can communicate? Can you send me a sign of your existence?"

Then, for the next 12 days, participants are asked to write down any unusual events, thoughts or dreams and send their accounts to Feinstein, who promises "findings (will be) sent to all participants at the end of July."

Participants are not supposed to tell anyone about the project, not even members of their family "unless otherwise authorized," according to the instructions.

Feinstein said a group will analyze the results by looking for similar unusual experiences as evidence of contact. He declined to identify the analysts.

Don Berliner of the nonprofit Fund for UFO Research in Virginia said that the project was suspicious and "highly unscientific without known basis in logic or fact."

FLYING SAUCERS

A good amount of thought has been given to the potential content of this article. The original plan was to present a detailed background of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's) from the late 1800's to present day Anza. I also intended to expound on the alleged governmental cover up that is said to be funded by tax dollars and demand to know "who" is behind it. But ultimately I've found the most important issue involved to be "truth" and the only place and time of real importance to be "here and now". It is not my intention to try and force anyone to change their beliefs. The nine months I've spent on serious investigation of aerial phenomenon is a mere fragment of time when compared with decades of research undertaken by others and hardly qualifies me as an authority.

My aim is to present information for the individual reader to consume, compute, analyze and conclude each in his or her own way.

We are seekers of the truth in all aspects of life on this planet. Our own technological advancements in space have by far exceeded the dreams of our forefathers and will no doubt be considered infantile stepping stones in the advancement of future generations.

In the winter of 1986 I was working as a cook at the Backwood's Inn. One of my co-workers shared an experience with me and although I had previously witnessed incidents of strange phenomenon, I chose not to believe it. His accounting is as follows:

While hiking at night in the Pine Cove area he was contacted by the occupants of what he called a "light ship". (The manner of contact was not made clear to me). He was informed that there were two "mother ships" in the heavens above Anza and Idyllwild and was instructed to go to a certain location where he would find three crystals that were to be taken to another location, placed in a specific formation and he would then wait for further instructions which were to repeat this process at another given date and time. When he chose to share his experience with others he opened himself up to several forms of ridicule, as is often the case.

I have heard many fascinating stories from people whose credibility I dare not question. The following are some of the more recent accountings of goings on in our area. We have chosen not to use names with hopes that more of you will come forward and share your experiences but more importantly to avoid exploiting any group or individual.

In October of 1988 a gentleman called the "Outlook" office inquiring about an object he had observed on the evening skyline around Palomar Mountain. It was described as a large cigar shaped vessel that hovered for a brief period of time before disappearing. When I met with him he told me he was from out of town and here to visit his mother. She is an avid believer and has observed UFO activity in our area for more than 30 years. He was a skeptic prior to this experience.

A woman on Cary Road called the office at about the same time, October of 1988. She and a friend have observed unexplained phenomenon in the Cahuilla Mountain area for many years. In one instance a brightly illuminated UFO lit up her entire home for a period of two hours and crafts hovering around for hours at a time were not unusual.

A local youngster began, a couple of years ago, to tell her parents about an object she had observed from her bedroom window. She was 6 at the time and they (her parents) became concerned about her insisting she saw this "thing". The subject was dropped for approximately 2 years and on October 24, 1988 her sightings began again. She drew a picture of what she saw and gave it to her mother who once again became concerned. On October 26th as

the family returned home from an outing they saw the object depicted in her drawing.

The mother in this case began to contact various government agencies and was instructed to contact the Mutual UFO Network, a Texas based organization that investigates this and many other types of unexplained phenomenon.

The family decided not to pursue the issue in fear their child would be exploited.

I would like to add here that children and animals seem to be very receptive to this type of activity.

On December 1, 1988 at 8:00 p.m. a family of six observed from their home in Terwilliger a large craft and several small objects that hovered for more than an hour in the eastern sky.

They told me that it was almost impossible to view this aerial display with the naked eye. The amber lights seemed to penetrate and obstruct their vision but the use of binoculars allowed them to observe the following:

The large craft had three lights that blinked in quick succession. It remained stationary while the smaller objects engaged in what seemed to be some sort of maneuvers. The lights were arranged in a triangular shape on all craft and as they came together they also formed a triangle. Their movements were geometrical and they left vapor trails each time they changed position. One would drop slowly behind a mountain then shoot straight up, stop and hover while another, in turn repeated this process. Finally coming together in a triangular formation they moved straight up and disappeared.

December 5, 1988 (6:30 P.M.)

Ten minutes prior to this sighting a nine year old family member drew a sketch of a "flying saucer".

The initial sighting was by two young men, ages 14 and 16, living on Howard Rd. They caused such a stir other family members were able to share the experience.

What they witnessed was a huge oval shaped craft hovering at what was estimated to be 100 ft. overhead. Red marquis-type lights circled it until the outside patio light was turned off. At that point the craft went dark and silent until it began making a thrusting sound that stood it on end. Three lights (2 white and 1 red) came on to form a triangle shaped point on its top. The object proceeded across the valley toward Cahuilla Mountain looking like a small airplane. But they got an occasional glimpse of its enormous silhouette. It seemed to land on the mountain top.

December, 1988 (Photo(s) courtesy of Vonderlieth-Hix)

A local couple taking a moonlight stroll along

the Lake Hemet shoreline in December of 1988 got more than they bargained for. A luminous cigar shaped object appeared in the east above Santa Rosa Mtn. They left the lake and went to their home in Garner Valley to pick up a camera, returned and snapped a series of photographs. It seemed to them this object was signaling another craft in the area. They watched it for hours before it gained altitude and disappeared.

May 10, 1989 (7:45 P.M.)

This is the most recent reported sighting. An elderly woman was driving up Cary Rd. from the Bautista Canyon area. As she approached the Laborer's School main gate she noticed a mushroom shaped luminous craft measuring an estimated 30 ft. in diameter that descended and hovered slightly above the powerlines. She stopped her vehicle and observed somewhere between 6 and 8 beings emerge from the craft and begin working on the outside. After approximately 10 minutes they re-entered their ship. Following a loud humming sound and burst of blue flame they teetered and disappeared into the night sky.

During this time period there were reports of TV and electrical interference. I was at Lake Riverside Estates and alarms began to ring along the airstrip at about the same time.

This is without a doubt the most controversial "open" can of worms I've ever come in contact with.

Why Anza? There are many obvious reasons; the topography, mineral deposits, ores, vegetation and sparse population to name a few. One of the reasons given by an "expert" on the subject is the "triangular" shape of the valley. Other researchers feel the "Pyramids" were land markers used by space travelers. Could it be they became too obvious and were replaced by natural land formations?

In dozens of accountings on record, space craft and their occupants are greeted with hate and hostility by a society not willing to accept the intangible.

None of the cases presented here involved fear. The general consensus was an overwhelming feeling of elation being fortunate enough to be part of such an experience.

We are still very interested in hearing about the experiences of others. Our office is in contact with several reputable experts on the subject who are interested in interviewing those who are willing and they promise to be discreet. We can be contacted by phone at (714) 763-5510 or drop a line to AVO, P.O. Box 1050, Anza, CA 92306.

Understanding is an evolutionary process that is expedited by the opening of the mind.

Debbie Steinberg
May, 1989



Photo taken of an unidentified flying object while taking a moonlight stroll along at Lake Hemet.

(continued on page 5)



Photo of field where an individual said they saw some kind of flying object land. The craft was estimated to be 30 feet in diameter.

Interest in UFOs grows with time

By CARMELA MONK

FOR STEVE ZALEWSKI of Syracuse, UFOs didn't exist — at least, not until the night he saw one.

He was 16, on his way home from a Junior Achievement meeting, when he and a friend saw something out of the ordinary — an unidentified flying object — in the sky.

What he saw had an orange "aura" to it and three lights forming a triangle that blinked on and off.

"Whatever it was, to this day, I cannot explain," Zalewski said. He checked with the Weather Service and other sources. There wasn't anything that was supposed to be up there that fit the description he gave.

"That was my first and only sighting," Zalewski said. "I have not seen them in nearly 13 years."

Zalewski's interest in the subject has only increased since then. At his suggestion, Penn-Can Mall has invited Don Schmidt, director of special investigations from the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, to conduct a three-day exhibition. It will open Friday.

Schmidt will lead a question-answer discussion at 7 p.m. Friday in the mall's community room.

Schmidt said he expects Syracuse to be conservative.

"By nature conservative people are slow to overreact in regard to phenomena. They're objective but opinionated," he said.

Schmidt, a technical illustrator, will bring pictures of UFOs.

"This is the best photographic evidence we have concerning UFOs," he said.

Interested observers can also read about UFOs at Onondaga Community College, thanks to Zalewski. His interest developed into a hobby that became a never-ending research project. With the help of a few experts, Zalewski collected UFO literature for OCC.

At OCC there are 109 books, a stack of studies and a file cabinet full of newspaper clippings, essays, studies and government documents, making it an extensive UFO collection, said librarian Bob Mackin.

"It's the first in the country, we understand," said Maxine Stryker, the reference librarian. "The quality is there, the quantity is there too."

Media and reserve librarian Robert O'Boyle agreed with Stryker that Zalewski was very selective.

"There are a lot of unique items, not easy to get hold of either," he said.

The OCC collection started with a small selection of materials when Robert Barrow began teaching an introductory course on UFOs in



CARMELA MONK/The Post-Standard

"Whatever it was, to this day, I can not explain. . . . That was my first and only sighting."

— Steve Zalewski

1978. Zalewski has been adding to the collection since then.

Some of the items are hard to find. Others are harder to get. Through the Freedom of Information Act, Zalewski was able to obtain government reports of investigations of UFO sightings.

Zalewski said he believes the federal government is keeping a lot of UFO information from the public.

"People are more sophisticated than they were in (the time of) Orson Welles' 'War of the Worlds,'" said Zalewski.

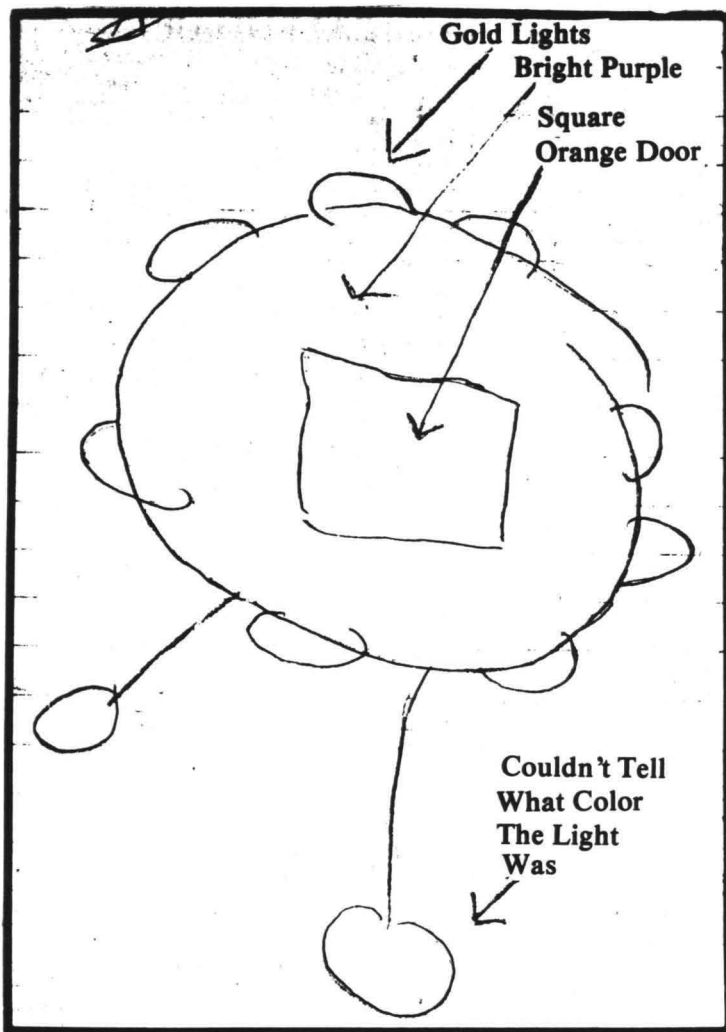
And after seeing movies like "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "E.T.," the public can handle the information, he added.

"The public loves this. They go crazy over this," he said. "This has great social significance to our culture."

And that's why he collects the books. It is preserving a part of culture that needs documentation, he said.

As far as UFOs being a part of Syracuse culture, that's another thing. Zalewski said there have been three other sightings in this area: in Baldwinsville, Cazenovia and on Onondaga Hill.

There may have been more, Zalewski explained, but many people believe someone who sees a UFO is "mentally tilted," and people are afraid to report them. ■



Drawing of a 6 year old who saw something that looks much like a UFO.

STATESMAN-JOURNAL, Salem, OR - May 29, 1989

UFO conspiracy?

Earthlings may not be alone

It's not an official conspiracy theory yet, but we could make it one. The theory we might try to launch is that aliens are encouraging Earthlings to use more gadgets that produce electromagnetic radiation and block the monitoring of the universe for signs of life.

According to our conspiracy scenario: One, scientists and most of the news media are not taking seriously enough the possibility that Earth is being visited by aliens; and two, we are being prevented from searching the heavens for alien signals.

James Deardorff, a professor emeritus of atmospheric sciences at Oregon State University, says an average of 5,000 unidentified flying object sightings and other types of encounters are reported yearly around the globe. A large number cry out for serious study.

The evidence of an extraterrestrial presence on Earth is getting much stronger, but, in a report in an OSU publication, Deardorff says that traditional scientists and reputable news media — as opposed to the supermarket tabloids — refuse to examine the evidence for fear of ridicule.

Deardorff doesn't imply that aliens are trying to prevent detection. But other scientists accuse Earthlings of blocking the monitoring of radio wave emissions from outer space by spreading electronic chaff.

Marcus Price, a radio astronomer at the University of New Mexico, complains that electronic garbage created by such daily activities as starting a car, pushing an automatic garage door opener or operating a satellite navigation system interfere with the examination of radio waves given off by stars and molecules in the universe.

This interference also may hamper the monitoring of signals — if any — by alien civilizations. Astronomers worldwide are searching the universe with radio-telescopes, hoping to detect signals from other civilizations.

Astronomers worldwide are searching the universe with radio-telescopes, hoping to detect signals from other civilizations.

So far we have found nothing.

Price blames humans, not aliens, for getting in the way of the search for truth. But anyone who feels strongly about UFOs — that's millions of us, judging by public opinion polls — might think otherwise. We all know wild tales of shipwrecked space creatures whose bodies have been frozen and hidden away by the Pentagon. A little imagination thickens the conspiracy plot.

Deardorff's concern is strictly about human resistance to the evidence of UFO sightings. If he thinks that aliens are involved, he doesn't say so.

The increasing evidence of aliens is "either a grandiose, master hoax, on a worldwide basis, or this is the real thing," he says.

We have photographic evidence; we have theories to explain why aliens make their presence known only to a select few, he says. The only thing we don't have is anyone paying serious attention.

The presence of aliens threatens so many belief systems that scientists will investigate only the reports that are obviously shaky and fraudulent, Deardorff says. The persuasive ones are ignored.

Discovering that we are watched over by intelligent guardians from outer space would bring *Childhood's End*, as sci-fi writer Arthur Clarke might say. Small wonder that little green men are keeping us dumb and happy by clouding the minds of our scientists, editors and static-makers.

So go the ingredients of a good conspiracy and of thousands of books and B-grade movies.

THE UFO ENIGMA

Scientists and laymen alike wonder what's going on up there

By Bill Gruber

Ellen Crystall pointed her 35mm camera at the night sky and took a photograph of a distant, blinking light. She used a flash, to illuminate the foreground and provide a frame of reference.

Although the subject of her photo was several miles away, she was pretty sure it was another alien spacecraft.

As the light drew nearer and the sound of a jet engine became discernable, Crystall quashed the doubtful comments of an observer by pointing out that the aliens are capable of making their "ships" sound just like airplanes. When the craft's wings and fuselage could be seen silhouetted in the moonlit, late-March sky, she assured that UFOs can sometimes look like airplanes. The aliens, she said, might even have planes of their own.

Crystall, a self-proclaimed professional "UFO photographer" who leads regular spacecraft-watching expeditions in the towns of Montgomery and Pine Bush, N.Y., is representative of one element of the widely diverse and sometimes offbeat group of enthusiasts who believe UFOs are real and probably from outer space.

Although Crystall — convinced that UFOs are spacecraft piloted by alien beings in cahoots with the U.S. government — may seem extreme in her zeal, she is taken seriously enough within the UFO cult. She gives presentations at UFO seminars and publishes a quarterly newsletter called "Contactee," which purports to represent "the first organization for research of UFOs by direct observation."

People like Crystall and others who make widely publicized claims of close encounters with spacecraft or abduction by aliens often garner the lion's share of media attention. But there are others deeply involved in the UFO movement, serious investigators who approach the subject with skepticism and scientific objectivity. To those men and women, there is little doubt that UFOs — unidentified flying objects — do exist. But unanswered questions remain: Who or what are they? Where do they come from? What do they want?

"There are all sorts of reports being generated about blood-sucking aliens and underground bases and people who have been abducted and had implants put into their brains," said prominent UFO investigator Philip Imbrogno of Bethel. "Unfortunately, that's what the public wants to hear."

MEDIA HYPE AND THE PUBLIC'S taste for sensationalism have made it nearly impossible to seriously study the UFO phenomenon and have discredited the efforts of legitimate investigators, said Imbrogno.

"I feel kind of like I'm trying to be a point of sanity in all the madness."

A high school science teacher in the White Plains, N.Y., public school system, Imbrogno has been investigating UFO sightings since the early 1970s. He led an investigation into a large number of related sightings in the Hudson River Valley during the early 1980s and documented his findings in a book called "Night Seige — the Hudson Valley UFO Sightings," which has become a standard of sorts for those convinced UFOs are real.

"I had always been interested in astronomy and the possibility that UFOs represented extraterrestrial visitors intrigued me," Imbrogno said, explaining why he joined the Center for UFO Studies, an independent investigating group, in 1973. Imbrogno became a case investigator for CUFOS but soon became disillusioned.

"I was disappointed," he said. When he began looking into reported UFO sightings, he found that many labeled "unexplained" by the center could be easily explained by natural phenomena. Many of his fellow investigators were overzealous, eager to prove that UFOs did exist and were manned by aliens. Imbrogno felt that investigations were not being

undertaken with the objectivity necessary to get to the bottom of the many UFO reports recorded around the world each year.

"They were hunting down spaceships, rather than trying to explain a phenomenon," Imbrogno said. "I became discouraged. I became something of a skeptic."

BUT AS HIS REPUTATION as an objective investigator who wasn't willing to jump to conclusions grew, Imbrogno started being assigned to juicier cases. He looked into sightings that couldn't be written off to the usual explanations. And he got to know J. Allen Hynek.

"Once, (the investigation of UFOs) was the realm of nuts and whacks and whackos," Imbrogno said. Hynek brought credibility to the field by insisting upon scientific objectivity. "Dr. Hynek used to refer to 'the UFO phenomenon,' not to spaceships and aliens and all that crap."

