

UFO

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(Way Over The Back Fence) UFO's

By Debbie Steinberg

At the onset of this article I would like to say a word of appreciation to those of you who have shared your fascinating experiences with me. The overwhelming interest and enthusiasm you've displayed in UFO "phenomenon" has made obtaining this information a pleasure. As was the case in my opening article, this is a presentation of information collected in the Anza area. Names will once again be withheld and I will continue to update with any new information that becomes available in future issues.

The most recent reported sightings are as follows:

June 4, 1989 - 10:00 PM: A brilliant blue light was seen by a Cary Rd teenager in the proximity of the Laborers' School. It was observed in a stationary position for 10 minutes before speeding to the east and out of sight. This may seem to be an insignificant accounting but it coincided with the following experience.

June 4, 1989 - 7:50 PM: A 25 year old female was traveling down Cahuilla Mountain after a visit with friends. She recalls reaching a certain area and has no memory beyond that point.

Her next conscious recollection was a brilliant blue flash of light speeding across the sky toward the desert. She was disoriented and found herself to be in a remote area of the mountain at about 10:00 o'clock the same night. She experienced a two hour time loss.

After discussing this experience at length we went back to the mountain hoping to jar something in her memory. What we did jar were her emotions. She remains uneasy and confused about the loss of time.

June 10, 1989 - 4:15 AM: A 31 year old Bautista Rd woman remembers going to bed June 9th at approximately 9:30 PM. Her next conscious recollection was at 4:15 a.m. June 10. She remembered a brilliant flash of light and found herself in an open field about 300 yards from her home. The clothing she wore was soaking wet but her hair and skin were unusually dry. She remains disturbed about this experience.

June 20, 1989 - 11:30 PM: A woman in the Cary Rd area was in her home reading when she heard a noise that reminded her of a helicopter. She looked out and saw a huge red flashing light that she found to be quite unusual. It moved about erratically in a southeasterly direction until she could no longer see it. She settled back in to read and once again heard the sound. This time she observed a large craft with a nose that resembled a jet and an enormous transparent body with brilliant flashing red lights on its underside.

June 23, 1989 - Two Anza children, ages 7 and 9, spent the night of June 23rd in Garner Valley.

They observed a large craft with 3 lights that blinked in quick succession hovering in the night sky above Pathfinder Ranch. They are convinced this was not an airplane or a helicopter. Two other children are reported to have been present during this sighting but I wasn't able to talk with them prior to this deadline.

TIMES, El Paso, TX - July 29, 1989

TV show to investigate alleged UFO cover-up

By Marilyn Haddrill
El Paso Times

Did the Army find pieces of a crashed flying saucer near Corona, N.M., 42 years ago?

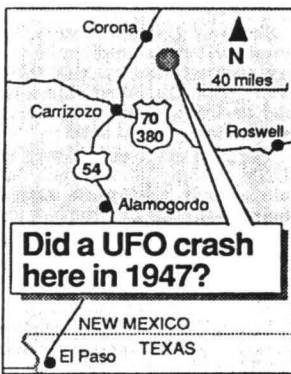
Well, no, says the Army; it was just debris from a weather balloon. But that conclusion came hours after an initial announcement that the pieces were from a flying saucer.

After four decades, some still are convinced a UFO crashed during a visit to the desert 75 miles northwest of Roswell.

Now NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" television series is entering the fray.

The TV show, which recently investigated the legendary treasure of Victorio Peak on White Sands Missile Range, is sending film crews to Roswell next week to re-create the UFO story — known to believers as "the Roswell Incident" — for a fall broadcast.

A nationally known UFO skeptic, Philip Klass of Washington, dismissed the whole



El Paso Times

thing. He said the debris recovered fit the military's conclusion that it was from a weather balloon. He attributed the original UFO announcement to flying saucer hysteria that was rampant at the time.

Casting coordinator Carol Renee, a professional actress from Carlsbad, is helping fill 50 acting roles from among 70

finalists chosen for screening. Most are from Roswell.

The show's format mixes dramatized re-creations and interviews with people who were involved in the story.

Filming will begin Wednesday with the interviews.

"I know they are trying to keep as true to the known facts as possible," Renee said.

Major roles in the dramatizations include:

- The late Mac Brazear, a rancher who discovered mysterious wreckage on his land and reported it to officers at Roswell Army Air Field July 6, 1947.

- The late Maj. Jesse Marcel, an Army intelligence officer who visited the site 75 miles northwest of Roswell and recovered debris. Decades later, Marcel began telling news reporters that the military's initial announcement about recovering a flying saucer was true.

Marcel said the military's later story about a weather balloon carrying radar detec-

ARIZONA REPUBLIC, Phoenix, AZ - July 9, 1989

UFO theory: Swarms of bugs

The New York Times

Sightings of unidentified flying objects have been blamed on everything from bright stars and meteors to airplanes and falling space debris.

But now a biophysicist has concluded that some unidentified flying objects glowing in the night sky could be swarms of migrating insects.

"A lot of night sightings of UFOs are just lit-up insects riding storm fronts," the scientist, Phillip Callahan, said in a statement issued recently by the American Institute of Physics.

Callahan, a retired research professor at the University of Florida and a biophysics consultant in Gainesville, Fla., said the storms generate electrical fields that can cause insect antennae to glow.

A study comparing spruce budworm moth migrations with UFO sightings seems to support the hypothesis, he said.

Many insects migrate after dusk,

riding a storm front, often in saucer-shaped swarms. A clump of budworms can extend 5 to 10 miles, with insects on the outer edge flying back into the swarm, giving a hazy outline.

In the course of his research on crop pests, Callahan found that when insects were placed in an electrical field, the spines in the antennae would light up.

He likened the effect to St. Elmo's fire, a flaming electrical discharge sometimes seen around a church steeple or ship's mast on a stormy night.

In a swarm of insects, the scientist said, this effect produces an aura of blue, green and yellow light.

But Philip J. Klass, who has written several books on UFO phenomena, said insects might explain "only one out of a thousand" sightings.

Most, Klass said, are traced to other sources.

tion equipment was a cover-up.

- Lt. Walter Haut of Roswell, the Army spokesman who was ordered to release the story that military personnel had recovered a flying saucer. Haut, who still lives in Roswell and will be featured on the program, also said the weather balloon story was a cover-up.

Instead of using the actual crash site, Renee said, the television crew selected another location with a similar

landscape closer to Roswell for filming part of the segment.

In newspaper reports about two years ago, UFO researcher Stanton Friedman alleged a cover-up, which he called "the beginning of the cosmic Watergate."

Friedman and others referred to purported briefing papers for President Eisenhower concerning the alleged 1947 crash.



(Way Over The Back Fence) UFO's



By Debbie Steinberg

June 28, 1989 - 10:00 PM: A teenager in the Bradford Road area was gazing out her bedroom window when she saw six lights speed by one after the other. The last object was a "Huge" gold light that seemed to glow red and become engulfed in flames. After the flames subsided the object glowed brightly and lit up a large area in the vicinity of Vail Lake.