Hynek, who helped Imbrogno with "Night Seige," died as the book was being written. "He was an incredible human being," Imbrogno said.

A consultant to the U.S. Air Force "Project Blue Book" investigation, Hynek was not satisfied with the government's final finding in 1969 that all UFO reports could be ascribed to misunderstood sightings of airplanes, satellites, weather balloons, temperature inversions and other natural phenomena. "He was told by the government to explain the cases away," Imbrogno said.

Hynek founded the Center for UFO Studies and was, at the time of his death, the nation's preeminent UFO researcher. Although he never could determine just what UFOs were, he became convinced they represented something that defied any ordinary explanation, and that the U.S. government knew more about UFOs than it was prepared to share.

THE MORE INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT

Imbrogno got, the more he was persuaded that something extraordinary was taking place in our skies.

In 1982, the Hudson Valley sightings began. Imbrogno, who investigated the early reports, was struck by the number of eye witnesses, the similarity of the reports, and the reliability of those claiming to have seen a huge, boomerang-shaped object in the night sky over New York and western Connecticut. Over the next five years, he would look into hundreds of cases in which ordinary people with no previous interest in UFOs claimed to have seen a huge, silent object that could hover in place and turn on a dime. In all, more than 5,000 sightings were reported to police and UFO investigators over the years, he said.

The official explanation for the reports was that it was a hoax perpetrated by light-plane pilots who flew in a V-shaped formation with their landing lights on, intentionally simulating a UFO. Indeed, Imbrogno confirmed, many sightings could be traced to airplanes.

"There's no doubt that there have been planes flying around in formation," he said, noting that even planets and single aircraft have sometimes been reported as UFOs. But he added, "These overflights of planes did not start until after a series of close-encounter sightings" in 1983 and 1984.

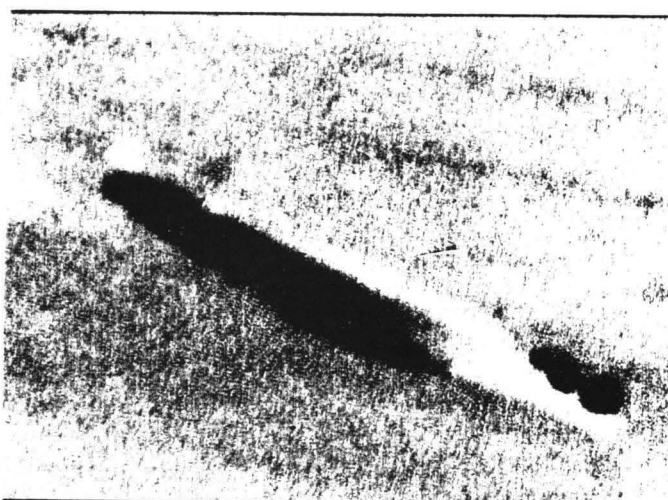
"You have to remember that there have been so many reports and you can't discount them all," he said. Several witnesses reported seeing a single, huge structure. Such sightings included a remarkable one at the Indian Point nuclear reactor in Buchanan, N.Y., where security guards said a giant, solid object hovered over one reactor for an extended period. "You have so many encounters in so many places ... A good deal of the sightings cannot be traced to planes."

Imbrogno has several theories about the formations of planes. Early sightings were traced to sport pilots from Stormville, N.Y. But in later occurrences, the formations were too tight, the weather conditions to adverse for the flights to have been made by recreational flyers, he said. One of Imbrogno's hypotheses is that the later formations were flown by trained government pilots — maybe even the CIA — in an effort to discredit legitimate UFO sightings. His efforts to substantiate this through requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act have thus far provided no proof.

ANOTHER SUBSCRIBER TO THE GOVERNMENT cover-up theory is Larry Fawcett, a full-time police lieutenant in the town of Coventry and part-time UFO investigator.

"I was a very close personal investigator for Dr. J. Allen Hynek," said Fawcett, who became interested in UFOs only after he saw one himself.

"I had a sighting in July 1965 in the town of Manchester, very close up, within 250 yards," Fawcett recalled that he had stopped at an auto dealership to look for a new car. The was



Disc-shaped UFO from Imbrogno's collection of UFO photographs.

an electrical sub-station across the street. Fawcett and about 25 other witnesses watched a huge, metallic, football-shaped object, about the size of a Boeing 747 jumbo jet but without wings or any visible propulsion system, descend to within a few feet of the sub-station and hover soundlessly above it. A rod came down from the bottom of the object and electricity arced between the object and sub-station. Immediately, power was knocked out in that section of Manchester. The sighting lasted only about 35 seconds.

"Prior to that incident, I had no interest in the phenomenon whatsoever. I believed what I was being told, that there was nothing to it," Fawcett said. "Seeing it with my own eyes convinced me. It was a once-in-a-lifetime sighting."

Fawcett reported the incident to Pease Air Force Base and was told that he and the other witnesses would be hearing from officers at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where the Project Blue Book investigation was then based. More than 20 years later, he's still waiting to hear from the Air Force, "which gives you an idea of how thoroughly they investigated even major sightings, with many witnesses."

After Fawcett began his association with Hynek, he learned that many significant reports of sightings by military personnel were missing from the Blue Book files. Efforts to obtain them through the Freedom of Information Act were unsuccessful. Through their loose network of investigators, Fawcett and his colleagues heard many reports that the Central Intelligence Agency had files on UFOs. But when the CIA was queried on the subject, the agency denied having an interest in UFOs or any related documents.

FAWCETT AND OTHERS who didn't believe the government founded Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, or CAUS. They sued the CIA under the FOI act and recovered 2,000 UFO-related documents, "from an agency saying they had none." In 1980, CAUS took that National Security Agency all the way to the Supreme Court and won access to 250 UFO-related documents. The NSA had also denied having any files on UFOs. To date, about 15,000 government documents have been handed over to CAUS through legal action and FOI requests, Fawcett said.

"We found an on-going interest on the part of all these agencies after the close of Project Blue Book," even though the government said Blue Book ended its involvement in the UFO phenomenon and that UFOs posed no threat to national security, Fawcett said.

The group's efforts also revealed that there was a series of UFO sightings over six Strategic Air Command bases — including a nuclear weapons storage facility — in 1975, Fawcett said. Lighted, football-shaped objects "were coming and going with impunity," Fawcett said, adding that efforts to follow the UFOs with chase planes were futile.

"The documents show that we were helpless ... It was really an awesome, awesome incident."

But what were the UFOs? Space aliens? Secret weapons? Meteorological illusions?

"I don't think any researcher can actually say that because we don't know. We can make a case that something is going on in our skies," said Fawcett. He takes tales of abductions by aliens and the like with a grain of salt. But anything is possible. "I do believe that the answer lies within the government's files. They know exactly what's going on (and) there is a cover-up, from the White House on down."

"I'm sure they're aliens. No doubt in my mind," said Robert Blechman, national publicity director for MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network. An international group of investigators with the goal of scientifically

(continued on page 7)

studying the phenomenon and getting the government to cough up more information about UFOs, MUFON takes no official position on whether or not UFOs are the ships of aliens. But Bletchman, a Manchester attorney, has made up his own mind. "I'm convinced ... that there are different beings here from different planets doing different things."

WITH EARTH SPECIES BECOMING EXTINCT at an alarming rate, Bletchman guesses that aliens may be visiting the planet to collect and catalogue various types of flora and fauna before they vanish from the universe forever.

"When one puts together the whole spectrum of evidence," he said, "we're not left with fleeting, equivocal information ... The residue doesn't fall apart. Dr. Hynek called it 'an escalation of hypotheses.'"

Bletchman added, "I'm not a 'true believer.' I practice law. I know what evidence is."

"You must never, never, never cease to use your critical faculties," said John White, a writer and researcher of paranormal phenomena based in Cheshire. "Believe as little as possible. Know as much as possible."

White, the sponsor of an annual conference on UFOs, is convinced the ships are real and suspects they're piloted by extraterrestrial beings. "One very credible researcher estimates that there have been about three million sightings since the beginning of the modern era," White said. "There is physical evidence. There are photographs. There are radar sightings. Pilots have reported seeing them." A recent poll, he noted, showed that more than

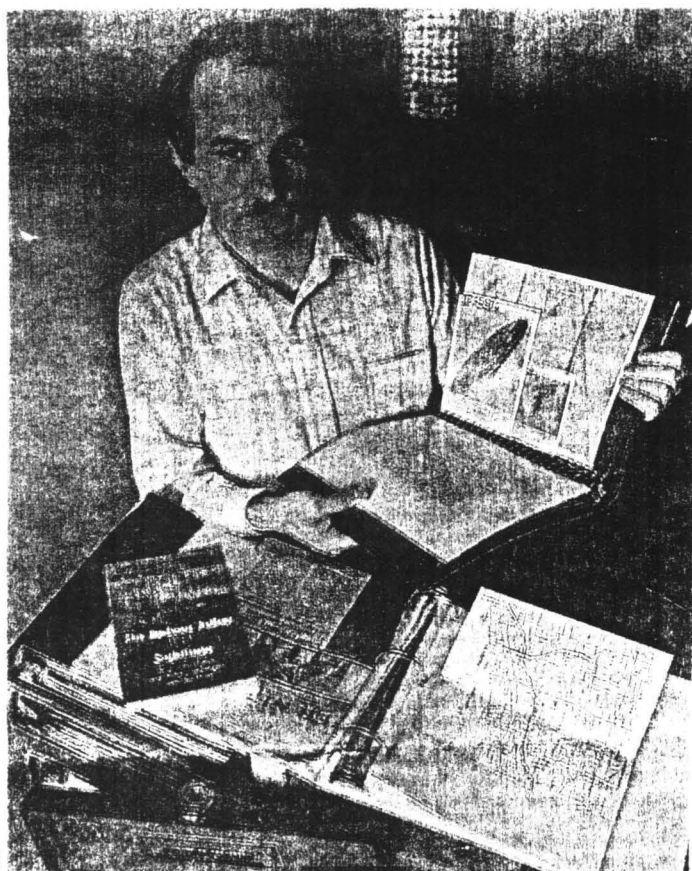
half the adult population of the U.S. accepts UFOs as real.

But all the hype, the popularization of the UFO movement, has disenchanted Imbrogno. He cited the recent publication of "Communion," a claimed non-fiction account by science-fiction writer Whitley Streiber recounting the author's abduction by aliens. The book was on the New York Times best seller list and has sold more than 600,000 copies. It will soon be made into a movie. Imbrogno noted that it's quite a coincidence when a successful science-fiction writer, author of "Wolfen" and other such tales, is kidnapped by space aliens. When the study of UFOs translates into big, big money, the objectivity of those involved comes into question.

"I'VE BECOME, NOT CYNICAL, but disillusioned with the way things are being done," said Imbrogno, who has ceased active investigation of reported UFO sightings. "It was the signal versus the noise and the noise kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger and the signal kept getting smaller and smaller and smaller ... It's just been hyped so much that you can't do an objective investigation anymore."

Imbrogno said he is now "kind of laying back, waiting for the big one. The photograph. The videotape. The incident."

Meanwhile, "the phenomena is still there. People are still reporting them. There are still sightings all over the world," Imbrogno said. "I'm convinced that the phenomena is real but there's no evidence to indicate what it represents. When it comes down to the nitty gritty, you haven't really proved anything except that people saw something they couldn't explain."



UFO investigator Philip Imbrogno of Bethel says media hype and the public's taste for sensationalism have made serious study of UFOs nearly impossible.

For some UFO enthusiasts, seeing is believing

We were parked alongside the cornfield in Pine Bush, N.Y., for only five minutes or so when the big UFO appeared above the far horizon.

"O.K. Here we go," Ellen Crystall said to her friend, a fellow UFO enthusiast. "This one's a jumbo."

The two women leaped from their cars and immediately began photographing the object. They used standard lenses and flash units that would illuminate the foreground in their pictures.

I looked at the object and was astonished.

Although I had been skeptical when Ellen Crystall assured me over the telephone that she saw spacecraft just about every time she watched for them in Pine Bush and nearby Montgomery, I told myself during the two-hour drive from Waterbury that I would keep an open mind.

But I wasn't prepared for what loomed in the distant night sky. It was huge, had brilliant lights and seemed to move very slowly. There was no sound. Could this UFO stuff be for real?

Then I began to make out the shape of the fuselage. Through my binoculars, the tail became clearly visible. Eventually, I could see wings and note that the brightest lights were landing lights.

"It's a jet," I said, disappointed.

BUT CRYSTALL, who didn't use binoculars, remained convinced it was a spacecraft. Why wasn't there any sound? Why would an airplane drop below the treeline, as this object did?

Although she knew that Stewart Airport, home base for a squadron of giant U.S. Air Force C-5 cargo planes, was about 13 miles distant, in the same

direction the object was headed, Crystall was certain we hadn't seen any airplane. When the object rose above the treeline several minutes later, made a wide circle and descended out of view again, she felt that clinched her case.

Besides, she pointed out, the aliens have ships that look like airplanes.

How can she tell the difference, then, between planes and spaceships?

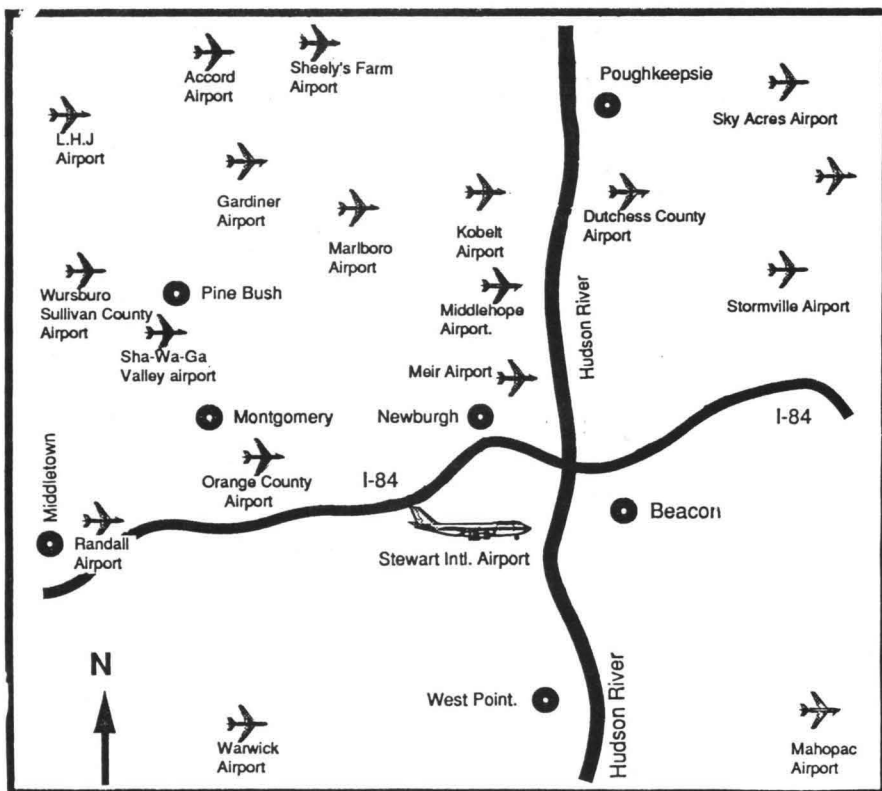
"I can sense it," she explained.

We spent several hours that Thursday night moving from field to field. Crystall and her friend took numerous pictures of airborne lights, which they suspected were spacecraft but which looked and sounded like airplanes to me.

When I pointed out that all the objects had red lights on the left wingtip, green on the right and white on the tail — as aircraft do — Crystall responded that the "ships" can imitate airplane lights. She pointed out that some objects were changing their lights. When I responded that pilots often turn on their landing lights enroute, as an anticollision measure, she dismissed the point.

The following Thursday night, we repeated the procedure. Crystall photographed a few more airplanes/spacecraft but said it was a slow night. Her plea to the quiet skies — "C'mon, ships!" — went unanswered that evening.

Lt. Col. John Perez, a deputy commander at Stewart Air National Guard Base, later confirmed that a C-5 was operating in the area of Stewart on the same night and at the same time that Crystall and I watched the "jumbo" UFO descend in that direction.



MAGAZINE graphic by Steve Johnston

Map shows section of upper New York state that some UFO enthusiasts consider a "hot spot" for sightings. Area includes many small and medium-sized airports.

"WE CALL IT the largest aircraft in the free world," said Perez, noting that the C-5 is nearly 248 feet long, 65 feet high and has a wingspan of just under 223 feet. Its cargo bay can hold six Greyhound buses. "This aircraft is so large that your eye doesn't realize that it's probably five to 10 times farther away than what you're used to seeing."

The pilots were doing practice approaches and touch-and-go landings that night, which would explain why the plane dropped below the treeline only to reappear later. With an empty cargo bay and the engines throttled back to land, the C-5 "would have been almost gliding," Perez said. To a distant observer, the aircraft would appear closer and slower than it actually was. And it would be silent.

The sectional aeronautical chart for the New York region shows that there are dozens of airports situated all around the area where Crystall and her friends watch UFOs. The area also lies along an approach route to Newark International Airport. It's not surprising that Crystall has taken many photographs of lights in the sky.

But her claims go beyond sightings of distant spacecraft. She has been within touching distance. One just missed her car. Years ago, in Hollywood, she was so close to a wedge-shaped UFO that she could see the aliens inside. They wore stretch-knit jumpsuits. She once saw an alien in Pine Bush. He had big, yellow eyes and looked like Gumby. She suspected he was wearing contact lenses. Crystall is pretty sure the aliens have an underground base in

Pine Bush. The U.S. government is in on it, she said.

THERE SEEMS LITTLE doubt that Crystall believes what she says. When her claims are challenged, she becomes angry. A composer of New Age music who lives with her parents in New Jersey, she doesn't make enough money from her UFO work to go through all the trouble of perpetrating a hoax, she said. Her UFO tours of Pine Bush are conducted free of charge.

You can't dismiss a person's claims based solely upon two nights of watching. But as a licensed pilot, I know what airplanes look like at night. And it seemed to me that Crystall was wasting an awful lot of film.

— Bill Gruber

WAY WE WERE

Those mysterious lights in the sky often have down-to-earth explanations

By Bill Gruber

You're driving north along Route 8 on a dark night and slowly, a bright light in the distant sky captures your attention. It seems to be moving too slowly to be an airplane. As it gets closer, you notice its size and odd shape. Pulling off to the side of the road to get a better look, you roll down your window and find that there is no sound of an engine. The thought inevitably dawns: Could it be a UFO?

Sightings of UFOs, reported in the Waterbury area as recently as 1987, aren't a new phenomenon here.

Articles in the library of The Republican and The American newspapers indicate that area residents saw inexplicable sights in the sky throughout the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

UFOs — Unidentified Flying Objects — do exist.

That is, they exist to the extent that, when someone sees an object flying through the sky and can't identify it, it is an unidentified flying object. But various explanations usually have been found for the glowing balls and V-shaped strings of lights sometimes seen silently plying the night skies around Waterbury.

One of the most interesting cases occurred in the mid-1960s. Hundreds of witnesses — including police officers — reported seeing glowing, inexplicable lights in the sky all over the city on several consecutive nights.

"We saw it come down in the cemetery," a Summit Avenue woman said, describing her family's encounter with a UFO in March 1967. "Then my husband and daughter came into the house and we closed and locked the door. Just a few minutes later, we heard a slow knocking at the door. When my husband opened it, there was no one there."

THE FAMILY CALLED THE POLICE, who dispatched four cruisers to the area and sealed off the walled-in Riverside Cemetery. "A search of the cemetery grounds located a plastic bag hanging in a tree," The Republican reported the next morning. "This long, plastic bag, used by cleaners to cover dresses and coats, contained a frame holding small candles."

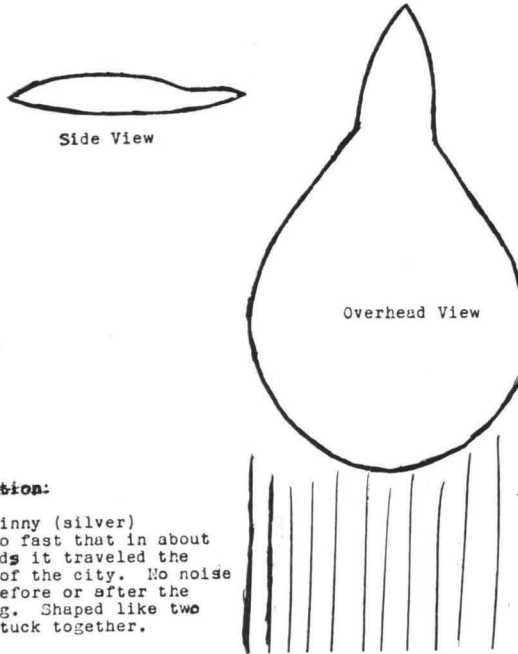
A day before that sighting, three teenagers brought a similar contraption to the newspaper office. When candles stuck into styrofoam crossbars were lit, the bag became a miniature hot-air balloon that floated freely and emitted an eerie glow. "Some kids out West made them and for about two weeks the police went nuts with calls about them," said 19-year-old Tony D'Angelo, who explained that he learned how to make the device from a magazine article. "Teenagers Show How a UFO Can Be Made," read the headline on that story. But sightings continued.

More than a year later, similar sightings were reported by alarmed residents. Members of the Republican staff also spotted the UFOs

Sighted by: Alan Chaponis

First report was, low going from North to West, then the object circled and west South West at 927 am.

Second report was, high going from South to North at 935 am.



Description:

Very shiny (silver)
Going so fast that in about 2 seconds it traveled the length of the city. No noise heard before or after the sighting. Shaped like two discs stuck together.

In March 1954, Alan Chaponis provided The Republican with this drawing of a UFO he said flashed from horizon to horizon in two seconds, with no sound. The object flew over Waterbury's City Hall twice.

from the newspaper's Meadow Street building but noted the next day that, "since no Martians were found, the occurrence could possibly be a repeat of a college prank that was played last year."

Periodic UFO reports have continued over the years. Interest in — and sightings of — UFOs were at their highest in the 1950s and early '60s, before the U.S. Air Force concluded an investigation that determined UFOs were simply misunderstood earthly phenomena. Interest hit another peak just after the 1977 release of Steven Spielberg's film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," which used convincing special effects to depict the visit of a benign and musically inclined group of aliens to the United States.

BUT NOT ALL UFO sightings were easily explained and many observers remained convinced they saw something paranormal.

"It was a gigantic round thing with green and red lights flashing on and off," a Watertown woman said after the most recently publicized UFO sighting in this area, in Southbury last May. "It looked like a gigantic spaceship, like in 'Star Wars.' I got a little nervous. I was waiting for it to shine lights down, like in the movies."

As in several previous UFO sightings around Waterbury and the Northwest Corner, the spaceship turned out to be a group of light planes from Stormville, N.Y., flying in formation with their landing lights on. Small aircraft also have position lights that are red, green and white.

"People call and they're wondering what they are," Trooper James Bleidner of the Southbury state police barracks told the newspaper. "They're always a little bit embarrassed to ask and then they're a little disappointed when I tell them."

Those Who Know UFOs Gather In Lincolnton

By JOE MARUSAK
Staff Writer

LINCOLNTON — Steve Bond and Susan Lightcap were traveling south of Asheville in Transylvania County one night two years ago when they suddenly saw the light.

It was a large, fuzzy yellow light. Bond, who had been trained to spot aircraft during his three years in the Navy, had never seen anything like it.

The pair drove 10 miles before reaching the light, which Bond said hovered 1,000 feet above U.S. 64.

They stopped the car and got out.

"I said, 'That is no helicopter because helicopters make a lot of noise,'" Bond recalled.

The silent object then vanished without a trace, he said.

With that, the two friends joined the ranks of people who say they have seen unidentified flying objects.

They came to Lincolnton from Asheville Sunday to meet with others who

either claim to have seen UFOs or have investigated reports of the alien ships.

George Fawcett, who has investigated 1,200 such reports worldwide over 45 years, hosted the gathering at his home on Battleground Road.

Fawcett, 59, takes his work seriously but still keeps a sense of humor about it.

"My wife had me down as a UFO one time," Fawcett joked to the 23 people who exchanged UFO literature and first-person accounts during the gathering.

Lincolnton resident Danny Barger has never seen a UFO, but he knows where they reportedly were sighted.

Barger has made a map of all reported UFO sightings in North Carolina, with a pin stuck in each location.

It reflects 829 reported sightings through 1988.

"And this is probably only 10% of what has been seen," Fawcett said.

Fawcett said reported UFO sightings tend to come in waves, the last big one in North Carolina in 1973.

"Sometimes we have the most reports when there's no publicity at all," he said.

Fawcett became interested in UFOs as a teenager reading a newspaper account headlined, "Silver Balls Floating in Air (Are) Nazis' Newest War Device."

In fact, the account did not confirm where the objects came from.

Fawcett has since amassed 35 filing cabinets containing UFO documents.

He also just became president of the N.C. unit of Mutual UFO Network Inc., a self-described international scientific organization that studies and researches UFOs.

At Fawcett's home, network members and their guests celebrated the 42nd anniversary of UFO sightings in modern times.

They looked at UFO books and newspaper clippings with such headlines as "UFO Chased By Car" and "I know UFOs are real because I've seen one."

Fawcett said a Gallup Poll last year showed that about half of all Americans believe UFOs are real.

Bond acknowledged that other people "are already waiting there with their response to disprove it."

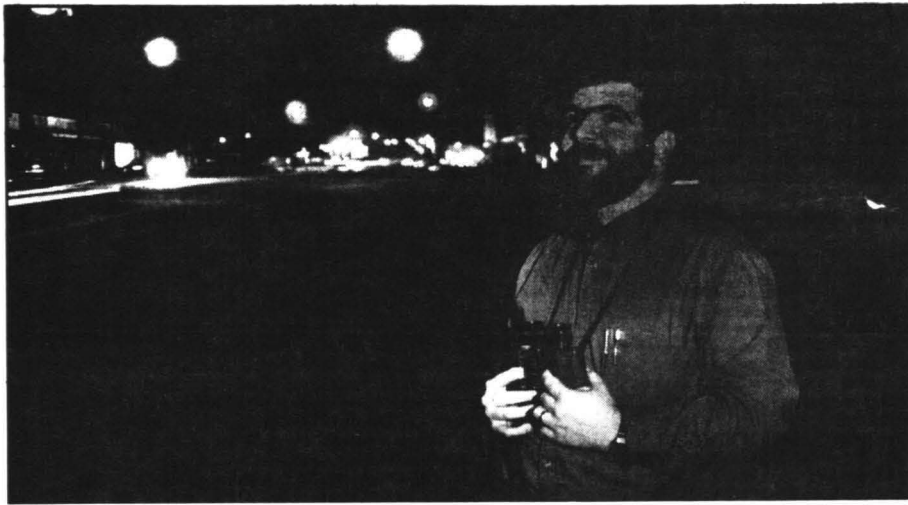
"Something unknown and unidentified is threatening to them."

In an effort to inform the public, Fawcett is now trying to raise money for a \$4 million UFO museum he hopes will be built in North Carolina.

After all, he says, the state was home to the first airplane flight.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC

June 12, 1989 CR: G. Fawcett



NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JERRY AYRES

Jeff Ballard pauses on the main street of Fyffe, latest hot spot for UFO sightings.

Huntsville engineer chases UFOs wherever they appear

By Frank Sikora
News staff writer

FYFFE — A clear half-moon shone down over Sand Mountain Friday night, casting a pale glow over the town of Fyffe, population 1,300.

On Main Street, about 100 people stood gazing skyward, looking for "the UFO."

"There it is," someone called. "See. Over there."

All eyes were fixed on a glimmering bright object in the northeastern sky.

Then, a husky, bearded man shook his head and calmly announced, "That's a star."

Jeff Ballard, an electrical engineer who works in Huntsville, is not easily excited when someone calls "UFO."

But he is more than curious, and has spent a number of nights in Fyffe looking for unidentified flying objects.

At 34, he is state director of a group known as MUFON — Mutual UFO Network — an international organization which probes reports of sightings and encounters.

"I still haven't reached any conclusions here in Fyffe," he said Friday night, as he returned for another night of observation. "At first I thought what people here were seeing was some type of lighter-than-air military craft."

But as time goes on, Ballard becomes less convinced, he said.

"I've been checking on lighter-than-air aircraft and it seems we're still not much farther advanced than regular blimps," he said.

The people here emphasized they did not see a blimp or helicopter.

At least 10 people, including the town's chief of police and assistant chief of police, reported seeing a large, whitish object with three white lights on the bottom; most described it as triangle- or heart-shaped.

Ballard said he's puzzled about what they saw, "But at this point there has been nothing here to make us jump up and down and say 'aliens.' There hasn't been any para-normal activity."

Para-normal, he said, means a report of sighting aliens or having a direct encounter with an alien.

While much of the attention in recent weeks has been on

Fyffe, other places in the state also have had reports of UFO sightings, he said.

One involves a possible para-normal encounter, he said. He's probing an incident in Shelby County that has an added note of mystery to it.

While not giving any details of the report, he said it might have involved an abduction.

"We're still investigating," he said, adding that the incident didn't receive news coverage.

An interesting sidelight is that the reported incident happened near the farm where a woman from Yugoslavia reported having visions of the Virgin Mary, he said.

"It just seems odd that she would come there," he said.

The UFO incident occurred in November, he said. The Yugoslavian woman came about a month later.

Ballard said he hopes to get more professionals interested in joining MUFON.

"In the Shelby County case I could use some help from a psychologist or a psychiatrist," he said. "I'm an electrical engineer and I know about circuits, but not getting into what people are thinking. That goes beyond the realm of the normal investigation. I don't want to play doctor; it wouldn't be right."

He said MUFON is also probing reported sightings in Huntsville, Mobile, Birmingham and Georgiana.

As a rule, he said, MUFON has three categories for UFO sightings:

- Military aircraft, that may be experimental.
- Stars or planets.
- Visitors from other worlds.

"There's the distinct possibility we're being visited by aliens," he said.

Such a prospect is unnerving, yet exciting, and he's not alone in that feeling, he said.

"Last Friday night I spent an hour flying over the Fyffe area," he said. "I didn't see anything in the air, but people were probably wondering about us. We got spotlighted by a huge light."

But as involved as he has been in UFO probes, he has never seen what he considers to be an unidentified flying object.

"The general rule is the UFOs are seen when Jeff Ballard is not," he said.

MIND & SPIRIT

by Rachel O'Neal

UFO: 'That thing wasn't from this earth'

"That thing wasn't from this earth," said Denise's grandfather after the "thing" they had been watching through binoculars for 20 minutes disappeared abruptly into the stars above Mount Hood. Denise said the UFO she had been watching outside her grandfather's farmhouse looked like an upside down triangle to the naked eye, but more like a silver sphere through the binoculars.

One summer in 1963, Brian and a fellow counselor at a boys' camp in Milwaukee, Wis., saw a light coming toward them, moving and stopping in a way uncharacteristic of airplanes. It was about the size of a city bus and came to rest 100 yards above them. When a blue light emerged, Brian and his companion ran screaming for cover.

Michael saw a round disk in the sky hovering 10 feet above his house last Oct. 20 in Portland. He said it was 10 or 12 feet in height and three times that in breadth. The object had pulsating lights and took off slowly at first like a floating feather before it vanished.

These people told their stories of UFO sightings at a recent symposium at Portland's Central Library.

Dr. James Deardorff, retired professor of atmospheric science at Oregon State University, said at the symposium that there have been 100,000 or so reports of UFO sightings since 1947. He has taken an early retirement to devote his time to the study of UFOs because he believes it's time scientists got involved. He is working on a book, "Celestial Teachings," that should be finished sometime this year.

Deardorff believes UFOs may be vehicles for extraterrestrials, who are showing themselves to us so that we can be gradually acclimated to their existence. Thus, when their existence becomes obvious, we won't be shocked.

He says whoever is operating the UFOs seems to be behaving with considerable ethics since they have not moved in and taken over "as far as we know." And they don't seem to be letting out evidence suddenly, knowing perhaps that would cause chaos in our society.

Because of this strategy on their part, we can't learn about the subject from our government or schools, but must rely on evidence from people who have had direct experiences, which Deardorff says includes contacts and abductions as well as sightings.

Deardorff thinks governments may know more than they reveal, but keep silent for various reasons including a desire to avoid mass panic. Additionally, the reality of UFOs would pull the world toward universalism, and away from nationalism, which individual governments may find threatening.

Someday, Deardorff predicts we will know more about UFOs, but he doesn't project how many years into the future it will be.

Meanwhile, all we can do is speculate and watch the sky. As Brian admonishes, "There's a lot more to this earth than we are told in school, and you shouldn't dismiss anything someone might say."

(The Portland UFO group meets periodically at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham.)

By the time I reached Hammsville, I looked over my shoulder and there it was again, only this time much closer and brighter. I again stopped, but could hear no noise.

Before I reached home, I had seen it in several locations in the sky, but all in the general direction of Lawton and Chattanooga. The last one I saw appeared to be over SH-5, many miles behind me to the east.

As soon as I arrived home, I called Barbara, who lives near Chattanooga and asked her to look out her back door. She immediately knew why I was asking, because she had seen the same lights since about 7 p.m.

My wife, however, seemed skeptical about my UFO sighting, prompting me to load my entire family into the pickup and head back out into the darkness.

By the time we were a few miles east of Frederick, we could see one of the lights far east in the distance over Chattanooga.

Then suddenly, one of the lights took off from the ground seven miles east and what appeared to be a mile north of Frederick. Just as with the first light I saw, it left the ground at a steep angle then suddenly disappeared at about 200 feet.

We stopped the pickup and continued to watch lights at various locations for several minutes — sometimes seeing two at once.

Using my binoculars didn't help — it was still nothing more than a bright light, about the color of a sodium street light — only brighter.

What were they? I have no idea. I do feel there's a logical explanation — it's just that my suggestions don't fit.

But, I'm not worried about being transported to some planet or my body being taken over by an alien, such as what happens in "War of the Worlds" on TV.

Besides, now I'm in good company with a lot of other famous people. Jimmy Carter, Farrah Fawcett, John Lennon, Jackie Gleason and Barry Goldwater all have seen UFOs, too.

But, if you know the answer to this riddle, give me a call.

My perspective

DAILY LEADER, Frederick, OK - Feb. 8, 1989

CR: J. Waller

UFOs invade Tillman County?

By KEITH MITCHELL
Managing Editor

The aliens are coming!

Or, maybe they've already been here.

Right off, I want to emphasize that I don't believe for a minute that there is any such thing as little green men from Mars. Venus, maybe, but not Mars.

Now, unidentified flying objects are another matter entirely. Anything seen in the sky that's not readily identifiable is classified as an UFO. But that doesn't mean it's from another planet.

I saw a UFO Tuesday night over Tillman County. In fact, I saw several. And, fortunately, I wasn't the only one to see them.

It was shortly before 10 p.m. and I had just passed through Chattanooga on my way home from night classes at Cameron.

Less than a mile west of the Chattanooga Y, I suddenly saw what appeared at first to be someone setting off fireworks to my right.

It arced similar to a Roman Candle, but was much brighter and appeared to be less than a mile away. However, it only lasted 3-4 seconds and there was no explosion at the end, similar to traditional fireworks. It just disappeared.

My next thought was an aircraft taking off from the ground, but the angle was too steep and it disappeared too quickly.

My third thought was something from Fort Sil, but the direction was wrong.

My fourth thought was a flare, but again, it disappeared too quickly.

As I continued my drive home, I kept glancing back over my shoulder, but saw nothing. I had just about convinced myself that I must have seen a reflection in the passenger side window as I passed by Coyote Hills, but about that time, I glanced back to the east and there it was again. Only this time it didn't disappear. It remained in view for several minutes and it appeared to be moving parallel to the horizon, heading off toward Chattanooga.

Not being superstitious, and having the reporter's inquisitive mind that all things can be logically explained, I stopped my car and watched it for several minutes, straining to hear any type of aircraft noise. There was none.

I finally decided that it must be the soldiers from Fort Sil doing night maneuvers and continued my drive home — only a little faster this time.

Otherwise down-to-earth man has unearthly obsession

John Timmerman of Lima, Ohio, sounds very much like radio star Paul Harvey and he closely resembles Conrad Bain, the actor who played Gary Coleman's foster father on the TV sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes." From all outward appearances, Timmerman seems normal enough to have once served as president of his hometown Kiwanis. Proudly, he makes that very claim.

Which is just what you might expect him to say, were he actually a spy from another planet sent to investigate the human species here on Earth. For the record, Timmerman denies being sent here from outer space. He also denies being the antichrist, a demon, or a representative of Satan's evil master plan.

He is, he says, simply the vice president for public relations for the J. Allen Hyneck Center for UFO Studies. It is in that capacity — but not to study human beings nor to advertise the virtues of hell — that he spends some 20 weekends a year visiting shopping malls throughout the country. Last weekend he was at the Pavilion Mall in



C. R. Roberts

The News Tribune columnist

Tukwila. Sitting in a folding chair near the Hyneck Center's traveling exhibit, he discussed the suspicions he faces.

Some people have indeed accused him of being an agent of intergalactic espionage and others have said that he does indeed do the devil's work. Some people have tried to save his soul and some just laugh and say that he's nuts. But he doesn't look nuts. He looks fairly normal. He sounds normal.

Which is just what you might expect, were he not who he says he is.

A videotape from the center plays to a small audience behind us. Parents tugging children amble by while shoppers lugging bundles stop to examine the folding panels of the UFO photo display. They read the maps, the graphs and the documents.

It was 42 years ago — Saturday — that the world heard its first report of a flying saucer. It was on June 24, 1947, that a pilot flying near Mount Rainier saw what he described as nine shiny, large, airborne objects each "flat like a pie pan."

At that time, John Timmerman was a sophomore at Cornell University. Since then, he has maintained a lifelong interest in UFOs.

He has come to believe that UFOs represent "a probable invasion of our environment by intelligently controlled devices from a point of origin not of our planet but at this point unexplained."