June 28, 1989 - 10:00 PM: A 32 year old woman in the Vail Lake area contacted me about a sighting very similar to the previous one. She observed 6 lighted objects flying toward her in a triangular formation. The last was an enormous glowing light. As it got closer to her she could see it was a craft and described it as "a floating barge that resembled a city." This prodigious object glowed red and appeared to explode in flames as it landed near the lake. As the flames subsided a glow lit up the area for a long period of time. There was a lot of interaction between the craft and small lighted objects which were moving around at high rates of speed. This woman also observed a saucer shaped craft on Monday night at about 10:00 PM and a much larger disk shaped object on Tuesday night at approximately 10:00 PM in the same area. There are many more important points to this accounting and I may revert back to it in future issues.

June 29, 1989 - 9:00 PM: A 36 year old woman in the Bradford Road area observed bright amber colored lights in what she thought to be the Vail Lake area. The lights were in a triangular formation. One would drop out of sight and another would come up into view. Two sets of military aircraft circled the area and as they approached the lighted objects went dark.

June 29, 1989 - 9:30 PM: Three people on Table Mountain watched the same light show. They also observed a large lighted object over Cahuilla Mountain described as a large green light with blue lights circling it.

June 30, 1989 - 2:55 PM: The Bautista Road woman in a previously mentioned encounter was driving north on Bahrman Rd. She saw an object shaped like a cylinder moving across the sky at a 45 degree angle.

There were a couple of cars pulled off to the side of the road and at least one person observing the craft through binoculars.

As it made its way along the crest of Thomas Mtn it tilted slightly exposing a black dome on the mid-section. The craft seemed to set down on top of the mountain.

July 3, 1989 - 11:30 PM: A group of people in the Bradford Road area were outside hoping to get a glimpse of Saturn which was supposed to be visible at that time.

Two members of the same family were looking straight up when they saw an enormous craft. It's shape was similar to that of a sergeant's stripes. A pole protruded from the front portion with a spotlight of some sort at the tip. Gold lights blinked in quick succession as the monstrous craft sped toward the Vail Lake area.

It's obvious that we are experiencing an increased wave of activity in our area. A few of the sightings have been represented here and there are, no doubt, countless others that remain untold.

Please continue to contact the AVO office to report sightings and other types of encounters.

There are many aspects of this subject that need to be covered. We will not attempt to discredit you or disprove your accountings if you choose to share them. I believe it takes less energy to "prove" a point.

LAST MINUTE REPORT AS AVO GOES TO PRESS

July 9, 1989 - 12:05AM: A Terwilliger couple were preparing to retire for the evening when a super brilliant light flashed in their window silhouetting the entire area. The husband looked out and saw a brilliant white light approx. 12" in diameter, such as the beam from a strobe light, moving from behind a hill. The wife then looked out and saw the light too. They both watched as the light seemed to rotate to the left lasting approximately 15 to 20 seconds before changing to a brilliant red light which appeared a bit larger. This red light was still revolving but seemed slower, about 60 seconds, before again changing to white, lasting about 45 seconds and again changing to the brilliant red; lasting approx 60 seconds before it just vanished. The area where this was seen is a rock covered hill, quite unlikely for any vehicle to travel across. Being curious in nature, the husband and another family member ventured out to see if anything could be seen. When reaching the area just below where the lights were seen their car engine simply died. It took two tries to restart the car, which is in otherwise perfect working condition. Upon returning home the family continued to watch the area and the husband and another member saw a small soft light to the right of the original lights and one below. They too just disappeared.

For whatever it's worth they turned on the TV which normally doesn't have very good reception. However, this night the reception appeared as if they had Cable TV.

The wife indicated "I am now a UFO believer". The husband has seen sightings previously; one in the 50's in the Compton area, another a year ago (July 7) in this same area and again on June 19 of this year.

Up there, in the sky, could that be a UFO?

By Denise Johnson
Gazette Staff Reporter

MOUNT HOLLY — Evidence of unidentified flying objects was shared Thursday at Mount Holly Junior High School.

But don't panic. The city isn't in the midst of a hostile takeover, just an educational maneuver.

UFO expert George Fawcett of Lincolnton told students in an afternoon assembly that UFOs were commonly sighted in Gaston County and the Southeast.

Fawcett, 60, has been studying and investigating the phenomenon for about 45 years.

Fawcett showed the students a slide show and talked about his own experience with UFOs. He argues that other life forms must exist outside of Earth.

"It is my firm belief that so-called flying saucers and little men with ray guns are real," Fawcett said. "We are not alone."

Fawcett first became interested in UFOs when he was in junior high in Mount Airy. His interest was spurred by the sighting of silver, ball-like objects floating in Paris during World War II.

At the time, the Germans thought the objects belonged to American intelligence agencies while the Americans

believed it was a German intelligence unit.

This incident spurred a 45-year obsession with the phenomenon. He now says his primary goal is for a \$4.5 million UFO museum in North Carolina.

The museum would serve as an investigation center and a tourist attraction, Fawcett said.

He says government policy on UFO sightings has historically been to hide them from the public or call confirmed sightings mere coincidence. Fawcett said during his research he has obtained

material collected from federal agencies with the Freedom of Information Act.

As evidence, he said most sightings were similar in nature, with beings described as small, human-like gray or white creatures. The so-called extra-terrestrial has large, rounded eyes, a large skull and long fingers, Fawcett said.

Space ships usually are described as disk-shaped and about 30 feet in diameter, he said.

Some people who see UFOs have more to deal with than just the emotional trauma of the sighting, Fawcett said. Some UFO spotters actually have been burned or otherwise injured by the extreme heat and magnetic fields,



Kermit Hull/The Gazette

George Fawcett (center) talks to Mount Holly students about UFOs.

he said. Fawcett cautioned students that if they did see UFOs land to beware and not get too close.

Fawcett, who works at a Lincolnton textile mill, was brought to the school as part of a science assembly.

"You've got 40 billion stars just like our sun, with most of them

having planets orbiting them," science teacher Butch Mallon said. "You've got to believe that there is life on other planets besides Earth."

Fawcett serves as assistant state director for the N.C. unit of Mutual UFO Network Inc., and is the author of *Quarter Century Studies of UFOs in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee*.

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER...1943

UFO - The time for the telling has come



GERRY A. CASEY

Gerry Casey is a respected aviation writer and former CAA/FAA inspector. During the war he was an Army instructor, at which time this incident took place. He writes:

"The sorry state of mankind vs. his environment and his apparent headlong flight into self-destruction finally caused me to bare my UFO soul.

"The enclosed account is exactly as it happened. Times, places, dates and people are an accurate depiction...

accelerated. We hadn't seen any openings or glass indicating a cockpit. It definitely did not have a propeller or any other type of propulsion that we could determine. And when we discussed its probable size, my student pointed out that never having seen its likes before and that it was round, its size was difficult to guess. If it were ten feet in diameter, it would have been 35 to 50 feet off our wingtip. But if it were 50 to 75 feet in diameter, it would be a hundred or more feet away.