Despite official denials, Timmerman believes that

the U.S. government continues to investigate UFOs. He believes that there has been a cover-up of previous investigations.

He continues to work as a volunteer at the Hyneck Center because, he says, "I'm fascinated with the subject." Although he has never seen a UFO himself, he would like to. Very much.

But if it landed, he would not go so very close. He is no fool. He has heard too many stories about people who have been taken away.

At every stop, while visiting the malls of America, Timmerman expects to tape-record two hours of testimony. And as we speak, a man approaches. He has a story to tell. Would Timmerman like to hear?

We three retire to the back of a discount imports store. Timmerman starts his tape recorder as we stand between the stacks of bamboo chairs, there among the piles of oriental pillows. The man, from Kent, begins to tell of his encounter.

He was flying a commercial jetliner from Phoenix to Salt Lake City at 8 p.m. on Jan. 7, 1978. He was at 35,000 feet somewhere north of the Grand Canyon when "a glow appeared to the west of us."

A silvery sphere hovered in the center of that glow. After approaching the jetliner, then after briefly matching the plane's course and speed, the sphere flew away. The FAA later told the pilot that no report would be necessary.

After recording this tale and thanking the man who told it, Timmerman interviews another shopper, another man who stops to share another story. This next subject, from Edmonds, tells of a childhood encounter with a shadowy extraterrestrial imp.

He concludes by saying, "That's it. You can take it or leave it."

Timmerman takes it.

Before I leave, I ask what people should do, should they encounter a flying saucer. Timmerman gives the following advice:

Make a sketch. Take photographs. Find other witnesses. Call the Hyneck Center at (312) 271-3611. Write down what happened. If the object lands, do not approach the area. If the object takes off, secure the area. Call someone with a scientific background — perhaps a local science teacher — to help with a preliminary investigation.

Don't call NASA, Timmerman says, and don't call the county sheriff or the White House. And don't call the media.

Everybody knows how they like to blow everything out of proportion. "Be cautious with the press," Timmerman says.

Which is, of course, just what you might expect him to say.

C.R. Roberts' column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

CR: J. Timmerman

UFO's and God

Is the Earth big enough for the two?

By STEVE BRUNSMAN
STAFF WRITER

■ On Oct. 11, 1973, Charles Hickson and fishing buddy Calvin Parker walked into the Jackson County Sheriff's Office with an unusual complaint.

The two Mississippi men claimed three aliens had kidnapped them, taken them inside a spaceship and examined them.

Researchers say the world-famous Pascagoula UFO incident still remains a plausible, but unexplainable, case of abduction.

The encounter struck at Hickson's hard-shell Baptist upbringing and changed his views about a burning hell. His belief in God did not crack.

"If anything," Hickson said, "I have a greater belief in God. I don't believe in a literal burning hell. I do believe we have to reach some kind of perfection in order to stand in front of God and be worthy. But those beings were from God, same as we are."

In August of 1961, Bill Clendenon claims he watched a UFO hover about 150 feet above his home in suburban Seattle.

Clendenon, now a Biloxi resident, said it wasn't a plane, helicopter or weather balloon. He taught aircraft identification in the U.S. Navy.

UFOs have not demolished his belief in God, either.

"I don't see any conflict," Clendenon said. "If you believe in a Supreme Being and believe it built all these worlds and living beings, then it is responsible for life on this planet and for life on all other planets."

"I don't see a threat to mankind or religion," he also said.

Differing beliefs

Is this planet big enough for both UFOs and God? Like many, Hickson

UFOS OF OLD

UFO researchers believe space visitors are documented in ancient legends and the Bible.

► Chinese tales refer to a faraway "land of flying carts" where one-armed, three-eyed people lived.

► A Sanskrit text describes aerial battles among gods who flew machines, called *vimanas*.

► The Bible is one of the richest sources for ufologists.

► The Old Testament prophet Elijah, for example ascended in a "chariot of fire." Ezekiel had a vivid and detailed UFO-like vision of four-winged and four-faced creatures and a sparkling vehicle.

► The Book of Exodus also has been interpreted as a possible UFO event.

► Many ufologists believe the star of Bethlehem, which guided the three wise men to the infant Jesus, was a flying saucer.

► Swiss psychologist Carl Jung's theory was that people imagined they saw mandalas, or disk shapes, in the sky because they yearned for internal harmony.

► The mandala is a universal symbol for equilibrium. Jung called such symbols archetypes.

and Clendenon contend their spiritual beliefs were deepened by UFO contacts. Those who read the Bible as the perfect and literal word of God say the whole idea of intelligent, but non-human, creations is absurd. Studies suggest a high number of Americans either believe in UFOs or

claim to have seen them. A 1987 Gallup poll, for example, found that 49 percent of Americans were convinced that UFOs were real. One in eleven Americans — about 13 million people — claims that he has observed a UFO, the poll reported.

Sightings in the U.S.

The first American wave of UFO sightings occurred in the late 1940s. During the 1950s, Hollywood picked up the theme and broadcast it in a rush of science-fiction movies. Ancient visits by UFOs were a popular subject during the 1960s.

Most recently, New York researcher Budd Hopkins' book "Intruders" and a non-fiction abduction story by author Whitley Strieber have renewed interest in UFOs. Strieber's "Communion" made The New York Times best-seller list for 19 weeks.

Closer to home, UFO researchers and authors, including Hickson and Hopkins, sponsored a weekend lecture series in Gautier last year. New UFO sightings were reported in Jackson County late last year.

Officials with the Mutual UFO Network, a Seguin, Texas, group, said UFO sightings do not rise with book sales, movies or other public-interest events. The peak year for UFO sightings was 1973, the network reports.

Fundamentalists' view

Traditional American religious groups have been largely silent on UFOs. Fundamentalists are a notable exception. They have waged a tireless campaign for more than 20 years to debunk UFO reports and literature as fakery or, in the extreme, as an anti-Christian cult.

"Man, having been created in the image of God, cannot long function when he denies his Creator. The UFO mythology is a radical denial of God and Scripture," states Christian Reconstructionist leader Rousas John Rushdoony in a classic anti-UFO book titled "Close Encounters: A Better Explanation."

Creation scientists, whom oppose the teaching of evolution in public schools, also have lined up against the UFO phenomenon.

The Institute of Creation Research has stated: "To date there is not one iota of real evidence in either science or the Bible that intelligent beings were either evolved or created anywhere in the universe except on Earth. In any case, it is the planet Earth which is the focal point of God's interest in the universe. There is no need to look because there couldn't be anyone out there."

Scholars disagree

Nonetheless, some religion scholars do contend that UFOs, if proven true, will pose no threat to organized religion or basic Christian teachings.

"In general, most Christians do not have any problem with UFOs. The subject isn't negative to religious faith, either," said Ted Peters of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif. "People who have had UFO experiences do not have their faith destroyed, and they do not surface as atheists."

Peters is a systematic-theology professor. He published "UFOs: God's Chariots" in 1977, a scholarly study that examines the possible hidden political, scientific and religious meanings behind America's 40-year-old affair with spaceships and aliens.

Meanwhile, others suggest the true meaning of reported UFO sightings and abductions might be found in another American pastime, the search for new religious expression.

Harry Partin, a religion professor at Duke University in Durham, N.C., divides America into a land of two religious faces: traditional faiths and an diverse number of lesser denominations and sects.

Partin, co-author of "Religious and Spiritual Groups in America," has placed the UFO phenomenon in the spiritual sect category.

He contends UFO followers tend to adopt belief systems that fit into a general spiritual pattern: ecstatic experience; accounts of possession; marvelous or magic travel; the presence of supernatural helpers; scientific language; and an emphasis on healing.

UFO formulas

Both Partin and Peters said UFO accounts often follow a "formula."

"A UFO suddenly and mysteriously appears and contacts some unsuspecting human being," Partin said. "The UFO communicates telepathically and usually tells the human that these extraterrestrial beings have come to Earth to save us because of a

crisis or a threat to the Earth, such as radiation leaking out into outer space."

"The beings are usually quite advanced — spiritually, morally, technologically and economically advanced. They inhabit a paradisiacal world," Partin said.

Peters, working separately, found many of the same beliefs at work in his investigation of UFO cases, which included the Pascagoula incident.

"UFOs are more advanced than humans. They have marvelous, really brilliant machines. They live in peace, not war," Peters said. "They have come to save us or contacted us in order to save us from ruin. And they come like Zeus from out of the sky, which is an ancient religious symbol for transcendence."

"They must come from outer space because we don't have a sky. We fly through the sky in airplanes so we look to outer space for transcendence."

Said Partin: "The UFO literature is filled with technological or scientific jargon. I suspect it disguises a deep religious yearning."

SUN HERALD, Biloxi, MS

May 6, 1989

Something's out there, UFO club members say

By Craig Cairns
News Journal

Charles Flannigan remembers the exact time, date and place he began believing in UFOs.

"I crossed the line (of disbelief) on July 12, 1952, at 2:30 p.m.," said Flannigan, a Pensacola real estate agent and director of the Escambia-Santa Rosa chapter of the Mutual UFO Network Inc., or MUFON.

"Myself and three other people observed two daylight discs maneuvering in the sky above us for 12 to 15 minutes in Indiana. I thought 'UFO' at the time," he said.

"Later I spent 20 years in Naval

aviation, and no nation on earth has such technologically advanced craft."

Numerous reported sightings of UFOs in and around Gulf Breeze has helped make the local MUFON chapter the largest in the nation, MUFON officials said last week.

They asked any local citizens who see or hear what they believe to be a UFO to call 477-7777 at any time



Flannigan

and ask for a MUFON investigator. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

Walter H. Andrus Jr., MUFON international director in Seguin, Texas, said the 30 active members in the Escambia-Santa Rosa chapter give it more members than any of the nearly 150 chapters nationwide.

MUFON, an international scientific organization of people interested in researching the UFO phenomenon, has 2,000 members worldwide, with about 1,800 members in the United States, Andrus said.

He said belief in UFOs is not a requirement of membership.

But Flannigan and three other local

MUFON members said they are convinced of the existence of UFOs and a massive government cover-up of an alien presence.

They said local MUFON investigators have probed 135 sightings in the two-county area, most since a Gulf Breeze businessman known as "Ed" first reported sightings and took pictures in November 1987.

No one has been able to prove Ed faked the photos he took, although many have questioned their validity. MUFON members said numerous sightings by Ed and other responsible local citizens prove this

is not a UFO hoax.

"We're talking about the greatest mystery of all time — the greatest cover-up of all time," Flannigan said about the government's refusal to confirm the existence of UFOs.

But Maj. Lou Figueroa, a U.S. Air Force public information officer in Washington, D.C., said the Air Force hasn't investigated UFOs since 1969, when "Project Blue Book" ended.

Figueroa said that project investigated more than 12,000 reported UFOs from 1948 to 1969, but found no proof UFOs are extraterrestrial, present a threat to national security or go beyond the limits of nature and modern technology.

Still, MUFON members Rex and Carol Salisbury of Navarre Beach, and Vicki Lyons of Pensacola, said they agree with Flannigan that all is not as it appears.

Rex Salisbury, a retired Air Force colonel and mathematics professor for St. Leo College northeast of Tampa, which offers classes at area military bases, said he became a UFO believer in the early 1960s.

He said nine Air Force personnel in three planes were flying over Kansas City, Mo., "when we all saw a lighted object at an altitude of 40,000 feet and traveling at about 1,500 mph."

The next day a Kansas City newspaper reported a UFO landing, Salisbury said. But he said none of the men he flew with wanted to report their sighting to officials.

"It would have been too much of a hassle — a lot of paperwork and nobody would believe it," he said.

Carol Salisbury, an assistant professor of psychology and English for St. Leo College, said she and another woman were driving along Navarre Beach at 7 p.m. on April 7, 1988, when they spotted two disc-like lights in the sky.

"We drove closer and they blinked out. We were amazed. Then we drove off and they blinked back on," she said. "If I had been by myself I never would have reported it. I just wouldn't have believed it."

Lyons, a piano teacher, said she has never had a UFO sighting, but became convinced they exist after extensive study of the phenomenon and hearing reports of sightings from people like the Salisberrys.

Flannigan said MUFON believes that 90 percent of UFO sightings worldwide go unreported because people fear ridicule or worse if they tell people what they saw. "One of our chapter's main goals is to encourage all people to report sightings," he said. "We could learn so much more."

BULLETIN, Latrobe, PA - May 3, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

Does Public Really Believe UFOs Exist?

By KIM OPATKA
Bulletin Staff Writer

Do most members of the general public believe in unidentified flying objects?

Do they care?

What would they do if they saw one?

Those were some of the questions asked in an informal survey taken during the past few days to determine the opinions of people on the subject for Part Three of a series of articles dealing with UFOs. In addition, some UFO hotspots will be listed.

Part Three

Many persons were unsure and would not venture an opinion, while some had very definite responses.

"Hell no," said Bob Heintzelman, assistant fire chief of Latrobe Co. 6. "I don't think they exist."

"E.T. went home," his cohort Scott Mueseler joked. "I've never seen one so I really don't know."

"I think it's a big hoax," added fireman Tom Kuncher.

"I've never seen one but I wouldn't doubt they exist," commented Brian Martin of Latrobe. "I think it is interesting and I would like to see one. As for Bigfoot, that doesn't scare me. I'd give anything to see it."

Jack DePree of Latrobe said he felt it was more likely Bigfoot existed than an unidentified flying object.

"I don't know if I believe in UFOs but it's something to think about," he said. "When it comes down to Bigfoot I'd definitely like to see it, but I don't think I'd tell anybody because people exploit it and stuff."

"I think it is kind of arrogant for us to think we're the only creatures in the universe," noted Greg Hutchinson of Latrobe. "I don't think any of them have got Elvis' head or the stuff you read in the tabloids, but I think there is the possibility that they do exist. I'd like to believe they do."

"Sometimes you wonder," Latrobe resident Rita Smercani said. "I don't really know."

"I'm not quite sure I do," said a Mrs. Arbore of Latrobe. "UFOs are so controversial. I want to believe in it but something tells me not to make it final that I really believe."

"No," said Geano Agostino. "I'm old-fashioned. If I can't see it I don't believe it."

Allen Haase of Blairsville was unsure, as were a number of others who didn't venture an opinion.

Scoutmaster David Busija of

Troop 302, Lloydsville, said he believed they exist.

"I think you've got to believe there is a higher life form. There are too many things happening, too many sightings. It has to be true and I think one of these days we're going to make contact."

Some of his troops weren't quite as sure though:

"I've never seen one so I don't think so," said Erik Podlesnik.

"I think someone's doing it just to get the publicity," added Michael Currykosky.

"It's probably just frisbees," said Kevin Sullenberger, noting he probably wouldn't believe in them "even if I saw one."

Kristy Busija said she didn't think there could be life forms on other planets, with Scott Busija stating he thought it was all a big hoax.

What would he do if he saw one?

"I'd shoot it," Scout Jeff Kitsko stated emphatically. "I don't think they exist, but if they really do I'd like to see a little green martian come up and say hi to me."

"I don't think about it. I don't think about nothing," said his friend, Bobby Evancho. "I might think about it if one of them came to my door."

Despite most of the skeptics, Pennsylvania led the nation in UFO sightings for the last six months of 1988, according to Paul Ferrughelli, New Jersey state section director for Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) the world's largest UFO membership organization.

The peak months, he noted, were August and November, with all sightings occurring between 7 p.m. and 11:15 p.m. He bases his statistics on a sighting summary from UFO Filter Center in Indiana.

Ferrughelli has also obtained computer data for the past two and a half years, and plans a study of some of the sightings. In addition to Pennsylvania, he notes other states with high sightings reports include Wisconsin, Michigan and Florida, with some in New York and New Jersey.

Other areas of activity include Chestnut Ridge, Lake Erie area, Hudson Valley in New York and Gulf Breeze, Florida, according to documents provided by Latrobe UFO computer researcher Gary Metzler.

In addition to the large number of sightings in the ridge area, which have extended from Indiana to Fayette counties, the Gulf Breeze sightings were reported widely by the media, and were included in the 'UFO Coverup—Live' show broadcast last fall.



Scott Busija



Jack DePree

Many Gulf Breeze residents allegedly reported some type of strange lights, and investigators from around the world have shown an interest in what is occurring. Some photographs taken have been labeled a hoax or trick lighting, but no consensus has been established by investigators.

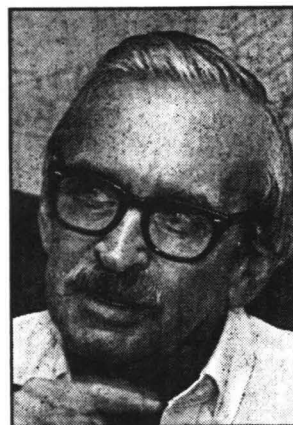
The Hudson Valley sightings were recorded by Phil Imbrogno, author of 'Night Siege' and continued from 1983 to 1986, witnessed by thousands, including law enforcement officials.

Lake Erie was the sight of some strange reports, with a sighting on March 4, 1988 causing quite a stir. A large object, described as blimp-like, allegedly hovered over the Lake and was seen by many witnesses, including those on a Coast Guard cutter called to the scene, documents state. Bright triangular lights, yellow, hovered intermittently around the object and darted into the sky at great speeds.

Some reports tied the incident to the Jupiter-Venus alignment, and spontaneous gas emissions from both planets, but that claim has been disputed by ufologists.



Carol Salisbury: UFOs blinked out, then back in.



Rex Salisbury: Lighted objects traveled at 1,500 mph.

Other hot spots, as listed by New Jersey researcher/photographer Ellen Crystall in her newsletter, Contacted, include Pine Bush, New York; south central and southern Indiana; Missouri; New Jersey; and New Mexico.

More information on hot spots and UFOs can be obtained from Crystall's newsletter, P.O. Box 12, New Milford, N.J. 07646.

MUFON is an international scientific organization seriously interested in studying and researching the phenomenon. The group has a board of consultants of professionals representing 45 areas of science, medicine and technology who apply their expertise to UFO study. The group is headquartered at 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, Texas, 78155-4099, phone 512-379-9216.

Part Four of the six-part series will look at how incidents are investigated, as The Bulletin went on a recent investigation with Latrobe resident John Micklow of Pennsylvania Association for the study of the Unexplained, a Greensburg-based group.



(Bulletin Photo)

Checking The Signs

John Micklow of Latrobe, a former police officer and now a UFO investigator, checks for signs of possible sightings in a wooded area near Donegal Lake. Micklow says investigations can be frustrating at times.

You've Seen UFO: Now What To Do?

By KIM OPATKA
Bulletin Staff Writer

OK, so you've seen an unidentified flying object (UFO).

What do you do? And when you find out who to report it to, what do they do?

Part Four of a six-part series on the subject looks into what exactly an investigator does once there has been a sighting.

According to John Micklow of Latrobe, who investigates cases for Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU), it can be very frustrating at times.

He terms a case involving an object reported crashed somewhere in Chestnut Ridge by someone driving along Route 217 as one of the most frustrating, not because of the report, but because of the difficulty in searching such a wide area for evidence.