He was certain it was circular. I felt it learned more toward the elliptical. We agreed that it had a rounded hump amidships topside and a smaller duplicate on its underside.

When I used my pocket computer and attempted to determine its speed I came up with a reading of 7,200 mph. My student agreed to the computation and remarked that the war would be over as soon as Lockheed got the craft into production.

We then went on with our lives as if nothing unusual had happened. Trying to recapture the details of an event that had consumed less than 90 seconds kept my thoughts occupied. I drew a pencil sketch of the craft's profile to confirm my opinion that it had been designed and built of parabolic curves rather than compass-drawn arcs. I could not reconcile its wobbling flight nor its sudden and unbelievable acceleration.

As time passed, the mystery deepened because Lockheed produced only the P-38 pursuit. (The P-80 jet first flew on Jan. 8, 1944.)

After WW2 ended, all of us busied ourselves with restructuring our lives. Then, in the newspapers and on radio, burst a story about a Washington State pilot named Kenneth Arnold who witnessed a flight of saucers near Mt. Rainier as he flew toward the eastern side of the Cascade Mountains (June 24, 1947). It was only then that I realized what my student and I had seen.

After Arnold's report, "Flying Saucer" madness swept the world. For anyone then to admit witnessing such a machine was to court ridicule. As I went to work for the CAA at Seattle's Boeing Field GADO about this time, I decided it would be folly to relate my experience. But in my thoughts, a clear statement evolved: I'd seen a flying machine that was light years in advance of anything on earth. I'm not easily fooled by flying machines and their IDs. I knew I'd witnessed an intelligently flown and deliberately aimed machine. It was not a cloud, an ionized chunk of gas, a planet shining on high, or a figment of imagination - mine or my student's. Therefore, I

By GERRY A. CASEY

The event occurred at 9:50 am on April 5, 1943.

The entire thing began and ended in less than a minute and a few seconds. Writing of it has consumed a few days. The impression left is indelible, but it has taken another 46 years to make it public...

A few days before the experience I'd been chatting with some of my brethren at our Long Beach, CA, Air Corps Ferry Command base. Some had heard a rumor that Lockheed was designing an experimental pursuit plane that would astonish all because it was without a propeller. All of us agreed that the rumor was no more or less stupid than what we normally heard. There was a war going on, so what else was new?

At the time I was a primary instrument flight instructor. My students at the moment were a man with great aptitude who later became a prominent CAA manager; a student so poor he literally flopped around the sky; our base ferrying-order chief Larry Schwartzell, and two others who would require second attempts before they would earn their Army Air Corps instrument tickets. One, Rex Mays, who'd won the Indianapolis race twice, seemed to have no imagination when it came to interpreting flight instruments.

One of my first students that day faced a blind takeoff on primary instruments. He was unconcerned that the actual weather was 200 feet with an eighth of a mile visibility. This weather was considered normal for Long Beach when the marine layer burgeoned.

After a nice takeoff and climb through the cloud deck, we spent about 40 minutes at

5,000 feet cruising back and forth on the southeast-northwest legs of the Long Beach low frequency radio range.

Above the clouds the visibility was unlimited. I could see cumulus forming behind the Sierra Madres.

After grading the student's path along the range legs and over the "cone of silence," I looked up and east toward distant Santiago Mountain. I'd thought I had seen a flash of light. Peering intently, I saw an aircraft in a moderate dive aimed at our BT-13 with a perfect interception angle.

Not wanting to disturb the student, I prepared to take evasive action if needed. The craft coming at us appeared to be painted an international orange and was now about to pass

on our left side. Unable to determine the craft's make or model, I knew it was unlike any airplane I'd ever seen. As I studied it, I was shocked to see it make a decidedly wobbly turn that quickly aligned it off our left wing in instant and perfect formation.

"Come out from under the hood," I ordered my student. "I think Lockheed's new airplane is flying formation with us!"

He immediately flipped the cloth hood back and both of us stared hypnotically at the strange "airplane" holding a precise formation with our Vultee trainer.

Instinctively I reached for my ever-present camera hanging on the oil-dilution control. But realizing I could get in trouble photographing a secret test plane, I replaced it.

The thing flying alongside us defied rationale. I'd noticed that its turn appeared totally independent of air-reaction but that

one to demand logical answers.

Mixed with my curiosity has been a reticence to discuss the subject with all but kindred aviation types who've had a similar experience. It appeared to me that all reported sightings could be logically categorized. I decided five such categories would lend credence to the logical approach:

1. Delusional experience by incompetents.
2. Outright hoax committed for personal reasons.
3. Invalid due to mistaken identification.
4. Valid experience but requiring verification.
5. Valid and attested-to by credible witnesses.

Numbers 1 and 2 need no explanation. No. 3 may easily be recognized, particularly when accompanied by photos. Most such sightings are standing wave cap clouds that assume the classic lenticular form. At altitudes of more than 50,000 feet and with winds that top 80 kts, these can form and dissipate with astonishing speed. But they do not move laterally.

Planets viewed from a moving platform can appear to make abrupt movements. Usually it is the head motion of the viewer that creates the illusion.

No. 4 is a category requiring further scientific investigation by professionals.

For anyone to dismiss all sightings by professional airmen, scientists, and radar and air traffic personnel the world over only displays the critic's closed mind.

Many of our world's fantastic events, which we now easily accept, were formerly termed "impossible" when first confronted. Had we been told during WW2 that Neil Armstrong would land on the moon on July 20, 1969, we'd have sent the talespinner to a mental institution.

The trap one discovers in urging a scientific approach is that to explore any unknown, we first must free our minds of preconceptions. Most scientists are acutely aware that limited beliefs net limited results. The greatest discoveries have been born of the widest imaginations.

For any airman who has had a similar experience to mine, the conscious event cannot be erased. Nor can it be rationalized through comparisons to any known thing on earth.

To bring rationale into the subject, the credible viewer of a UFO must accept the reality that the thing exists, it has not come from earth and that its intention is to maintain some type of surveillance. Only with that

when it was off our wing, the adjustment to our altitude and course was perfect and instantaneous. Its position with us was held as if an iron bar had been welded between the two.

No question, its color was a radiant orange, which appeared to shimmer in the bright sunlight. As we watched, its aft end made a slight adjustment and it shot away from our position, disappearing in a climbing turn toward the ocean. Later, both of us agreed that it was gone from sight in two seconds.

After the flight and awaiting my next student, we chatted idly about the exotic craft. We agreed on several aspects: it was orange in color but changed to white when it



GERRY CASEY, CIRCA 1943
As an Army instrument instructor

conclusion can imagination coupled with logic produce understandable possibilities.

First, the flying object, its design and its unbelievable maneuvering, tell us that the inventors are likely to be tens of thousands of years ahead of us in scientific know-how.