Part Four

Fire departments cannot be called out unless there is a report of a missing craft, he said, and just organizing a search party would be difficult because of the distance. He notes in many cases what seems like an object landing just over a hillside can be miles away, due to that factor.

"What we try to do is go to the scene as soon as we can after getting a call," said Micklow, after talking to the witness by phone and securing as many details as possible. This often necessitates many hours in the field, searching, interviewing, and gathering evidence, something the retired police officer is very familiar with.

Now that he is retired, the 20-year veteran of the Latrobe Police Department, (he also has four years of experience working in intelligence in the Marines), Micklow can spend more time on his hobby, one in which he has had an interest in since he was a teen.

"When you conduct an investigation you have to be open-minded about it, until you get enough evidence to support one way or another," he explained. Re-enacting

the scene of the sighting not only puts witnesses at ease, he said, but helps them recall the particulars of the incident.

If a sighting occurred while the witness was in a car, Micklow said he will have the witness attempt to put the car in the position it was in at the time, and walk through it, himself often taking the part of the creature, if it was a creature sighting. This is done to give the investigator an idea of the distances involved, and a visual perception of what occurred.

Re-enacting a scene often provides a solution as to what it was the witness saw, he noted. One case involved a sighting of a bright object rising over the ridge area. After going out with the witness the next night, he said, he determined that it was a bright star rising in the sky, although looking at it through binoculars it did give the appearance of something moving.

His most recent case was an alleged Bigfoot sighting at Donegal Lake April 20. He has visited the scene several times to talk to the witness, in addition to phoning him to obtain information. The witness, who was a skeptic before the sighting, led Micklow through the re-enactment for a second time last week.

Micklow prefers to go over the information several times with each witness, to determine the facts, and see if the report differs in any way, as well as to try to get as much information as he can from the person.

"It gives them (the witness) more ease of feeling when you're out there working with them," he said. "They understand that you're trying to help them rather than to ridicule them, and that you want to help them try to piece it all together."

At the lake, Micklow and an associate initially went with the witness less than 24 hours after the sighting, and conducted an interview as well as an outer perimeter search of the area where the fisherman spotted the creature.

A search in the immediate area, within 100 yards of the sighting, was done first, with the men looking for footprints, hair, broken twigs or other signs something had been there. Then the group widened its search, spending several hours looking for something. Although nothing was found, Micklow said it would not prevent another look for something that might have been overlooked.

But Klass is careful not to impugn the motives of the UFO believers. Most, he said are "dedicated people" who "truly believe." For them, Klass believes, UFOs provide excitement.

So why has Klass taken it upon himself to rain on the parade? What harm is there in believing in UFOs?

"Three years ago, I would have said that it's a pretty harmless myth," he said, "but that widespread adult belief in myths is not good."

But since then, some UFO followers have taken their beliefs a step further and claim that humans are routinely being abducted by aliens. In addition, some claim, the government is sanctioning such actions in an attempt to appease the invaders.

"This is potentially as dangerous as Jonestown," Klass said. "Psychologically disturbed people read these abduction books and allow themselves to be taken in."

He investigates creature sightings as well as UFO reports, and notes all witnesses are asked to fill out forms on the sighting to provide PASU with documentation. This can be useful in the future for recalling the details of the report, as well as for comparison to other sightings.

The UFO form is nearly twice as long as the creature form, about four pages, because descriptions of UFOs are more varied, Micklow said.

"Like the police you've got to be thorough," he said. "You've got to set up a pattern and know how to search."

He notes he will usually criss-cross an area, and search in "opposite directions" going one way first and then coming back because things look different from a new perspective.

Depending on the evidence, PASU, which includes many technical persons, such as engineers, scientists, and electronics experts, will analyze it or send it to a laboratory for analysis as soon as possible, if the case warrants it.

Photographs can be computer-enhanced to determine if an unidentified object is present or if it is just a pattern of light. Tapes can be analyzed to discover whether the sound was man or machine-made. And footprints, metal objects, hair samples, etc. are looked at as well.

"We have many contacts and they do a lot of work for us. They're reliable and give us good reports because they do that type of testing all the time. It really gets pretty involved and I don't like to take it for granted. If you find something you hope you can find something else to go along with it, support it, so you sent it to get analyzed to see what you can do with it."

The identities of witnesses are kept confidential, unless the witness agrees to have his or her name released. Witnesses are often asked to attempt to sketch what they have seen or to work with a PASU artist to make up a sketch of what was seen, and the forms help document the case in the event there are questions about it later.

Although he has uncovered some hoaxes, most witnesses are sincere, he added. "They just want us to help explain what it was they saw."

"I think you have to be open-minded about it, until you find the evidence to support it one way or the other. You just go out there and try to uncover as many facts as you can."

"And conveying ideas that the government is lying about something like this isn't productive. I'm not naive enough to think the government never lies to the people, but this sort of wild nonsense is potentially dangerous."

Klass has written a book in his efforts to disprove the claims of alien abductions and many UFO followers hold his interest in the UFO phenomenon is financial and not scientific. After all, they say, he has a vested interest in propagating his ideas.

But Klass insisted his motives are pure.

"I could be proven wrong in a blinding instant," he said. "An extra-terrestrial craft could land somewhere or crash somewhere and thousands of people see it. Then I would gladly be out of business."

REVIEW-JOURNAL, Las Vegas, NV - July 4, 1989

Science writer bares truth to UFO buffs

By John Kerr
Review-Journal

Amid the hundreds of UFO enthusiasts swapping stories about alien space invaders and government conspiracies, Philip J. Klass fit in like an ant at a picnic.

"I take a terrible lambasting," Klass said, smiling. "The believers think I'm the devil incarnate."

Klass, a technical journalist and perhaps the world's foremost UFO debunker, clearly revels in his role. At the 1989 Mutual UFO Network symposium, held last weekend in Las Vegas, the 69-year-old Klass unabashedly crashed the party.

Ironically, his reception was largely positive.

While a handful of UFO aficionados did lash out at Klass — some call him "the noisy negativist" — most were friendly and cordial, treating him like the eccentric family member who still believes the earth is flat.

At last weekend's gathering, which attracted more than 550 people from around the United States, Klass was in high demand. Several attendees sought his autograph, others just wanted to hear his opinions on various UFO matters.

Even Walter H. Andrus Jr., the international director of MUFON, founded in 1969 to study and investigate UFO sightings, admitted a fondness for his movement's nemesis.

"I like Phil," Andrus said. "I just don't believe anything he says."

What Klass says is that UFOs are not alien spacecraft, but rationally explainable phenomena.

"In 23 years of investigating UFOs, I have never found a case that can not be explained in prosaic terms," said Klass, who is a consulting editor to Aviation Week

and Space Technology. "There is not a single strong UFO case. There are only hundreds of weak ones."

To some in the UFO movement, their fighting words. And for a movement whose leaders profess to find Klass amusing, but not effective, an awful lot of time is taken to rebut the naysayer's explanations.

For example, at least one presentation at the convention dealt almost exclusively with answering Klass' explanation in an Ohio UFO case.

But for all of Klass' efforts, he isn't able to convince the UFO faithful that the Earth isn't being visited by little green men. Those at the convention steadfastly believe natural explanations do not account for all UFO sightings.

Some UFOs, believers admit, are explainable. But about 10 to 20 percent, they hold, are not.

"There are four questions we want to answer," said Andrus. "Number one, do UFOs exist? Well, UFOs do exist. Thousands of people have seen them. Number two, how are they powered? They're able to fly at high speeds, hover and disappear. What is the technology behind this?"

"Number three, where are they from? The extra-terrestrial possibility is probably the most exciting, but there could be other explanations. UFOs could represent another dimension or they could be projected holograms. We don't have the answers."

"And number four," Andrus continued, "what can we learn from these creatures?"

But, Andrus explained, before we can learn from the aliens, the United States government must

acknowledge their existence and cease what UFO followers believe is a coverup.

In that vein, the theme of the convention was "The UFO Cover up: A Government Conspiracy?" Among the presentations: "UFOs, the Ultimate Deception" and "The Chesapeake Connection: An Implication of Corporate Involvement in the UFO Cover Up."

"Sooner or later, the government will admit it," Andrus said. "We're going to force the issue."

Andrus cited polls which show more than 50 percent of Americans believe in UFOs as proof that such ideas are becoming more and more accepted. No longer are UFO believers seen as part of the lunatic fringe, he said.

"People ask how come scientists don't believe in UFOs," Andrus said. "Well, they do. We're getting more and more people of that stature who are coming forward."

Indeed, MUFON is sure to list the academic backgrounds of its board of consultants and speakers. Many have advanced degrees in various physical sciences and engineering fields.

Responded Klass: "It takes all kinds of people. The University of Missouri has a good journalism school, but that doesn't mean that everyone with a Missouri degree turns out to be a good journalist."



UFO hunt chief's close encounter

MORE THAN a decade has passed since former police sergeant Tony Dodd saw the phenomenon which turned him into one of Britain's leading UFO experts.

He and a colleague from the North Yorkshire force had been called out to an incident in the South Craven village of Cononley, when they spotted a pool of bright light on the road ahead.

Emerging from the police car, they looked up to the darkened skies and saw a glowing disc-shaped craft, with rotating coloured lights around its base, hovering about 100ft above them.

It was his first encounter with what he believed was an alien overflight and one which was to launch him on a personal crusade



EVIDENCE: One of Tony's UFO picture collection to help solve the mystery of UFO's.

Since then, Mr Dodd, 54, has seen more than 60 similar objects, mostly in the Cononley and Carleton Moor areas.

Now, following his retirement from the police after 25 years service at Skipton and in his home community of Grassington, he has just been appointed to a top post in the Ufology sphere.

As Director of Research and Investigation with the country's biggest sky-watching organisation, Quest International, which has links throughout the world, he has an overview of exactly what is happening and where.

Mr Dodd has charge of a team of 50 investigators, who look into reports of unusual occurrences, aided if necessary by high-quality photographic equipment as well as geiger-counters and site sampling kits if there are indications a craft has landed.

"The reason I haven't been able to give up sky watching is that I know UFO's are operating in our air space and I want to help prove it," said Mr Dodd.

"The Government denies the existence of UFOs, but I feel the sheer volume of reports coming in is bound to take the cover off in the not too distant future."

Quest International's Hotline number is 0756-752216.



ON THE LOOKOUT... Tony Dodd searches the sky

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - May 8, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFO shaped just like a fish

UFO investigators are interviewing people who saw a large skate-shaped object in the sky which when it banked was about 30 feet deep. The mystery fish craft, about 100 feet long, was seen over Southend, inland and by people on the beach.

If anyone else saw the craft they are asked to ring the UFO hotline on Basildon 286079.

WINNIE'S SECRET PROBE ON SAUCER SIGHTINGS

He led UFO search

WINSTON Churchill ordered a top-secret inquiry into UFOs, it was revealed yesterday.

The cigar-puffing Prime Minister was concerned about reports of flying saucers over Britain.

In a typically blunt memo to his Air Minister, the great man demanded: "What does all this

EXCLUSIVE
By FRANK CURRAN

stuff about flying saucers amount to?

"What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience."

The note, dated July 28, 1952, was unearthed by UFO expert Phil Mantle from the Public Records Office under the 30-year end-of-secrecy rule.

Later, the Air Ministry replied that all reported UFO sightings could be explained as

- Astronomical or meteorological happenings.
- Aircraft, balloons, birds etc.
- Optical illusions.
- Deliberate hoaxes.

But in a top-secret 1957 document, just released to Mr. Mantle, the Ministry of Defence was unable to explain the sighting of five fast-moving objects over Scotland.

At his home in Batley, West Yorkshire, Mr. Mantle, an official with the British UFO Research Association, said: "These documents clearly show that there was Government interest in UFOs from many years back."

DAILY STAR, London, England - April 19, 1989 CR: T. Good

TODAY, London, England
May 31, 1989 CR: T. Good

CRASH PLANE VANISHES

BAFFLED police are searching for a crashed plane that vanished without trace.

Worried families reported that a low-flying aircraft disappeared over marshland near their homes.

But a huge search, involving a coast guard helicopter, police and firemen, drew a blank

Now people in Southport, Merseyside, fear it ditched in the sea. They told police that the orange and white plane headed towards their homes before veering off towards the sea.

Barry Williams, 14, said: "I missed a row of houses by a matter of feet before heading out to sea. I couldn't hear any engine noise and I was only

a couple of hundred yards away.

"I am positive it crashed in the sea."

Merseyside police said: "It is a bit of a mystery to say the least."

Jenny Randles, of UFO Watch, said yesterday: "It could have been a remote-controlled plane which the military use for reconnaissance in Northern Ireland."

EVENING NEWS, Bolton, England - May 22, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFO 'buzz' still riddle

WAS it a UFO? Observers of the 'thing' spotted in the sky by Heywood ambulancemen and Leigh factory workers in the early hours of Friday morning, are today still no wiser as to what they saw.

On Friday two Heywood ambulancemen reported seeing an unidentified flying object. Police contacted Manchester Airport who cited "climatic conditions" as the cause of the sighting.

But night shift workers at Leigh's BICC factory were as puzzled as the ambulancemen. Unhappily, the factory worker who would most like to have seen the mysterious 'flashing

By ALWYN GRAHAM

lights' was not on duty duty when they appeared.

He is Steve Balon, North-west investigator for the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, the second oldest UFO society in England.

Flashing

Steve told colleagues they should have woken him at 2am when the objects appeared in the night sky. But no-one did, and he had to content himself with second-hand accounts from workmates.

Steve said he had investigated and been told the two ambulancemen had seen coloured flashing lights in the sky - but when they switched their headlights towards the 'object', the telephone lines at their ambulance station went dead and, unable to dial 999, they went to a police station and a policeman followed the

'lights' for more than a mile in his car before the quarry "suddenly shot off at speed".

He said he had spoken to air traffic control, and aurora borealis had been suggested as the cause of the sighting. But the evidence he had heard did not indicate the northern lights.

Star

One man who did see the phenomena was 50-years-old Jack Hollis, a night shift machinist at the BICC factory.

He told the BEN: "Something kept flashing red, white, and then green. I have never seen anything like it before. One man thought it was a star, but it was too big for a star.

"You couldn't make the shape out, but it kept changing colour. It wasn't an aircraft because it was in the same place for two hours."

Jack said there was a similar object, about the same height, but further away.

NEWS & JOURNAL, Stroud, England
Feb. 23, 1989
CR: T. Good

UFO report

Sir - Regarding the said UFO which was reported in the paper. I will give you my version of it.

I was walking down from Uplands to Slad Road when I heard this very low aircraft sound. I looked up and saw a huge aircraft going over Uplands church towards the usual flight path of the American aircraft over towards Cirencester.

I admit it was quite a shock to see it so low.

The aircraft had masses of lights underneath which made it look very weird.

As it was so low I thought it was going to crash, but it carried on until out of sight, and the engine was still very quiet.

E Robbins

Uplands.

MAIL, Hartlepool, England
June 3, 1989 CR: T. Good

U.F.O. spotted

A HARTLEPOOL man has spotted his second U.F.O. in the space of two years.

Dennis Proud, of Teesbrooke Avenue, claims he saw three flying objects shortly before midnight on Thursday.

He made the discovery in Southbrooke Avenue at 11.50 p.m. and said the three objects were seen just above the rooftops.

"Two of them moved away but the third hovered for a while," said Mr Proud.

"They were like round balls of fire and it is the second time I have seen a U.F.O. in two years."

Mr Proud urged anyone who may have seen the same sight to contact the U.F.O. association at Leeds tel. 0632 622221.

Phones cut as objects hover over station

Mercy crew in UFO alert

By Matt Finnegan

AN AMBULANCE crew today claimed to have had a close encounter with a UFO which hovered over their station for more than an hour.

Stuart Goulding and Walter Gorse watched in disbelief as three objects appeared in the night sky directly over Heywood ambulance station in Hind Hill Street.

They say one of the objects, flanked by two white lights, sent out red, white and blue flashes.

And when they turned on the headlights of their ambulance they say the UFO went "haywire." Phone lines at the station went dead and they were unable even to dial 999.

One of the men ran to the nearby police station to summon help. A policeman then followed the lights for more than a mile, but they suddenly darted away.

Air traffic controllers say they didn't see any UFOs and police are investigating one theory that the sighting may have been a star which reacted to atmospheric conditions.

Sightings

Over the years there have been several sightings of UFOs in the area and just a few miles away the area around the Rossendale Valley has earned the nickname of UFO Valley for having the highest number of sightings in Britain.

Unexplained objects have also been reported over nearby moorland. A team of UFO experts was today due to investigate the latest sighting.

Both ambulancemen were off duty and unavailable for comment today. But a colleague said: "They were scared stiff by what happened. They just couldn't believe what they had seen. When the police confirmed the sighting they knew they weren't hallucinating."

"One of the objects was spinning round with lights all around the outer rim. They were multi-coloured and two other white objects were on either side."

"When they tried to phone up to report it the phones went dead and they couldn't get through. Both of them are convinced that what they saw was real."

A police spokesman said flashing lights were seen over Heywood by several other people, including police officers.

"But it has been suggested that it may have been a star and at the moment we are satisfied with that explanation. We certainly don't think we were being invaded."

YORKSHIRE POST, Leeds, England - April 25, 1989 CR: T. Good

EXTRA TERRESTRIAL *Style*

Experiences of the 'untoward'

SOMETHING very strange is going on. Thousands of people every year see mysterious flying objects which may or may not be interplanetary space ships with little green men on board.

Some witnesses will end their days convinced that they have experienced a fairly Close Encounter with extra-terrestrials; others are merely puzzled and intrigued, and thus it was that there were true believers and doubters among the 70 or so people who gathered together in a room at the Bradford Central Library on Saturday to hear what the ufologists had to say.

There were, in the audience, a boy hugging a skateboard, a mother with a very little baby and a self-confessed eccentric with his hair done up in a pony tail. Reference by a speaker to a sighting of three lights, close together, with a smoke-like trail elicited from him the knowing response "plasma!"

Organisers of the meeting were the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) and the Independent UFO Network, both representing the cool-headed end of ufology. There was, though, one maverick among the organisers: David Barclay, bearded and bespectacled, who has had so many "untoward experiences" that he can be excused a certain off-handedness.

He has, for instance, seen the Blue Lady who haunts Temple Newsam, near Leeds and the Black Monk who lurks around the city's Kirkstall Abbey, and when he was living in Shipley a large ball of orange light, as big as a Mini, came down the drive and settled in the middle of the lawn, just a few feet away from him. No, he was not frightened; he went in doors to make a cup of tea. He thinks UFOs and ghosts are related phenomena.

There are, of course, rational explanations for some so-called phenomena. Andy Roberts, a BUFORA investigator and publisher of the UFO magazine *Brigantia*, demonstrated how several Yorkshire UFOs have lost their credibility. There is, for instance, the case of the brilliant light photographed against a cliff face by a policeman. After exhaustive inquiries, it proved to be a band of highly reflective quartz. There was also a mundane explanation for the three saucer-shaped objects photographed by a Sheffield schoolboy through his window: they were paper cut-outs stuck on the glass. And so on and so forth.

Mr Roberts's revelations were met by a stoic, if disappointed silence.