Briefly, let's consider some possibilities.

Most aviation-oriented personnel have agreed on several points; the craft's color, shape and size and flight characteristics. Credible scientists have noted that many sightings have occurred in the vicinity of our atomic plants or military installations. Other viewings have indicated that close approaches were made in isolated areas.

What are the scientific possibilities of UFO operation?

Research into *plasma* indicates it is a blue-white color. So is the UFO when at speed. Various exotic materials have been discovered to have properties of super-conductivity. Some are metal, others a variety of composites. Can the UFO be a ceramic? Gravity, the most common force in the universe, is not really understood. It appears the UFO uses and controls the force of gravity in lieu of rocket propulsion. (Has any of our scientists ever weighed a high-output generator as it was turned to various compass headings? Does the weight vary? That could be a start.)

How could the UFO avoid being hit by debris when zipping through space? Easy if they are able to control gravity. They could send out a magnetic sweep ahead of its path. Smaller objects would be swept aside and larger objects, in turn, would sweep the UFO out of harm's way.

How could anyone make a journey that involved light years of distance? I don't know, but some of our scientists have theorized that the universe may use the speed of light, squared.

What has our government done to study this phenomena? Unfortunately, nothing but stonewall as data continues to build - as far as we know.

Most important, why are we apparently being so carefully monitored by UFOs?

I believe every event, human or otherwise, has a definable cause that runs to an effect. The act of creation and extinction seems to prove this. At times it appears that both ends of the creative scale are obscure. Until solid, understandable data clears up a mystery, some events defy explanation. But though we humans cannot detect a hidden cause does not mean there isn't one.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3 - WESTERN FLYER, Tacoma, WA - July 7, 1989)

In our fragile world, we are noting that more and more of the thoughtful, the scientific and the concerned are issuing somber warnings about the lightning-like destruction of our planet's environment. Some have warned that humans may already have painted themselves into a corner from which escape is no longer possible.

Is the universe inter-related and inter-dependent?

If it is true that we creatures are moving headlong into a self-destructive mode, possibly the failure of our planet could upset the balance of others in our, or a nearby, planetary system. If this is true, then any other superior race of creatures would be seriously concerned.

Perhaps it is later than we think.

Urge others who have yet to reveal a UFO experience and who are qualified, to share their stories.

I have.

Your turn.

More residents report seeing UFO

By JENNIFER SHAFFER
Staff Writer

DAMASCUS — Several area residents have come forth with additional information pertaining to the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO) over the weekend of May 20 and 21. Fred Weigelt, a retired game protector, and eight fellow game protectors, were camping Saturday evening, May 20, in Long Eddy. The members of the group reportedly saw three lights, in the form of a triangle, high in the sky near Pennsylvania Ridge. The lights were reddish-orange in color and did not blink. Also present were two steady red lights, each a football field apart in distance. No blinking lights or strobe lights — the types

found on standard aircraft — could be seen.

The object did not emit any sounds, according to the group, until it started to move slowly away at an angle. It then emitted a low noise, much like the sound of a large electric generator. "It was definitely not a combustion engine," said Weigelt.

According to Weigelt, the group saw the object, or at least the lights, at 10:32 p.m. "It was too dark out to discern the complete shape of the object. We couldn't see an outline or get any perception of depth. But, from the positions of the lights, it appeared to be bigger in size than any plane or dirigible I've ever seen," he said.

For many years prior to his

retirement, Weigelt was the District Game Protector for northern Wayne County. As a trained observer for over 34 years, Weigelt believes he has the experience necessary to be able to distinguish the difference between what often appears to be alien intervention and what is really easily-explainable natural phenomena. But this time, he was amazed at what he and the members of the group saw. "Some of the guys outside the tarp called to the rest of us when they saw the lights," he said. "When we got where we could see them, I didn't know what to think. For years, anytime someone mentioned UFO's I thought they were crazy, but this I can't explain."

NEWS-JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL
May 11, 1989

UFO group studying three local sightings

By Michael Burke
News Journal

Members of the Mutual UFO Network say they have investigated three reports of UFOs during the last two months over the Escambia County mainland.

A network report said two sightings — one on March 8 and another April 25 — were reported in the Warrington area. A third UFO sighting reportedly occurred

April 5 in the Cantonment area.

The witnesses asked to remain anonymous. Carol Salisbury, a member of the Santa Rosa-Escambia chapter of the network, said the organization believes the three reports are valid.

On March 8, two women told network investigators they saw bright lights as they drove along Gulf Beach Highway at about 10:30 p.m. As they rounded a

curve, the object appeared in front of them, hovering over the road. The network report said the women estimated that they stopped 200 yards from the object and saw it for about 30 seconds.

They described it as being about as wide as the road with two bands of yellow and green lights moving clockwise. The women told the network, a volunteer organization interested in studying UFOs, that

the object shot up and vanished as another car approached.

The network said two men reported seeing an oval-shaped UFO in the same area April 25.

On April 5, two 14-year-old girls saw an object hovering over a tree near their homes in Cantonment. The network said the witnesses described the object as having numerous white lights with a blue ring around the edge.

Conference told UFO myths must be broken

by Robert Roten

Boomerang Staff Writer

An editor of UFO magazine from Los Angeles told a Laramie audience of over 150 people Friday that UFO myths must be broken and the emotional distance between UFO contactees and the rest of the populace must be minimized in order for the "ultimate UFO secret" to be revealed.

Vicki Cooper, co-editor of UFO magazine, published in Los Angeles, was a featured speaker at the 10th Annual Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation at the UW Student Union on Friday evening.

Cooper told the audience in the Union East Ballroom that "... there appears to be a conspiratorial deal between government officials and aliens. But I don't think it has to do with underground blood-and-guts processing plants in New Mexico or anywhere else."

She said that persistent rumors of such a "blood and guts" underground alien base at Dulce, N.M., the result of a "deal" cut between the aliens and our government, remain only rumors, and not very believable ones at that.

Cooper said the existence of the Dulce base, where inhuman experiments are conducted on people, "remains a contemporary UFO legend — much like the 'ultimate UFO secret' itself and such red herrings as MJ-12 (an alleged covert UFO group) — barely heeded by the larger public and assailed by the skepticism of legitimate ufologists."

"Unfortunately, bad or nonexistent press doesn't faze the pro-Dulce drumbeaters. In their quest to provide some rationale for their terrifying stories, they keep hammering away at the UFO community. But the 'underground' proponents have lost ground from the beginning."

"Principal sources have proved to be questionable, if not downright incompetent in manufacturing their charades. No one can offer firm substantiation of the base's existence; the closest we come are random abductee descriptions and the insistent claims of those who refuse to reveal their identities."

"It's their anonymity that kills them. To me it doesn't make any sense that not one credible official will publicly stand behind his or her own claims, given that all of humanity is apparently under a doomsday-caliber threat from the heinous ac-

tivities said to be under way at the alleged Dulce base.

"In defense of the horror tale, perhaps a couple of names can be named, but I challenge their defenders to rigorously inspect the backgrounds and current behaviors of these individuals. Neither stands up under scrutiny," Cooper said of the Dulce myth proponents.

Cooper theorizes that the myth about evil aliens plotting awful things for humankind could be a kind of CIA-type disinformation campaign being waged either to sustain current political power structures or to cause discord among various UFO groups and factions.

She said, "Wild claims and elaborate depictions of the alleged base circulate like cold germs in a locker room ... besides engendering a perverse fascination, the 'alien threat' gives a curiously global twist to the exaggerated tribal warfare of international politics."

"For them and us both, it's business as usual — in fact, it's the 'us' and 'them' mentality that's being promoted here; an underground alien base scenario merely serves as an addictive mystery and a scare campaign of cosmic proportions."

"It's the hook that many are falling for, line and sinker. The idea of good humans, us, and evil aliens, them, provides a mesmerizing mirror image of the terrestrial superpower split which is so necessary to sustain a quasi-war economy. It filters in just below awareness and appeals strongly to our core fears."

"This kind of divisive imagery was also used in the '50s to magnify Cold War fears within the public. As one writer has put it, 'The warfare state requires permanent crisis and constant disinformation to compel the consent of the governed.'"

Cooper added, "Is this alien terror manufactured to add weight to the government's weapons mentality? ... Well, we have beam weapons too. The problem is generating popular support for such end-game technologies, especially at the going price. So far, an estimated \$17 billion has been spent on SDI, or 'Star Wars,' with another \$4.6 billion predicted for this year alone."

"If there is an underground base, how much is it costing taxpayers?" she asked.

Cooper said, "... whomever is dithering with the UFO community knows that for all its fringe status in a real world, the field is tailor-made

for low-key psychological warfare activities; trouble is, what's low-key to an intelligence operative or some brainy, black-suited CIA analyst can devastate a sincere UFO researcher and crucify his entire line of case investigation."

"To be sure that nobody's UFO investigations proceed far enough to really accomplish anything, the would-be controllers plant false leads, smear reputations, provoke infighting, jam communications channels with wild nonsense and generally keep the field fragmented and internally corrupt. Rumors are promulgated mercilessly and shameless propaganda tactics bolster this UFO mythology."

"One pervasive rumor has it that people dallying too close to the big UFO secret have been killed — that's another steel girder placed in the edifice of paranoia. Beware: it's designed to maintain a mild level of alarm and anticipation within the community, a collective state of mind that increases psychological vulnerability. A key strategy in low-intensity warfare, it would seem, is to prime the enemy in this manner."

"The so-called 'cosmic Watergate' is another main myth keeping the UFO populace in a constant state of nervous expectancy. This myth, however, is one based on facts. Though carping about government UFO cover-ups diverts attention and siphons off needed energy and credibility, it's undeniable that the government is hiding something. Could it possibly be thorough knowledge of and dirty dealings with the aliens?"

"... Or is the government as ignorant as the rest of us — except, perhaps for those covert characters who've laid the groundwork of a powerful, continuing UFO mythology, beginning right within the UFO community itself."

Cooper said that she thinks the aliens themselves may be part of the conspiracy.

She said, "UFOs are the 'secret agents' of the paranormal — they slip in and out of our reality field with expertness, cover their tracks pretty thoroughly, adopt a variety of identities according to some seemingly arbitrary agenda, baffle their targets, engender lies and propaganda and somehow, it should be assumed, disappear only after taking something from us, whether genetic material, intelligence on Planet Earth or simply our confidence in the scheme of things."

Cooper argued that there must be some reality behind all the UFO reports. She said, "The sheer magnitude and long-lastingness of the actual UFO phenomenon, foundation for all the mythology, argue against solely human origins ..."

There are two enduring notions about the nature of these "ufolk," Cooper said. On the one hand, they may be man's mortal enemies, almost Satanic in nature. On the other hand, they may be almost Christlike ... "that beautiful Superhuman wants to shepherd us to transcendent places, planets or dimensions ..."

Cooper said, "Too many of us blindly give in to one or the other of these larger-than-life versions of the Alien ... But it should not be forgotten that earth is a precious resource and keepsake — not for outsiders, but for us."

"No matter what their persuasion, should outsiders have some legitimate interest here they have every obligation to forthrightly be present here."

"That means not playing hide-and-seek with humanity. In a similar vein, the arrogant power specialists who are raping earth in a welter of covert actions and secret political machinations are rapidly running out of excuses for their madness. Their appalling lack of accountability to the citizenry cannot continue any longer."

At that point of her presentation, there was a lot of applause from the audience, which evidently agreed with the notion of a government coverup of alien-related activities.

Cooper continued that she thinks there is, in fact, some kind of government coverup, but it does not have to do with grisly underground alien bases.

"My guess," Cooper said, "is that the ultimate UFO secret is perhaps only minimally concerned with strange alien lifeforms and their apparent exploitation of human life."

"The wool is being pulled over our eyes in a much subtler, far more insidious way. The culturally-instilled view of the alien as the 'other' — somehow very different and very separate from us — may be the biggest lie of all."

"It is the falsehood that keeps the UFO a distant light in the sky ... It's the fabrication that keeps abductees forlorn and isolated with bad memories about the aliens' particular kind of torture and experimentation ..."

"It's the lie of remoteness, separation and abnormality that makes so few of the thinking residents on this planet take the UFO subject seriously ..."

"The ultimate UFO secret must be taken out of hiding by those who are keeping the secret, and the question re-positioned as a firm statement of our grown-up readiness to accept this as a populous, multifaceted universe. The universe in which we live is not a finite, strictly scientific place aligned to any one faith, rationale or hypothesis."

"We must collectively realize that we can win the game of minds the UFO secret incites — or war, if that's what it has to be. We will understand what is happening to us, even as the secrecy forces jealously guard the facts. Of that, there is no question."

Cooper was introduced by Leo Sprinkle, a Laramie UFO investigator who was instrumental in organizing the first Rocky Mountain UFO conferences here starting 10 years ago. Over the years, the conference has included a number of New Age topics. Sprinkle said some 180 persons had registered for the current three-day conference as of Friday evening.

The conference continues today, July 1, with "contactee" sessions starting at 9 a.m. Investigator Lew Terry will speak at 1 p.m. in the Wyoming Union East Ballroom.

Chet Snow, a historian, reincarnation researcher, and co-author, with Helen Wambach, of "Mass Dreams of the Future," will speak at 1:30 p.m. in the East Ballroom. All talks, conferences and presentations are open only to registrants.

A panel discussion of UFO experiences will be held from 2:30-4 p.m. in the East Ballroom. Panelists are Ida Kannenberg, Doree Marrical, Shirley Parrish, Karen McLean, Ann Foster, Dottie Burrow, Mary Sewall, Jackie Blue and Wanda McGuire.