The most extraordinary story came last. Peter Hough, author and chairman of the Manchester UFO Research Association, is investigating a report by Mr Peter Spencer, a retired police officer, that on December 1,



1987, he "lost" one and three quarter hours after seeing a little green man with spindly legs, very long arms, Mr Spock-like ears and big eyes, on Ilkley Moor. The one photo Mr Spencer took is, as always with UFO pictures, blurred and poorly exposed.

Under "regressive hypnosis" Mr Spencer was to describe following the creature to a strange craft where other little green men examined him on a table and, among other things, showed him a film depicting man's wanton damage to the environment. He then found himself on the moors again.

Mr Hough is keeping an open mind on the Spencer case, but meanwhile, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire will continue to have a disproportionate number of UFO sightings. Next year, if another meeting is held in Bradford, you yourself might be there.

In the meantime, UFO sightings can be reported on Batley 444049, a 24-hour hot line.

Stephen Biscoe

NORTH CHESHIRE HERALD, Hyde, England - May 5, 1989 CR: T. Good

Strange stories about strange lights

A STORY appearing in the spring issue of Stockport Heritage Magazine about the history of strange lights, like will o' the wisps over the moors has been given a hair-raising twist.

In it, a local author on UFOs and the paranormal, Jenny Randles, of Cheadle Heath, attempts an explanation of the age-old mystery which she terms unexplained atmospheric phenomena, basically "strange lights," the title of the article in the magazine.

In a meeting at Edgeley Library recently, she told her audience: "They are lights, but we do not know where they are coming from. Certain areas all over the world seem to produce them, and one very close to home, the moors between Oldham and Skipton, is famous for them."

She then startled her audience by claiming that the lights and UFOs were one and the same.

"We are getting close to understanding the physics of it," she said. "It is connected with the geology of certain areas. Faults in the Earth's crust seem to trigger the phenomena, and scientists in Norway have tracked orange and blue lights with lasers."

Jenny quotes Lord Hill Norton, former Admiral of the Fleet and Chief of the Defence Staff, as an authority figure who believes something is going on.

"I have spoken to him a number of times and he is convinced there has been a cover-up of an official investigation," she said.

Jenny, who is a research director for the British UFO Research Association, has chronicled many sightings, including close encounters, she says.

The Heritage Magazine article mentions

sightings over the moors, and includes a photograph of an unidentified light over Werneth Low in 1915.

"We have tried to throw more 'light' on this old phenomenon," says the magazine's editor, Steve Cliffe. "Jenny cites policemen who have seen strange things."

One constable took a photograph of a figure on the moors, and another sketched an object he saw in the sky. Both suffered memory lapses and had nightmares.

"Most victims felt pressure, electrostatic tingling and experienced their hairs standing on end."

"Electrical equipment and car engines were also affected, showing some sort of force was operating."

And she asked: "If you see anything, please make a careful record."

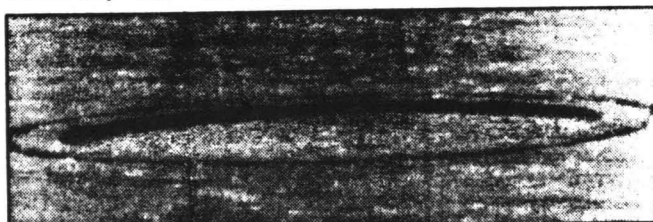
SOUTHERN EVENING ECHO, Southampton, England - March 22, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFO rings boffin in Japan trip

AN Andover man is off to Tokyo to address an international scientific conference on the baffling phenomenon of cornfield circles.

Colin Andrews, an electrical expert with Test Valley Borough Council, has been actively involved in research into the mystery circles which have been appearing in fields all over Hampshire.

In fact, according to Colin, there have been about 400 circular formations spotted in the past six years, many of them in the Andover and Winchester areas.



MYSTERY: One of the circles which have baffled scientists

He is a member of the Andover-based Circles Phenomenon Research, a group of about 15 scientists and engineers from all over the country who are researching the phenomenon.

Colin, who lives in Salisbury Road, Andover, said he would be presenting a paper on the group's find-

ings. But he refuses to be drawn on newspaper reports that a hole in the earth's ozone layer could be to blame for the circles which appear overnight on farmland.

"We have eliminated many, many possibilities but there is an awful lot left on the list."

Colin said they were anxious to get more cash to rapidly expand their research programme.

"There is something happening on the planet we cannot account for and it is important we inject funds into our research. We need a site surveillance unit in Hampshire."

Busy May Day for UFO spotters

THE EAST Anglian UFO Research Society was kept busy over the May Day bank holiday with UFO sightings.

Many callers to the UFO hotline telephoned independently of each other, all claiming to have seen a rugby ball shaped object with yellow, blue, white and green lights along the side.

The UFO was seen flying above the Thames Estuary towards London between 9:30 and 11:30 in the evening on Sunday, April 30.

Callers from Shoebury, Canvey and Kent kept the telephone lines busy, while researchers took notes and cross-referenced information, to tie down the exact position of the UFO.

A triangular-shaped object was seen on Tuesday, May 2, described as 100 foot across and travelling in a north west direction.

Witnesses said the object moved slowly, made no sound and had no visible lights.

A spokeswoman for Southend Airport said: "Our records show that there was an air ship flying above the estuary at the time of the UFO sightings."

But Ron West, chairman of the UFO society, said: "I don't know of any Airships that have lights along the side, but I will reserve judgment until I have seen the investigators reports in a few weeks."

The hotline UFO telephone number to report your sighting is Basildon 286079.

Have you had a close encounter with a UFO? Tell us your UFO story. Write to UFOs, Readers Write, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex SS14 1AH.



United in a 'religious' experience: Philippe Mora (left) and Whitley Strieber

ALIEN FRIGHT FORMS

In Hollywood, Australian director Philippe Mora talks seriously about little men with blue faces to *The Australian's* correspondent IVOR DAVIS

IT was an unnerving sight: three bulbous blue and black heads sat glaring balefully on a chair in the reception room of the shabby Hollywood office, while just a few metres away the splintered corpses of what appeared to be creatures from another planet lay forlornly on the brown-stained carpet.

There was a skinny, dismembered arm with four long, pointy fingernails at one corner, the torso of another thing — definitely not of this Earth — nearby.

I had come to the right place. Behind a cluttered desk sat Australian film director Philippe Mora, who is putting the finishing touches to his latest work of art — *Communion*, an alien psychological thriller based on the best-selling book by Whitley Strieber.

At 39, Mora looked normal enough in shirtsleeves and a head of dark curly hair. Just above him on the wall was a huge poster from the new \$7 million movie, which opens in Australia in July. It shows an embryonic alien-like face with giant black, almond-shaped staring eyes.

Mora — who was born in Paris in 1949 but moved with his father to Melbourne at the age of two — has made some unusual films.

These range from early documentaries like *Swastika*, based on private home-movie footage that once belonged to Adolf Hitler's mistress Eva Braun, to the much-acclaimed 1975 documentary *Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?* Both were produced by David Putnam, before his *Chariots of Fire* and Hollywood days.

In 1976 in Australia, Mora wrote and directed *Mad Dog Morgan* with Dennis Hopper. His body of work also includes *The Beast Within* (1982), *The Return of Captain Invincible* with Alan Arkin (1983); and, in 1984, *A Breed Apart* with Kathleen Turner, Rutger Hauer, Powers Boothe and Donald Pleasence.

There have also been horror flicks like *Howling II: Your Sister Is a Werewolf* with Sybil Danning and Christopher Lee, as well as *Howling III*.

In 1985, his Australian-made *Death of a Soldier* with James Coburn received worldwide critical acclaim.

And now he is back trying to scare the pants off audiences with *Communion*, starring Christopher Walken and Lindsay Crouse.

Mora is a cheerful, round man with boundless energy and a puckish grin, which puts the subject of *Communion* somewhat at odds with his infectious personality. His in-office alien graveyard is not deliberate — just left-overs from the movie, which involves a lot of special effects.

For Mora — based in Hollywood since 1978 with his wife Pamela and their 24-year-old daughter — *Communion* began over a Manhattan lunch with Strieber in 1985.

"I must say he looked a little strange, but I put it down to family problems," recalls Mora.

The director had known Strieber in London in 1968, when Mora was a painter and Strieber was at the London School of Film Technique in Covent Garden.

"We became quite good friends. He went back to America where he was going to be a filmmaker, not a writer. But over the years I saw his name on things ... like *Hunger* with Albert Finney and *The Wolfen* with David Bowie, and he saw my name on movies."

Fast forward to the lunch.

"He told me about his experiences that happened to him in 1985. He was just starting to write about them. He obviously was traumatised about something, but I didn't know what. He seemed odd and very tense and uptight."

"When he said 'I've got problems at home', I thought he was talking about personal marriage problems. Then he made me promise I wouldn't laugh at him. He said he believed he had been abducted by little blue men, and the non-humans had stuck a needle into his brain and taken samples of his body fluids."

Mora says he didn't laugh. "But I think I must have had a pretty weird expression on my face. It was very tough not to laugh, although he was so obviously sincere about it. He said he was going to see a psychiatrist. Then more details of the story came out."

"As far as he's concerned, the only explanation — and it's so vivid, all this — is that it really happened."

Strieber penned his supernatural tale under the title of *Communion*. Of his bizarre experience, he wrote: "I feel like I'm being sucked dry from within — a spider of the mind. Like I'm being eaten alive and I can't see it or hear it or feel it!"

The book was an instant hit when it was released in February 1986, selling more than a quarter of a million copies in hardback and more than three million a year later in paperback. It found a regular spot on *The New York Times* Best Seller lists and is still a hot seller today.

Strieber made the rounds of the television talk shows and became an instant celebrity.

Mora, who optioned the book for the movie, diplomatically avoids the issue of whether he believes the Strieber chronicles.

"He took two lie detector tests and passed. All that it means is that he believes that it happened. But it's a fascinating subject. It's a bit like religious miracles. It's always the same. People see these lights or saints, or flying chariots. There's never any evidence except the person's word. So I've called the film, 'a religious experience for atheists'."

"It's fascinating that thousands of people have these types of experiences. If you say to yourself: 'Okay, it's not real, these people are imagining it, why are they all imagining it? Why are they all having the same mass fantasy? If it is a mass fantasy.' On the other

hand, if it's real, it's incredible. I hope it's real."

Still, one can't miss the sceptical tone to his words.

"I think I'm sceptical to the point of believing it's more likely to be real than not. There's as much proof ... it's more logical to believe what we've got on Earth at the moment is the highest form of intelligence in the universe. I think we're all in serious trouble."

"Whether they're gonna come down and manifest themselves in the way these people see them is another question. I've often thought there might be 100 aliens in this room with us right now. We might be the equivalent of clams at the bottom of the ocean."

"We're limited by our perceptions, which by the way is something the film explores."

The movie, which has taken up the past three years of Mora's life, stars Walken — who won a best supporting actor Oscar for his role in *The Deer Hunter* in 1979 — as Strieber and Crouse as his long-suffering wife Anne. Broadway actress Frances Sternhagen is the psychiatrist who tries to help Strieber sort fact from fantasy.

Strieber wrote the screenplay from his book and rock musician Eric Clapton wrote the music.

When the book first came out, Mora says, there were many sceptics, but most agreed that the film is a masterpiece of suspense.

In the book, Strieber describes an abduction by 3ft tall (0.9m) creatures with rubbery skin and huge eyes. Strieber underwent hypnosis and says that many strange, inexplicable experiences dating back to his childhood were revealed in the sessions.

He says his wife and son have had similar encounters. And, in fact, eerily, transcripts of his wife Anne's hypnosis corroborate much of her husband's experience.

Strieber's own explanations of the "visitors" vary from suggestions that they are from another planet, that they are from Earth but so different that we haven't been able to recognise if they are real, or that they were from this dimension in space but not in time, or that they were from within us, somehow beings of our own creation.

Of his choice of Walken to play Strieber, Mora says: "He's one of those actors who is always a little off-centre. He's perfect. He can convincingly play both an intellectual and a man who thinks he's going mad. Christopher is superb in that respect."

In between shooting *Communion*, Mora has been negotiating to do two new films. One, a big screen epic on the life of Errol Flynn, based on the book by Charles Higham, has — in Hollywood parlance — been put on the back-burner.

"It's a pretty sensational story but a tough subject to do," says Mora. "That's the book that says Flynn collaborated with the Nazis. Well, people don't want to know about it. Those kind of screen biographies usually don't do too well."

The other project is Higham's book on the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Like the Flynn tale, it is controversial — and there have already been several screen and television versions of the Windsors' tale.

"Now that's a very international story," he says, "but each time the story was done, it was the same tired old stuff served up again. The Duchess is a mystery woman who came from nowhere and I don't think her story has really been examined that closely."

"All we've had is the postcard version, the abdication and all that. There's enough material in the Higham book to make our picture very different."

But *Communion* seems to be occupying Mora's every waking hour at present.

"Our film doesn't take a fanatical point of view at all," he says.

"It's more science fiction. Whether it really happened is irrelevant. It's a psychological thriller and if it raises all the questions which the book did, and also entertains, then I'll be satisfied."

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - May 25, 1989

More of the mysterious UFOs seen

WHAT was the silver glowing light seen by families enjoying themselves on Southend beaches?

One family watched it for about 10 minutes. Other beachgoers also noted it and spotted another silver light. Both were out to sea and from the beach area looked pea size.

The two objects hovered for about 10 minutes at 5pm on Tuesday and then sped off.

But UFO investigators are even more interested in an incident in South Woodham Ferrers on Saturday about 10pm.

Two teenage girls were walking along Hullbridge Road when a red ball of light appeared and stopped in front of them.

The frightened girls retraced their footsteps. On two other occasions they returned but the glow appeared to chase them before it disappeared.

Also on Saturday night over Vange a big orange light was seen apparently over the Pitsea area, and on Sunday about 10.30pm an oval object with white lights round the centre was spotted. It hovered for some time and then sped off.

On Monday about 9.30pm six people saw a green light hovering over the sea at Southend. It moved out to sea and vanished.

Mrs Connie Yerwell, of North Crescent, Southend, and her husband spotted a bright light in the sky and pieces came from it.

UFO investigators would like any other witnesses to telephone them on the hotline.

0268 286079.

CR: T. Good

UFO expert's 'spot' of bother

HIGH-FLYING UFO experts will meet at Bradford Central Library on Saturday, to discuss, among other things, a close encounter experienced last year by an Ilkley man on the town's moors.

And as part of an information-gathering exercise, conference publicity officer, Mr David Barclay, has appealed to any Ilkley people with further UFO-spotting information to contact him.

He says people often see inexplicable objects or lights but do not tell anyone. The aim of the Bradford conference is to encourage more people to come forward.

The Ilkley and North Yorkshire Moors seem to be hot spots for UFO sightings, says Mr Barclay, and he wants to know more about them.

Wharfe Valley Times reporter SEAN STOWELL has spoken to the man who has experienced close encounters himself and who has made a living out of them.

WHEN local ufologist and author, David Barclay, sent the product of years of research into "close encounters" to his publishers, it was returned to him without explanation.

The company had formerly been very enthusiastic about the book, but the Salman Rushdie affair had since hit the headlines and Mr Barclay suspects the storm played a role in his work's rejection.

"A lot of what I said related to religion and could have upset some people. The publisher did not say as much but the agent I use did give clear hints in that direction — that they did not want to go into print following the Salman Rushdie affair," explained the now professional UFO watcher.

"You can't discuss UFOs without relating it to religion," he added.

Mr Barclay's book, entitled Non-Science and the UFO, is an assessment of available information on the subject.

"I could not make sense of all the data, but you can't if you look at it in a 'Dan Dare' frame of mind."

"An American author did once try to assess the data, but he couldn't because it's all so fantastic. It's all to do with the framework within which you examine the available information."

"The phenomenon of UFOs should be interpreted as a game. Once you know what the game is, the phenomenon is then getting the UFOs to make contact with humans," he explained.

"There has to be some reason why people are seeing so many inexplicable things. What are the UFOs getting out of the incursions into earth's space? There



● MR DAVID Barclay, who claims the Salman Rushdie affair prevented the publication of his UFO theories.(5)

must be some reason behind it," he added.

Mr Barclay's book follows an earlier work entitled Fatima — A Close Encounter of the Worst Kind? in which he explains his

theory behind events at a Portuguese olive grove in 1916.

In that year, three young children were gathered behind an olive tree when the ground began to shake.

Bright lights began to travel towards them in what was eventually known as an encounter with an "angel".

The "silvery man" was then followed by a shimmering image, believed by some to be the Virgin Mary.

Mr Barclay's line on it was the shimmering image may have been a UFO. The interpretation it was given fitted the country at the time.

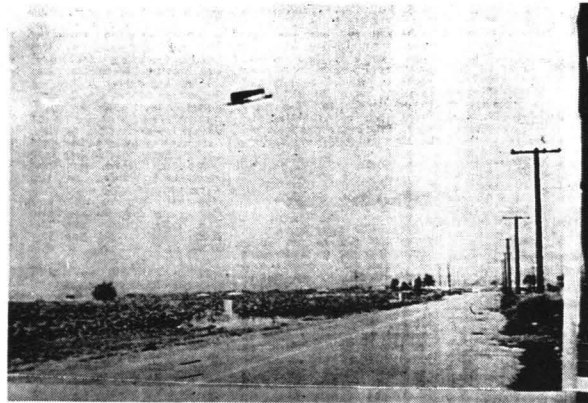
And he claims in his book that 25 million people died following the Portuguese encounter — during a flu epidemic. Many such viruses and epidemics may be linked to similar events, said Mr Barclay.

"On a very general level, there are two schools of thought in this field. The first looks at UFOs in a Ming-The-Merciless way, and the second says you have to be a psychic to be receptive to UFOs."

"From another dimension, it's difficult to choose between these two but, if UFOs are ever explained, it certainly will teach us a lot about the human race and our world," said the Shipley-based author.



● JUST visiting? An unidentified flying object spotted off the Brazilian coast in 1958, an event which also forms part of the author's fascination.(5)



● A POLAROID shot of an alleged UFO taken by lorry driver Rex Hefflin at Santa Anna, California, in August 1965 — part of Mr Barclay's research material.(5)

WHARFE VALLEY TIMES, England
April 20, 1989 CR: T. Good

[United Press International -- June 24, 1989]

UFO SIGHTINGS IN SOVIET UNION

[CREDIT: Mark Hall]

MOSCOW (UPI) -- Reports of unidentified flying objects have filled local newspapers in the rural Vologda region of the Russian republic, the official Tass news agency reported Friday.

One group of children outside the village of Konantsevo on June 6 "spotted a fast-increasing luminous dot in the sky, which soon turned into a shining sphere," Tass said. "The mysterious object reportedly landed in a meadow and rolled to a nearby river as the children looked on no more than half a kilometer away."

"They claim that they saw the sphere kind of split, and something resembling a headless person in dark garb appeared in the meadow. It struck them that the alien's hands hung lower than his knees. At that moment, however, the 'flying craft' melted into the air, while the creature from it admittedly proceeded to the village."

Tass quoted "eyewitness accounts" as saying that three more spheres later touched down in the same meadow.