A banquet will be held at the Crane-Hill Dining Hall, followed by the keynote address of the convention by Edith Fiore, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist in private practice in Saratoga, Calif.

The topic of Fiore's talk will be "A Psychologist Reveals Case Studies of UFO Abductions." Fiore's talk is part of the theme of the conference this year, "The Contributions of Female UFO Investigators."

BOOMERANG, Laramie, WY 4

July 1, 1989

Close Encounters Reported Throughout Area

By KIM OPATKA
Bulletin Staff Writer

Part Two of a six-part series on UFOs recounts the stories of three area men who claim to have had encounters with unidentified flying objects in Derry and Unity townships.

Part Two

One, a businessman from the Derry area, asked that he not be identified in print, although he willingly identified himself to a Bulletin reporter. Don (not his real name) said he didn't want to be ridiculed.

Bill Dascani of Latrobe had a UFO encounter in 1968, and says he is sure it was not from this earth. His six years of experience working on aircraft in the military acquainting him with virtually every type of craft the U.S. government had at the time.

And Jed (not his real name) of Derry Township claims to have seen a large UFO twice near New Derry while on his way to work, the second encounter playing havoc with his car radio and his electronic pager.

Dascani said he has told his story "a million million times. I can't hardly forget it, in February of 1968. And I didn't drink, didn't smoke, nothing that would have made me see anything strange."

He said he had never even believed in UFOs, once getting into a fistfight with his brother on the subject. He had been married to his first wife (they are now divorced) almost a year, and lived along the Greensburg-Mount Pleasant Road near the Westmoreland County fairgrounds in a mobile home when they saw it.

As he was getting ready for bed he looked out the window in the back of the trailer, he said, because the forecast for the next day was for snow, he had no snow tires on his car, and was worried about being able to get to work. As he looked outside, he saw an object shaped like a half-circle in the sky.

"It blocked out the sky above, about as big as a good-sized barn. It was about 50 to 75 feet off the ground," he said, "and it stopped at a distance from the house to the pond. I estimated it was 50 feet, and about 50 feet off the ground too."

He called his wife to the window and, frightened, she turned her head and would not look at the object. When it passed overhead, he said he could see "the center, hollow, turning. It was all lit up underneath, and when it came over it was like looking up through a lampshade. Lights inside were turning in one direction, and going so fast the other way too. It was spinning fast inside, but the outside didn't move like the tunnel. You could tell that what was keeping it moving was the spinning."

He described the object as being dark gray, and old-looking, with round holes, "like cannon balls hit it," although they "looked too perfect to be accidental." Three or four long, antenna-like objects were protruding from the sides, starting out big and coming to a point at the end of each, he said.

Dascani said as he scanned the object he saw what looked like someone looking at him, a human-like figure, behind which was a great big lighted panel, then two more figures came out from what looked like a sliding glass door. Not wanting to be the only witness, he called his brother Jim who brought his wife

along. The four Dascanis then got in the car and followed the object, which had drifted down over a hill, and appeared as a bright light in the sky above them.

As the car reached the bottom of the hill and stopped, he said the object stopped.

"Then it went straight up about 75 feet and was as white as could be. It kept going straight up as far as we could see, turned red or green and seemed to ascend at an angle up further."

He said he was excited when he saw it, not scared, and has spent 20 years looking to see something like it again. He even carried a camera around with him, hoping he could snap a picture of it if it appeared again, to prove to those who laughed at his tale that he saw what he did.

Don has seen two objects, he claims, also large in size, both sightings occurring at around dusk, one at Kingston Cutoff and the other in Loyallhanna, Derry Township.

His sightings occurred within three or four months of each other, about six years ago. The first happened as he was traveling down Kingston hill, nearly to the intersection.

"It was dusk, almost dark and I did not have my headlights on. I just drove underneath it. I was coming off the hill and I would have seen it," he said. "At the intersection I drove under it, it was gray, metallic and saucer-shaped. Directly under it, midway, it had a very large door, probably as big as a house, at least it seemed like the outline of a door."

"It was all so quick. It had amber, glowing round lights around the perimeter, about three feet apart. A big glow came in the truck, and the glow is what caught my attention. It was like when you drive under a blinking traffic light."

He saw flashing lights, "going around like a chase light" and looked up to see it directly above him. Don said that while he has always wanted to see a UFO "it was unexpected. It scared me. I stepped on the gas and drove completely under it. It was making a low, loud humming noise, and the truck wasn't that fast."

"The noise was almost deafening," he said. "I still get goosebumps when I think about it. I got out from underneath it and it was like 40 to 50 years in diameter," hovering low, about 50 feet. He drove under it again and continued on into Derry at about 8 or 8:30 p.m. He said he told his wife and some

others, who went out to look for it but did not see anything.

"When I first walked in my wife thought I had been in a bad accident or had seen a bad accident," he recalled.

His second encounter lasted about three or four seconds, and at first appeared as if a jet was approaching on the roadway behind him. As it passed over him he saw 30 or 40 oval-shaped circles of light on the road in front of him, bright disco-type lights, and made a loud, rumbling noise.

"It was definitely not a plane. There is no question," he said. "It was round and it had no wings."

Jed's first of two sightings occurred Nov. 17, 1987, he reported, at about 5:30 or 6:30 a.m., as he was getting ready for work. A loud, rumbling noise got his attention, but when he looked out the window he saw nothing and continued to get ready for work.

"It was real loud, it sounded like a jet. When I got in the shower I heard it again," he said. "Outside there was nothing. I did a few things and headed to work. It was close to 6:30 a.m. I went outside and saw a big light. It was good-sized, about 1,000 feet away from me, round, and it moved left and right real fast."

"A beam was shining down to the ground and I could see the tree it was shining on plain as day. It was dark and I could see everything that's how bright it was. That's all it was was a ball of light, and it moved left and right."

Jed said he stood and watched it, then started to go to get his wife, but "it made a real loud noise and shot straight into the sky and it was gone."

His second sighting was even more unwelcome than the first, he said.

"One was enough. I didn't want to see the first one. It was October 2, 1988, and it was about 6:45 a.m. I was going to work and on the way at the intersection at the Grange Hall (on Bergman Road), where you go up to Route 982, right up there. I was headed up to the stop sign and it was straight ahead. There was a light 50 feet in the air and it was 12 to 15 feet across. It was bright with a steady light and it wasn't shining a beam."

"It had two divisions running vertically like two dark spots," he said. "I sat and looked at it and then I started to make a left (to New Derry) and when I moved it moved. When I stopped it stopped. When I moved it moved."

"When I was approaching the intersection my radio went nuts before I pulled up. It went crazy, all static, and the pager I had I thought it was off and it started making all kinds of noise. I reached down to turn it off and it was already off and it just went wild."

As Jed approached New Derry it left, but when he went to use his pager later in the day it would not work. When it was sent for repair he said the wires were melted off.

"They asked what I did, if it had come into any electrical contact, and I said no...When I saw it (UFO) I had goosebumps on my arm. It felt like my hair was standing up," he said.