"Just like the very first one, the rest of the spheres and their 'passengers' quickly became invisible," Tass said.

In other accounts, one child saw a "fiery ball" over the town of Vologda on June 11 and another spotted a UFO in the same area the next day, Tass said.

"Weeks earlier, on April 24, an enigmatic object allegedly three times larger than an airplane flew over the city of Cherepovetsk, according to local inhabitant I. Veselova," Tass said. "The UFO coasted at an altitude of 300 meters (1,000 feet) absolutely noiselessly, leaving a large radiant trail."

Spotting you spotting me at high level



Mr Douglas Haig Hughes

By Nia Griffith

A GREY, cylinder-shaped flying object was spotted early on Monday evening by a local man who believes it took a photograph of him.

Douglas Haig Hughes, 68, from 18 Queen's Road, Llandudno Junction, a gunner with the Royal Air Force for five years during the war, was strolling along Ffordd Maelgwyn with his wife Catherine at 5.30pm on Monday: "A cylinder-shaped object approached from the Glan Conwy area about 600ft up and proceeded towards Llandudno," said Mr Hughes.

"It was massive in diameter. I could see it with my naked eyes. It appeared at first to be moving at about 45 to 55 miles per hour."

Then it slowed down and flashed a bright red light, like an infra-red light, from the window of the cylinder onto us. We didn't feel anything. When the light went out, it travelled on towards Llandudno.

"It was definitely not

from this earth. We have been trying to get an aircraft for years and years that doesn't make a noise. There was no noise at all with this."

"I used to be very sceptical about such things, but what I saw on Monday convinced me beyond doubt that there's life on another planet," he added.

A spokesman for RAF Valley, Anglesey, said, "We haven't been flying any planes over the last three days."

CR: T. Good

Have you seen these UFOs?

ABOUT four weeks ago you very kindly printed a letter for us, and we say thank you - the response was great.

We are now looking for witnesses to these events in the following areas:

Christmas 1988 around the coastguard station at Deal - a large disc with a number of lights underneath slowly coasting over the houses lighting up the surrounding area.

Saltwood area - a bright blue/white light around Castle Road area, at about 1am, emitting a sound like a large electrical spark was seen in November last year.

Kingsnorth/Ashford area late October 1988 - a UFO in the Riverside Close area and Ashford. A large disc was extremely low over these areas between 500 and 30ft off the ground, with a silver body and lights underneath - circular in shape and about 10ft in diameter.

Charing Cross/London - we would like more witnesses to come forward about a UFO at or over the railway station, at 6.15pm, on 8 April. A number of people travel this line into Folkestone.

Maidstone/Charing in February, 1989 -

a very large object exploded in the sky at Charing or nearby, at about 6pm. There was a lot of traffic on the road at the time.

Maidstone/Birnam Square, on 20 February, 1989 - an oval object whitish/yellow and red in colour, with no sound but controlled movement up high then very low, at about 6.40pm.

The UFO stayed in the area for about 10 minutes, and was about the size of a large dinner plate.

Kingsdown/Deal, on 7 April, 1989 - the shape of a low-crowned bowler hat, silver in colour with no sound. This lasted for about four minutes at 11am.

These are just a few of the reports that I have received in the south of Kent and in the northern part, reports are still coming in by phone and letter.

We would like more people to come forward who saw these events to contact me on 0679 20599.

John Robson
Sunset Cottage
New Street
Lydd.

NORTH WALES WEEKLY NEWS, Conway, Wales - May 4, 1989

ADSCENE, Canterbury, Kent, England - May 19, 1989 CR: T. Good



Staff photo by Pete Churton

Professor Yoshi-Hiko Ohtsuki, left, and Sour Lake resident Rob Riggs discuss the Bragg Road lights Wednesday.

Film crew looks for Bragg Road lights

By Clyde Hughes
Staff writer

KOUNTZE — A Japanese film crew definitely needed cooperation on a three-day trip to Hardin County to uncover the mysteries surrounding the legendary Ghost Light of Bragg Road.

The six-member crew found plenty of cooperation with county officials, but Mother Nature was not as hospitable.

Heavy rains and cold temperatures forced the team to constantly alter its outdoor schedule, dimming the hope of capturing the light on video. The crew had captured a similar phenomenon in West Texas on film a few days earlier.

Despite not seeing the light, the group

left Hardin County with new information and a spirit of accomplishment Wednesday.

Yoshi-Hiko Ohtsuki, professor of physics at Waseda University in Tokyo, headed the Texas expedition. The team's efforts will be televised nationally April 18-19 on the Nippon Television Network in Japan.

The investigation centered around the light sightings in Hardin County along Bragg Road and in the mountainous desert region near Marfa, in the Big Bend country of West Texas.

The original team of 12 flew to Marfa this past week to research the "fireball" phenomenon. Crews captured the Marfa light on film. Six crew members, including Ohtsuki, crossed the state to Hardin County in hopes of doing the same at Bragg

Road.

"This is the first tape in the world to capture the fireball," Ohtsuki said of the 10 seconds the Marfa light appeared while they filmed.

The crew Monday interviewed Sour Lake resident Robb Riggs, co-founder of the Institute of Applied Harmonics. Riggs has researched the Bragg Road phenomenon during the past 13 years and created IAH to research similar occurrences.

"This gives credibility to what we're doing," Riggs said of Ohtsuki's interest and the filming in Marfa. "We want to establish a database worldwide so other people can use this information."

Kountze Chamber of Commerce secretary Connie Richardson presented members of the group with a key to the city before their return to Japan.

DAILY CITIZEN, Urbana, OH - April 1, 1989 CR: J. Fry/COUD-I

Could those footprints mean.....Bigfoot?

By TONY O'LEARY
Citizen Staff Writer

It seems that one of America's best known legends is causing quite a stir right here in Champaign County.

Bigfoot, a large hairy creature that walks in an upright position, reportedly has been seen recently in the county on several occasions.

The sightings and numerous phone calls to the Champaign County Sheriff's Department has prompted Sheriff Paul Williams to look into the situation.

"In all my years with the sheriff's department, never have we had so many calls about Bigfoot sightings. It's really a peculiar thing, to say the least," he said.

Sgt. Chuck Stroud of the sheriff's department recently inspected some footprints near the outskirts of Urbana, off state Route 29.

"I've never seen Bigfoot tracks before so I really don't if these can be classified as that," Stroud said. "They would be extremely large footprints for any type of animal."

Paul Reuter, game protector, said he also has received an unusual influx of telephone calls recently.

"I've had calls from Terre Haute, St. Paris, Rosewood and even from people living on the outskirts of Urbana. The reports are all similar in the description of the animal," he said.

A compilation of the reports show the animal to be over eight feet tall, with light brown fur, walking upright and emitting a foul body odor.

Reuter said he did not want to speculate at this time whether the reported sightings indicate a Bigfoot. He did say that if the sightings persist, he will call the National Bigfoot Commission in Seattle.

From reports gathered so far, there have been no incidents involving the animal in question with humans or other livestock.

"No one has reported missing livestock or damaged property as the result of what could be a Bigfoot," Williams said. "Although a woman in Westville did report a large amount of fruit stockpiled in an outdoor shelter taken recently."

From what information Reuter said he has gathered so far, he said a Bigfoot is harmless and not carnivorous. But he cautions against trying to track it.

"A Bigfoot is an extremely powerful animal. When it is scared or backed in a corner, who knows how the animal will act?" he said.

Fortunately, the Bigfoot sightings only occur around April 1 of each year. It has not been determined whether the number of sightings bears any relation to the general gullibility quotient of newspaper reporters.



Photo by Jim Mason

Stroud points out 'print'

Sgt. Chuck Stroud points out a mysterious oversize footprint which is believed to be that of Bigfoot. Sightings of the manbeast in Champaign County have been reported but not confirmed.

Mystery illness was really stress

HOWARD
SEIDEN M.D.

In March and April of 1983, an epidemic hit about 900 people in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Most were Arab schoolgirls.

According to a newspaper report, the first wave of 34 students from a village school suffered blindness, headache, stomach ache and discoloration of the arms and legs, presumably from decreased circulation.

The authorities attributed the symptoms to mass hysteria.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - June 10, 1989

CR: G. Conway

Poisoning of cattle investigated

By ROBERT E. SHOTWELL
Correspondent, The Oregonian

Special officers with the U.S. Forest Service and the Lake County sheriff's office are investigating the poisoning deaths of 15 head of cattle on the sprawling Bar-W-R and Webster ranches near Fort Rock.

They are also checking into the assertions of ranch operator Gordon Wanek that some of the dead animals were mutilated ritualistically.

Deputy Sheriff Ron Johnson, who has investigated the cattle deaths, verified that some of the animals appeared to have been mutilated by humans.

"The incisions that were made for the removal were almost perfect circles and were made with a very, very sharp instrument," Johnson said.

The animals died after being fed poisoned grain, according to a Tumalo veterinarian. Johnson said four of the dead animals appeared to have been mutilated, with sex organs and udders removed. He said the blood of one of the animals was drained.

Lake County District Attorney Andrew Vanergaw said special officers with the U.S. Forest Service have been called in to assist the Lake County sheriff's office. But he questioned assertions that the animals were mutilated in a ritualistic manner.

"As far as I'm concerned, there is no indication of any ritual," Vanergaw said. "How these things get started, I'll never know."

Vanergaw thinks that what Wanek and Johnson describe as ritualistic mutilation is nothing more than the work of the coyotes that roam the high desert country east of Fort Rock.

The Tumalo veterinarian, Martin Warbington, had not seen any of the cows that allegedly had been mutilated but said the descriptions of the wounds led him to believe that "it had to have been done by humans. It was not coyotes."

Wanek said the animals were worth about \$1,000 each. If all the animals turn up dead, that would bring his loss to about \$15,000.

"If I lose five more, I'm going to pull them all in to the main ranch and try to sell them because I would have lost all my profit and couldn't afford to lose any more," Wanek said.

Wanek said his ranch hands have been checking the area where the animals have been found, to no avail.

"I've had my riders up there every day and sometimes at night, and they can't find a thing," Wanek said.

Vanergaw, maintained, however that coyotes had done the work "because they can cut clean with their teeth. I have no reason to think it's anything other than coyotes."

The battle over 'Bigfoot'



JON ERIK BECKJORD, shown here looking for the Loch Ness Monster in Scotland, disputes the "false theories" of other Bigfoot hunters.

By STEVE THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Science, folklore and the supernatural will clash this weekend when Pullman becomes the site of an acrimonious battle over the future of "Bigfoot" research.

"We've reached an end of an era," says Jon Erik Beckjord of Malibu, Calif.

"This is the last hurrah of the zoological concept of Bigfoot. It's now time for scientists to acknowledge the extra-zoological concept."

Beckjord's group, the National Cryptozoological Society — membership 45 — will be hosting a public meeting on Saturday night at Gladish School to dispute the "false theories" of the International Society of Cryptozoology, which will hold a conference at Washington State University earlier in the day.

The WSU conference is ex-

pected to attract about 80 scholars and lay people to discuss research on Bigfoot, the secretive and legendary creature whose hulking, human-like presence has been reported from around the world.

Beckjord, the curator of the Cryptozoology Museum in Malibu, says not only does Bigfoot exist, but the creature — known to Native Americans as "Sasquatch" — has come to earth from "somewhere else."

"People will call us kooks, weirdos, but that's what they used to call Einstein," said Beckjord. In fact, he says, the theory of relativity may hold the key to Bigfoot's existence on earth.

But to Grover Krantz, the WSU anthropology professor who is hosting the WSU conference, Beckjord and his ilk are on the "lunatic fringe" — publicity hounds who want only to dis-



THIS PHOTO, taken in 1967 by Roger Patterson, is believed by cryptozoologists to be the clearest picture ever taken of the legendary Bigfoot.

ed but not proven to exist, according to Krantz. But, like any academic discipline, it is subject to standard rules of scientific method.

Beckjord says his group's counter-conference will discuss anomalies in Bigfoot research, strange gaps in the data which cannot be explained by scientists. Speakers also will "reveal the truth about Lizard Man," a mysterious creature reportedly living in South Carolina.

"What we have is too new and too challenging for the WSU symposium to show. Holding on to a false theory in order to maintain credibility is unwise," said Beckjord.

The chairman of WSU Anthropology Department, Geoffrey Gamble, says the WSU symposium is a "worthwhile venture because there are many questions that need explanation. If a university avoids controversy, then we're in trouble."

However, Gamble said he could understand Krantz's annoyance with explanations which are untestable.

"But the reality is that Sas-

quatch has a folklore background and you have to accept what comes with that," he added.

Among the expected participants at Beckjord's meeting will be Ken Smith, Sr., an American Indian medicine man from Oregon who claims he was kidnapped by a mind-reading Sasquatch for five days in 1968.

"There are no Bigfoot experts, except for Ken Smith," said Beckjord. "He and he alone is a Bigfoot expert."

Beckjord claims to have seen Bigfoot three times and "both" of the Loch Ness monsters in Scotland, but his brief glimpses don't make him an expert. "You have to live with them to become an expert," he said.

Beckjord and Krantz also disagree about the ethics of killing a Bigfoot in order to prove its existence.

Krantz says he would shoot the creature if he could: "If we can convince the world that Sasquatch exists, then we will be able to protect the species. If it's the only one, then it will die anyway without us ever knowing for sure it existed," he explained.

That attitude enrages Beckjord. "It's like Vietnam where you destroy a village in order to save it. It is unethical to shoot a creature, especially when it may be in the human family, just to prove it's there."

Beckjord says he is more concerned about the safety of humans who might be identified mistakenly as Bigfoot than the creature itself.

"Personally, I don't believe it is possible to kill one. We will discuss the reasons for that at our public forum."

Beckjord says the public forum — which begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Pullman's Gladish School — is open to "all persons who are of good will and who have not publicly advocated shooting a Bigfoot creature."

Krantz, however, is invited if he is willing to openly debate the ethics question. Admission is free.

The WSU conference will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at Todd Hall. Keynote speaker John Green, a Canadian journalist and author, will discuss the historical evidence and development of Bigfoot research.

Study hints stars have planets

BERKELEY, Calif. (UPI) — An 8-year quest has yielded strong hints from space there may be at least nine planets orbiting distant stars in the Milky Way Galaxy, a Canadian astronomer reported Wednesday at a major conference.

The findings, if verified, could provide important clues in the search for extraterrestrial life, Bruce Campbell of the University of Victoria said at the 100th anniversary meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

"We do not directly claim to have discovered other planets going around other stars," Campbell, adjunct associate professor of physics and astronomy, said in an interview.

"We prefer to say we have the best evidence to date for objects of planetary mass — within the range of one to 10 times that of Jupiter, the largest of the known nine planets — outside our solar system."

Clues indicating the presence of the suspected planets may be "just the tip of the iceberg," Campbell said, noting these may be the largest planets in nine entire planetary systems.

"Confirmation of our initial results could indicate as many as half of the stars in the Milky Way may have planetary companions," Campbell said, "and increase the possibility Earth-like bodies suitable for life are out there."

"The clearest data show a large planet — sized on the order of Jupiter — orbits a star called Gamma Cephei," Campbell said. The other objects are in the range of one to 10 times the mass of Jupiter.

Campbell hopes to refine his technique to detect objects smaller than Jupiter — now impossible.

To date, no one has discovered a planet outside the solar system nor life beyond Earth.

credit a legitimate scientific conference.

"He could set up his own conference somewhere else," Krantz grouched. "But instead, he wants to disrupt and confuse ours. The lunatic fringe is more persistent and obnoxious every year."

"We're trying to run a straight conference which will scientifically study this edge of zoology," said Krantz, who has been searching for the legendary creature for over 20 years.

Beckjord's "irritating and absurd claims" of Bigfoot's supernatural origins turn scientists off, Krantz said. "They can't be proven by scientific inquiry."

Cryptozoologists investigate creatures which have been report-



KRANTZ

Ranlo Man Says Rock, Cylinder Fell From Sky

By TRACIE FELLERS
Staff Writer

RANLO — Oliver Ross, a retired textile worker, says things have a way of falling down around him.

But Ross, 67, isn't a klutz. And the two objects that have fallen around him aren't ordinary — at least they didn't come from an ordinary place, he says.

The objects — a rock and a 3-inch metal cylinder — came "from the sky," Ross said, without cracking a smile.

The rock dropped from the sky in 1941, he said. The cylinder fell near him about a month ago.

The first of Ross' unusual experiences occurred during the summer of 1941. He and his wife of 48 years, Katherine, had been married a few months and were living in Kings Mountain.

They were sitting on their front porch one night when they saw a light blazing across the sky.

"It came across the mountain with a blaze behind it," Ross said, gesturing in the air with his finger as if he were tracing the object's path.

"We thought the war was getting ready to start. I thought it was one of old Hitler's bombs," he said.

Then — to the couple's amazement — something fell in their front yard. "We saw it fall. It was red, it was hot, and it hit the ground," Katherine Ross said.

The couple scooped up an odd-looking thing, which they say was about the size of a saucer when it fell. Since then, it has broken and some of the pieces have been lost.

But the Rosses have been keeping remaining pieces — which look like granite dusted with silver and green crystals — in a cedar chest, Katherine Ross said.

Jim Lynn, assistant director and curator of minerals at Gastonia's Schiele Museum of Natural History, examined the rock under a microscope Tuesday. Lynn said it's of the family of pyroxene minerals commonly found in this region.

"It is definitely not a meteor," Lynn said. "I'd bet two weeks' pay."

Lynn said the Rosses possi-

bly did see something fall from the sky. The impact probably would have driven the object deep into the earth and, perhaps, heated the rock they picked up, he said.

Nothing else fell into the couple's lives for 47 years. But last month, Oliver Ross was visiting his brother-in-law in Kings Mountain when he saw a small object fall "straight down" from the sky, he said.

Ross was standing behind his brother-in-law's home when the small metal cylinder fell. For a moment, Ross was afraid the object would hit him. "He told me it came straight down past his head," said Katherine Ross.

After the piece of metal hit the ground, Oliver Ross said he looked around to see if anyone might have thrown it. "But I didn't see anybody around," he said.

"I'm glad it didn't hit me," he added with a laugh.

Just before the object fell, Ross said he saw several airplanes flying overhead. "But I couldn't say it was a plane that it fell off of."

Gastonia Municipal Airport officials couldn't say either. Pilots and employees at the airport Tuesday said the metal object wasn't a part from any small aircraft, but said it could have fallen from a larger plane, possibly a commercial jet.

The brother-in-law, Raymond Talbert, has a theory about what it all means, Katherine Ross said.

"My brother told me something was after him (Ross)," she said.



Oliver Ross holds the rock and 3-inch metal cylinder he says came "from the sky."

ROBERT LAHSE/Staff

Is Bigfoot on Pikes Peak?



BIGFOOT?: Briengo holds hairs from the cabin in Green Mountain Falls.

By Claire Martin
Denver Post Staff Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — For 19 years, Omaha English teacher Bob Briengo has tracked an elusive creature whose existence is doubted by nearly everyone but readers of supermarket tabloids.

Briengo wants to prove that Bigfoot is alive and well — somewhere in the trees of Colorado's Pikes Peak.