Don said the object he saw had no visible signs of propulsion, while both Dascani and Jed likened the objects they sighted to the military's Harrier jet, although in 1968, Dascani said there was nothing like that. The difference between what he saw and the Harrier, Jed said, was the way it lifted off the ground and the speed with which it moved.

When Pennsylvania Association for the Study of Unexplained (PASU) investigated his sightings, Jed said he was surprised at the detail the interviewers asked for, and at how they asked things in a different way to see if he would give the same answer. A group member even called the Air Force to see if a Harrier jet had been in the area, and calls were made to local airports to see if there was anything planned going on.

"I definitely think I saw something," Jed concludes. "If you had asked me before I would have laughed. I thought it was all garbage."

Don said as he sat in the PASU office and was told others had seen similar things, "I was more of a nervous wreck," because the things they were telling him made his experience seem more real.

"I don't care to see it again," Don said. "If someone called on the phone and said there was a saucer out there and asked if I wanted to go see it, I don't think I'd go. I sure wouldn't want to be by myself when I see one. It's the stuff you're not expecting that makes your hair stand up. It puts the fear of God in you. It's sure as heck not of this earth, I don't know of any country that has flying saucers."

"I hate for it to have been me," Dascani says of his sighting. "I wish it would have been anyone else. If I'd had a camera there would have

been no question as to what it was, because a lot of people don't believe me. But I know what I saw and if they don't believe me I just turn and walk away."

Admitting he probably wouldn't have believed such a story if someone had walked up and told him the same thing before his sighting, Dascani still ponders the possibilities of extraterrestrial life.

"It was amazing to me. I worked six years on aircraft carriers and have done a lot of things. I was a non-believer until I saw it. It was a surprise and I often ask 'Why me?' I've analyzed it all my life."

He says he would like to be able to visualize the whole thing again clearly, in precise detail, even though when he thinks of it now he can still picture it, just not in as much detail.

"Only so many people are picked to be president," he says regarding why he felt he was able to see such a phenomenon. "Some people are given the chance to see such a thing and some aren't. I've been looking for 20 years since then and I've never seen anything like it yet...It's always fresh in my mind, no matter what else I have done."

TENNESSEAN, Nashville,
TN - June 9, 1989



JERRY
THOMPSON

Thompson's Station

One group's not laughing at UFO pad

A while back when Metro Councilman George Darden proposed a bill to establish a landing pad for unidentified flying objects not many people took him seriously.

Some people even laughed at Darden's proposal and pointed to his previously defeated bill that would have banned sex in the Metro Courthouse.

However, when a clerk was caught engaging in sex in the courthouse, those who laughed loudest could hardly be heard.

And, Darden just could have the last laugh on his UFO bill, too.

You see, the Southeast Regional UFO Communications Center has announced the opening of a new UFO information network that will be located right here in Nashville. The first meeting of the UFO communications network officials will be 3-5 p.m. June 17 at the Rodeway Inn, Airport.

In addition to any space aliens interested in attending, the meeting will also be open to the general public. Donations will be welcome.

The UFO center is designed to provide free information concerning UFOs to the Davidson County community. The information will include continuing research and sessions for those who have experienced UFO contact.

DR. LEILANI Dearing and Dan Dearing are co-founders of the center. Both claim to have been in telepathic and physical contact with Pleiadians (from a planet called Pleiades) for the last several years.

During this first meeting, the purpose of the center will be explained. That alone seems to me worth the price of the donation, but there's more. The mission of the Pleiadian visitors on Earth will be explained.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5 - TENNESSEAN,
Nashville, TN - June 9, 1989)

The Dearing's claim the Pleiadians that have been in telepathic and physical contact with Leilani and Dan indicate they are a group known as "Niomy," which means harmony in their language.

Somehow that name sounds remarkably close to "Naomi" which is half of the country music duo The Judds, which means harmony in any language.

I talked yesterday with Leilani who told me about being whisked from her home on a remote part of Maui and taken by spaceship to Pleiades.

"When the spaceship landed," she said, "I walked into the clouds. I heard beautiful music and saw beautiful people with a golden hue. They had black hair and eyes.

"Their planet is very similar to ours except they live in world peace

and celebrate it through joy celebrations like the one I saw. I know it sounds kooky and crazy, but I woke up one day singing their songs. They communicate in harmonic patterns."

I asked her if she thought Darden might also be in contact with the Pleiadians.

"IT'S POSSIBLE," she said. "Many times they communicate with people subconsciously through dreams and other means."

If they are really in contact with Darden it may explain why he wanted to build a landing pad.

If they had a place to land, I'd almost be willing to bet they'd come and take him for a ride on a spaceship.

What politician would refuse a free junket — to anywhere? ■

WAYNE INDEPENDENT, Honesdale, PA - May 24, 1989
CR: S. Gordon

Some speculate 'UFOs' may be ultralights

By JENNIFER SHAFFER
Staff Writer

WAYNE — Since Saturday evening, many people have been curious, if not a little apprehensive, regarding the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO) in the northern Wayne County area. A new twist in the story may help to allay some fears and provide a possible solution to the reported sightings.

On Tuesday morning, a man, who wishes to remain anonymous, called the Wayne Independent and said that in the past he himself had been confused between what at first appeared to be a UFO and a craft called an ultra light. An ultra light can sometimes be flown at night, and with its slow movements and blinking lights, can easily be mistaken for an alien spacecraft by unsuspecting viewers.

Art Margotta, from Lewis Bros. in Justice, specializes in the sale of hovercrafts and ultra lights. According to Margotta, an ultra light is basically like a plane in size, design and function. They can fly very slowly and are equipped with a series of blue, red, and white lights that can be seen for miles at a time. They are also equipped with a strobe light, which blinks once every second.

A group of ultra light pilots in the

area reported that they were flying during dusk on both Saturday and Sunday evening near the Clifford area, but were on the ground by 9 p.m. The sightings, however, were reported to have taken place around 11 p.m.

Stan Gordon, from the Pennsylvania Assoc. for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU) says that the northeast area of Pa. has been a prime area for sightings for many years. He recommends that all sightings be reported to PASU by calling their 24-hour hotline at (412) 838-7768, or by writing to PASU, Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg, Pa., 15601.

PASU is a volunteer organization that works to investigate and study any reported sightings of unexplained phenomena throughout Pa. and several surrounding states. Said Gordon, "I've been investigating unexplained happenings for over thirty years, and although I've been to many sights, I have never seen a UFO myself. We appreciate calls from people who have witnessed unexplainable events, because every bit of information helps."

PASU researchers have reported that witnesses present during recent sightings have described the objects to be more rectangular or cigar-shaped in nature, as opposed to the usual disc shape, and in sizes near 300 feet in length.