Briengo is "90 percent sincerely convinced" that this legendary humanoid — so elusive that zoologists regard it as fiction — lives on one of the most heavily trod mountains in the United States.

At 14,110 feet, Pikes Peak is Colorado's most famous "fourteener." Last year, 10,000 hikers clambered over Pikes Peak's trails. More than 228,000 cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles and recreational vehicles made the 45-minute drive to the summit's thin air. Ninety thousand people rode the Pikes Peak Cog Railroad that chugs up the mountain between May and September. Even in win-

ter, people can't stay away. For 34 years, the AdAmAn Club has celebrated New Year's Eve with an annual hike to the windy peak.

Yet Briengo is convinced that popular Pikes Peak is also the home of this painfully shy creature popularly known as Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, Yeti, the Abominable Snowman and a handful of other nicknames. People who say they've seen the creature compare it to a giant, hairy and smelly cousin to homo sapiens.

"I know it's unusual to say that Bigfoot is in Colorado, where historically you've never had sightings," Briengo said over a soft drink at an Omaha cafe. He is an ordinary-looking man with a sincere, round face and thoughtful eyes that become guarded while he explains his theory.

"I mean, you always did have sightings of Bigfoot in the United States, even in places like Sioux City, Iowa, my home town, and in the Pacific Northwest. And Georgia, and Oklahoma and even Nebraska. And, of course, the Asian mountains, where the Tibetans first reported their sightings to the English. The Tibetan word for Bigfoot actually refers to its stench, but that somehow got translated as 'abominable,' so that's where 'Abominable Snowman' came from."

Nobody ever reported seeing Bigfoot in Colorado until recently. Then, in the mid-1980s, some residents of Green Mountain Falls — a small town northwest of Colorado Springs — began reporting sightings of a creature that Briengo thinks could be Bigfoot. Cautious reports identified the creature as a large bear.

In March 1987, a Green Moun-



Ron Bundy / Associated Press

MYSTERY: Ron Briengo has been tracking Bigfoot for years.

tain Falls man, Dan Masias, claimed he saw two blond, long-armed creatures running across a road, where they left long, narrow, enormous footprints in 6 inches of spring snow.

Masias, who was unavailable to be interviewed for this story, photographed the footprints and sent the pictures to researchers at the Louisiana State University's Museum of Natural History, where staffers have investigated similar

reports.

The researchers were unable to match Masias' footprints to any known North American animal.

When word about Masias' discovery began spreading around Green Mountain Falls, more stories surfaced. One woman said that, a few years back, she had seen an animal attack her cat. Perhaps, she said, it was Bigfoot and not a bear. There were more reports of weird footprints and

after this weekend," he said.

To be sure, much of Saturday's meetings actually dealt with Bigfoot sightings, evidence like hair analysis and just what it will take to prove whether the creature exists or not.

But some attendees complained that the data was often hard to sort out for all the controversy surrounding who said what.

"My problem with this whole thing is not the lack of evidence," said Terry J. Cullen, a Ph.D. in veterinary medicine and herpetology from Milwaukee. "It's the fact that we're trying to sift information from so many people who are involved with fringe opinions and many of them just don't have credibility."

"Until such a time comes that academicians take a more reasonable view of this whole thing and the left wing takes a more conservative view of this whole thing, I don't think we're going to get much done."

Conference draws cops, crackpots

Bigfoot discussion turns into 'circus'

By Eric Sorensen
Staff writer

PULLMAN — It was a day for accusations of fraud, alleged death threats, restraining orders and above, all, cries that Bigfoot does indeed exist.

The International Society of Cryptozoology convened its eighth annual meeting on the Washington State University campus Saturday, drawing nearly 100 Bigfoot followers from around the country and evoking primal screams of dissent among the group's ranks.

"The whole conference has become such a joke," said Mark Francis, director of the North American Bigfoot Information Network, who bristled that "flakes" with no scientific merit were being allowed to speak. "It's like a circus," he said.

Drawing together about one dozen specialists on Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch, the weekend-long conference was part of cryptozoology's overall inquiry into animals that have been reported but not proven to exist.

Yet while the pursuit of science was the goal, much of the discussion between sessions was dominated by arguments over subjects ranging from fake claims to the paranormal.

The conference hadn't even begun when, on Friday night, the Whitman County sheriff's office arrested Jon Erik Beckjord — who claims Bigfoot came from outer space — on charges of harassment and coercion.

Francis said the arrest came after he sought a restraining order keeping Beckjord from the conference because Beckjord had allegedly written a number of threatening letters to him.

The letters, said Francis, 26, of Twinsburg, Ohio, were "basically death threats — 'come to Pullman and I'll kill you.' He's just very, very jealous of me."

Beckjord, 50, of Malibu, Calif., was released on \$2,500 bond after spending the night in the Whitman County jail in Colfax, and was ordered to stay away from the conference and Pullman.

Beckjord later claimed Francis forged the threatening letters. Beckjord had the restraining order changed to let him continue with a "counter-conference" in Pullman's Gladish Auditorium to explain his contention that Bigfoot came from "somewhere else."

But the counter-conference had to be moved to Beckjord's motel room after Norman Ingram, business manager for the Pullman School District, which owns the auditorium building, decided he did not want to rent to a man who was arrested after being in town only 10 hours.

"I'm just not going to take any chances with a school facility," he said. "They're acting like 10-year-old kids."

WSU anthropologist Grover S. Krantz had feared an appearance by Beckjord would disrupt the WSU conference by drawing attention to the "lunatic fringe" of Bigfoot study.

"He's a great irritation," said Krantz, who read a brief statement designed to prevent theories of the paranormal from being raised in conference discussions about Bigfoot.

But Beckjord was not the only potential source of controversy.

When Jack Laperitis, an anthropologist from Roseburg, Ore., got up to speak on difficulties documenting evidence of Sasquatch, researcher Rene Dahinden of Canada rose from

the back of the audience to warn Society Secretary Richard Greenwell that he was "making a big mistake."

Afterwards, Francis questioned Laperitis about a magazine article in which he claimed to have had three Bigfoots astrally projected to him in a bedroom in Milwaukee.

Laperitis, who also was scheduled to speak in Beckjord's conference, declined to comment.

"Since this is a zoological conference, I'm sticking to their rules and regulations," he said.

Meanwhile, Paul Freeman of Walla Walla, who claims to have seen Bigfoot four times in the Blue Mountains, canceled a scheduled session of his. Part of the reason, he said, was because much of his data was with Beckjord, but also because he felt Beckjord had been "set up" by the society.

"I just told them I'm not going to be affiliated with this organization

TRIBUNE, Tampa, FL - June 24, 1989

■ Bigfoot spotted on reservation

ALTURAS, Calif. — The Modoc County Sheriff's Department said Friday it had called a zoology expert to investigate claims that the legendary creature Bigfoot was spotted on an Indian reservation this week. Kenneth Sam, 25, claimed he spotted a hairy, giant, man-like creature outside a house he was guarding Tuesday night on the Fort Bidwell Paiute Indian Reservation. "It's a lot bigger than a football player," Sam said.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada

May 2, 1989 CR: G. Conway

HAMMER FROM SKY

News Services

CALGARY — It was a quiet day in a Calgary home yesterday when the hammer came down.

Down through the roof, the living room ceiling, off a bird cage and into a wall.

Police say they were called to the house after the hammer almost hit a 13-year-old boy. Neither boy nor bird was hurt.

Investigators think the hammer fell from an airplane approaching Calgary airport.

echoing cries in the woods around Green Mountain Falls.

One night in March 1988, a family on the town's west outskirts, whose cabin is near that of Masias, saw a "large, blond bear" outside their front door. Later that night, their adult children heard something crash and pound on the door.

When one of them turned on a porch light, something large ran away. A garbage can was overturned. The wooden crosspieces of the top half of the porch door were shattered. There were four finger-sized holes in the screen, and long blond hairs dangled from the torn wire.

Bigfoot? Briengo thinks so. He says he has hair samples, some of them bloodied. He says that tests from an unidentified lab reveal that the hairs belong to a primate. An unknown primate.

Others are less certain that it's Bigfoot. Like Briengo, Erik Beckjord, a Malibu, Calif., electrician with an interest in cryptozoology — natural mysteries — has tracked Bigfoot for years.

Beckjord was interviewed on the Feb. 15 episode of "Unsolved Mysteries," for a segment about the Pikes Peak Bigfoot debate. (The segment will be repeated June 28.)

"One thing I do believe is that Bigfoot could be on Pikes Peak. Just in two of my own investigations, I've seen evidence that Bigfoot has come close to people — once on the Lummi Indian reservation in northwest Washington, and once right in the suburbs of Tacoma.

"And I've talked to hikers who say they've seen Bigfoot. Traditional scientists don't like to talk about this sort of thing — it goes against all their theories — but I am convinced these things exist."

It doesn't matter if the sightings are in the Everglades or Tacoma or Pikes Peak: It all seems to be the same creature. And sometimes they do approach humans."

Beckjord is dubious about the Colorado sightings. He criticizes Briengo for "hoarding" the hair found clinging to the screen door of the cabin near Green Mountain Falls. Beckjord has refused to relinquish the 20 Bigfoot hairs Beckjord needs for laboratory analysis.

Beckjord thinks Colorado Bigfoot could be from another planet. "You know why?" he says, like a conspirator.

"Because there's a new way of testing blood, radioimmunoassay, which is so sensitive it can test the blood type of Neanderthal man. That's 30,000-year-old blood!"

"We had a 13-year-old sample of what we thought might be a Bigfoot hair (from the Northwest), bloodied, and tested that. You'd think with this sophisticated new blood test, 13-year-old blood would be a piece of cake, right?"

"But the Bigfoot sample didn't test like blood. It's the same stuff in appearance, but it doesn't react like blood. It's body fluid that's changed. You know what that spells to me? Alien."

"When 'Unsolved Mysteries' began looking into (the Colorado case)," Beckjord continued, "they made a model of the foot, based on the Masias photographs, and it's not an ordinary-looking foot."

"There are toes in front and in back, with the back toes submerged, like baby teeth."

"I know when you hear me say this, you're probably hearing the theme from 'Twilight Zone' playing again, but it's true."

Even Stuart Schwartz, co-producer of "Unsolved Mysteries," is unsure about the Pikes Peak case.

"We're not willing to say if it was Bigfoot or not, but something definitely happened."

Briengo said he prefers to collect more evidence before drawing conclusions. He is concerned that the publicity might diminish him in the eyes of his superiors at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, where he teaches English.

"I've had TV, radio and newspaper reporters after me. Now, I don't mind the reporters so much. What gets me are the lunatics who find out about me through the TV and newspaper reports."



C-T/Karen Schmitz

AUTHOR JOHN GREEN shows a mockup of the creature the American Indians knew as Sasquatch and modern researchers call Big Foot. Sightings are primarily reported in sparsely settled, wooded areas, but some were made near Coshocton as recently last week.

'Big Foot is real'

Author is convinced after 30 years of research

By NEDRA BOZMAN
C-T Staff Writer

"The first time I saw those big tracks, it hit me with a real jolt," said John Green.

Green, an authority on "Big Foot," has written five books based on 30 years of research about what are believed to be huge, upright walking primates. He was at the Recreational Vehicle Show at the I-X Center this past week to talk about his favorite topic.

With Green at the show was Mark Francis, of Twinsburg, who is part of an Ohio network keeping track of reports in this state. Sightings of Big Foot in Ohio were reported as early as 1869, and as recently as last week west of Coshocton, according to Francis.

It was in the late '50s when Green first became interested in the creatures. Green had been a journalist for 12 years when, in 1958, he received a phone call from Bluff Creek in northwestern California, where huge footprints had been found.

Since childhood he had heard stories about "huge hairy creatures, and giant, human-like footprints" in British Columbia where he lived. But only the year before, when someone had reported actually seeing one of the huge animals, were Green's "investigative instincts" truly aroused, he said.

So, he and his wife drove 800 miles, with some misgivings, to where the tracks were reported to be. "I didn't expect to see anything," he said. "The closer I got, the more people were laughing about it."

But when they reached Bluff Creek, Green's efforts were rewarded. The couple followed a logging truck down a dirt road, and counted nearly 600 footprints in various sizes, going on and off the road. And many more had been destroyed by a tractor that traveled the



GREEN shows a cast he made from one of more than 600 foot marks of all sizes he saw crisscrossing a remote logging road in northern California.

road a day or so before Green's arrival.

"When you see a track on the ground, you know something was there, he said. "They had to be made somehow."

Most of the tracks were over 15 inches long and an inch deep, he said, while the footprints he and his wife made barely scuffed the dirt.

Part of his exhibit is an original cast he made at there from one of those footprints.

Green returned to British Columbia and his work, moving from reporting to editing on daily newspapers and then to ownership of a weekly paper. Meanwhile, he began interviewing witnesses and keeping records of sightings and track reports on Big Foot.

In his research he found journal entries and news accounts about Big Foot that went back to the early 1800s.

North American Indians were familiar with the creatures, and thought of them as just another animal, Green said. They called them Sasquatch.

Big Foot has been reported in every state except Rhode Island and Hawaii, and similar creatures have been seen all over the world. Yeti, or the abominable snowman, was first reported in the Himalayas in 1832, and the Mono Grande (big monkey) is said to live in the Andes Mountains of South America.

Green speculates that perhaps some of the monsters of old, for example Grendel, foe of Beowulf in the Anglo-Saxon epic poem from the seventh century, could have been a creature like Big Foot.

Then, in 1967, a California rancher Roger Patterson, photographed a female with a 16 mm. movie camera in the same Bluff Creek area where Green had seen footprints nine years earlier. A video of this short strip of film is also part of Green's display.

Early parts of the film were taken with jerking movements as Patterson chased the animal with his hand-held camera. But when Patterson stopped running, the animal on the film could clearly be seen, walking upright much as a human would walk, swinging her arms, and turning periodically to look over her shoulder into the camera.

Since that time, scientists have tried to discount the film, saying the movie is a fake. It was taken to Disney Studios for verification, where animators who viewed it said they could create a similar movement only by drawing it, according to Green.

"Either you've got the most amazing animal, or a human with animal characteristics," said Green.

Could Big Foot be the "missing link" between man and the apes? The creatures are reported to be from 8 to 12 feet tall, and weigh 600 to 1,000 pounds. Footprints found measure from 15 to 21 inches. Females are slightly smaller.

They walk upright as man does, and black, brown or auburn hair covers their entire body. Unlike gorillas, who are

vegetarians, they are said to be omnivorous, eating both plant and animal foods, much as bears do.

They make a high-pitched screaming sound, and are said to have a disagreeable odor. Green estimates there is a breeding population of thousands in North America, mostly in wilderness areas of the northwest.

When the creatures have been sighted by humans, it is most often as they cross the road in front of a car, Green said. But they have also been seen by people who happen to look out a window.

In Ohio the creatures have been seen primarily in sparsely populated counties like Coshocton, Vinton, Union and Guernsey, said Francis, who has occasionally been called to an area of a sighting in time to catch the lingering odor.

Two animals were seen by hikers in Euclid Creek Reservation in 1982, Francis said. The men thought they were seeing bears until the creatures stood up. And successive sightings of two of them were reported in Mogadore, Solon and Brecksville, he said.

"They seemed to be traveling from one place to the next through the park system," said Francis.

More recently in Saltfork State Park, one of the creatures lifted the back of a pickup truck where a ranger had been asleep inside.

"There have been repeated sightings in some areas (of Ohio) while other sightings are 200 miles apart," said Francis. He estimates there are at least two dozen of the creatures here, and possibly as many as 200.

Barefoot boys with fishing rods would be expected to wander the rural Muddy Creek area in summertime, en route to nearby strip pit ponds. But Keating thought his plaster replicas were the flat-footed tracks of a small Bigfoot.

Muddy Creek Lane did boast signs of wildlife.

Beer cartons littered the area, a sure sign that the common teenager, often most active after dark, had been a regular visitor. Confirming that suspicion were spray-painted legends of faded rock stars on nearby boulders.

"I don't think we're going to find much here," said Green, 62, after we'd scrambled up a steep hill. Green wanted to walk a ridge along the area, and the lean, lanky researcher was off like a mountain goat. Evidence of deer and raccoon were sprinkled throughout the woods. Long, deep Bigfoot tracks were nowhere to be seen.

The brush-busting walk through briar thickets and stands of thorn-laden locust, up one ridge and down the next, failed to produce the slightest hint of Bigfoot. Green wasn't the least bit surprised.

A veteran newspaperman, Green had been through all of this before. Sounds of Bigfoot, sightings of the creature, were often reported. Tracks were much more elusive.

An image on film, one clear enough to actually see a tall, hairy, two-legged creature, was rarest of all. It has only been done once, in California in 1967, and many dispute that evidence.

Green wasn't disappointed, though. Always the writer, with five Bigfoot books published, Green had gleaned one more tale the night before from a local woman. She'd seen a Bigfoot in her farmyard in the middle of the night.

"Her story rang true," said Green, who's heard thousands of tales and discarded many of them. "That's what I came to Ohio to hear."

With Keating's small band of searchers turning up the sights, sounds and supposed tracks of a Bigfoot, why hasn't Ohio's growing legion of deer hunters, a crowd of 350,000 that invades the woods each year, ever seen a Bigfoot?

"Maybe they have," said Green. "And if they have, I'd sure like to hear about it."

So would I.

Nine beat Coshocton brush in search for Bigfoot clues

COSHOCTON COUNTY

In the Valley of the Sasquatch we gathered, nine strong, ready to scour the woods and fields, the rock and rubble for signs of Bigfoot.

Armed with video recorders and small automatic cameras, the Bigfoot hunters milled about. They were prepared to beat the Sasquatch Valley bush Sunday, an adventure inspired by the presence of Bigfoot expert and author John Green of Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia.

This strip-mine area of southern Coshocton County, a hotbed of sightings and footprints, was a place that deer hunters and Bigfoot buffs could love. The ridges and valleys, destroyed by the quest for coal decades ago, were riddled with

D'ARCY EGAN



sheer rock walls, flooded strip pits and muddy flats of coal and shale rubble.

"We've had a lot of sightings here," said Don Keating of Newcomerstown, head of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Investigation Center, who had invited Green to talk to his group and see the area. "Most have been right in this part of the valley that we

call Muddy Creek Lane."

Indeed, Betty Parks of Eaton, near Dayton, had photographic proof that Bigfoot has visited.

In the darkness at Muddy Creek Lane on Nov. 1, Parks had fired a few frames with her small 35mm automatic camera at a rustling noise coming from behind a patch of roadside weeds. Parks had one of the snapshots enlarged to show the face of a Bigfoot poking through the weeds.

Unfortunately, to those with only a little less imagination, the face looked much like the other brown clumps of faded goldenrod that abundantly grow along the roadside.

Keating had plaster casts of Bigfoot footprints made here, casts he had shown off the night before at the monthly meeting of his group in Newcomerstown. The small footprints paled in comparison with the massive ones Green had brought. California Bigfoot tracks that Green will show off at the Great Lakes RV Show that opens tomorrow and runs through Sunday at the International Exposition Center.