WAYNE INDEPENDENT, Honesdale, PA - May 22, 1989

More UFO sightings noted

REGION — Several Wayne County residents were startled and amazed this weekend over the alleged sightings of an unidentified flying object (UFO) in the area. State Police at Honesdale report that a call was received Saturday evening regarding a sighting near Equinunk,

but could provide no further information.

A Lake Como couple also reported that a UFO was seen by neighbors on Saturday evening over Lake Como. However, when the couple went to view the scene, they found nothing.

Another Lake Como resident who allegedly saw the UFO could not be reached for comment.

State police at Hancock were unable to confirm the reports as of this morning.

CR: S. Gordon

NEWS AND COURIER, Charleston, SC - July 18, 1989 CR: D. Gordon

'I looked up and saw an enormous ball of fire'

By TERRY JOYCE
Post-Courier Reporter

Some think it was a meteor. A few say it might have been an airplane. Others believe they saw a UFO.

Some just plain don't know what to think of the huge, bright object that raced across the nighttime skies.

Whatever flew over the Lowcountry early Sunday still had folks buzzing on Monday, while military and government spokesmen seemed to be shrugging their shoulders.

"At first, I thought it was something like a big 4th of July sky-rocket," said Ernest R. Banz of Summerville. "It was real colorful — green, yellow and white. It looked like it was sparkling, with little balls of light trailing out behind."

Banz is one of several who told The News and Courier they saw something — perhaps a meteor, perhaps a UFO — in the sky sometime between 1:15 a.m. and 2 a.m. Sunday. Banz said he and 97 others, all members of the Summerville Bassmasters fishing club, were on the east branch of the Cooper River that night in an all-night fishing tournament. At least some of them saw something.

"I couldn't see the object itself," Banz said. "What I saw looked like something breaking up in the atmosphere. ... It was pretty and colorful and left a trail in the sky that was pink, or sort of salmon-colored."

Professor William R. Kubinec, chairman of the physics department at the College of Charleston, didn't see the object but said that "a couple of meteor showers are active now."

One such event, known as the Capricornids shower, is characterized by meteors that are "yellow, often bright, with big fireballs," he said. "For an astronomical explanation, that's the best guess."

Plenty of people — from North Charleston, west of the Ashley, on a boat at Lake Marion and along the Grand Strand — reported they saw something in the sky. In Myrtle Beach, a 38-year-old printer photographed it with his video camera.

Leo Martin said he was in the parking lot at the Myrtle Beach Speedway with his wife when she looked up in the sky and asked, "Lee, what is that?"

"I looked up and saw an enormous ball of fire with a tremendous tail. I'm former Air Force and have never seen anything like that," Martin said during a telephone interview.

"I had the video camera dangling around my neck from filming the races, and I immediately brought it up and started filming. At the moment I started, there was a low roaring sound ... similar to a very large aircraft like a bomber or the tremendous roar of the space shuttle. ... I got about 40 seconds worth of tape."

He said he estimated the object was flying at 10,000 to 15,000 feet and moving about 500 miles per

hour. "For the altitude it was moving very slowly as far as I was concerned. It was nothing like a comet. It was a straight flight, no curvature to it whatsoever. It was headed due east from Florence straight out over the ocean. Crossed directly over us and headed to the ocean," Martin said.

The tape came out great, and Martin said he was contacted by CNN and ABC-TV, who both wanted it. He agreed to sell it to ABC for an undisclosed price.

"At first, I didn't want to release the tape because if it was a bad accident, I wanted to save it for the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base," Martin explained. But when base personnel told him they didn't have any planes in the area that night, he decided to give in to ABC.

"No, I don't believe in UFOs," Martin said. "I think there's an explanation for it."

Meanwhile, two of Banz' fishing companions said they, too, saw an object in the skies.

"I first thought it was a meteor shower, but it was running parallel to the surface" of the earth, said Rodney Hooker of Summerville, president of the fishing club. He said he and Edward J. Arahill, also of Summerville, saw the object.

Arahill said he saw something "like a bright light, far in the distance, like a bright sky rocket." The object then flew over his and Hooker's boat, heading toward Charleston.

It could have been a meteor, or even a spacecraft burning up as it re-entered the atmosphere. "But I've seen a lot of meteor showers and never anything like this," said Arahill.

"It must have been hundreds of miles away, moving at tremendous speed. It went from horizon to horizon. Most meteor showers have a trajectory. They fall and burn up. This didn't."

In the meantime, any theories connecting the sighting with the weather — especially a temperature inversion — were ruled out.

Inversions can make distant objects appear where they shouldn't, but "there was no inversion that night," said Dick Shenot, meteorologist-in-charge at the Charleston office of the National Weather Service.

"Besides, we got reports of this thing all the way down to Daufuskie Island," he said. "No inversion could have caused that."

Another man, Mount Pleasant resident Bruce W. Causey, said the sight of the mysterious object "made tears come to my eyes."

Causey said he was working at the Amoco Chemical Co. across the Cooper River from the Charleston Naval Weapons Station, when he first noticed what he thought were the lights of an airplane on the north horizon.

A little later he looked up and saw something passing in the clear skies above his head with about 20 to 30 whitish lights of varying intensities. A short glow followed the object. He

said he strained his ears but there was only silence as the lights continued on a southerly course.

Causey said he watched the "thing" for about 15 to 20 seconds before it disappeared behind one of the company's silos at 1:22 a.m.

After it passed, Causey said he felt nervous. "I've never seen anything like it before," he said.

If the object were the size of a C-141 jet transport, Causey said he'd estimate it was about 400 feet above when it passed over him. But since there was no reference point, he said he couldn't judge its size nor distance.

In the past, Causey said he was skeptical about reported UFO sightings. Now his attitude is changing, he said.

Nicole Parker, a Georgetown resident, said she and four friends were swimming in a pool about 1:45 a.m. Sunday when they saw "an object, bright in front, trailing off with a tail in the back, and it had white lights on the sides."

She said it was bigger than an airplane and didn't make any noise. "It was low enough that if it was a plane we could have heard it," Ms. Parker said.

Some people guessed that the object could've been a plane out of Myrtle Beach, towing a banner with an advertising sign. But a check with banner company officials along the Grand Strand indicated none had planes in the air early Sunday. Nor are the planes and banners equipped with lights, the owners said.

Another woman, Allison Carwile of Spartanburg, told The News and Courier she and three others saw the object while they were fishing from a boat on Lake Marion.

"I saw a bright light in the distance. I first thought it was a blimp. Then it looked like a sky rocket. It had bright spots, like a comet," she said.

The object disappeared behind some clouds, heading toward Charleston, Ms. Carwile said.

Earlier Monday, authorities said they didn't know what the object may have been.

Capt. Rhonda Lustig, a spokesman for the Charleston Air Force Base, said "numerous" calls from the Remount Road to West Ashley areas were received by base operations personnel from 1:35 a.m. to 1:45 a.m., but no threatening or unidentifiable objects showed up on Air Force radar screens.

And, she said, a master sergeant stationed at the base reported he had "seen something" early Sunday. The sergeant could not be reached for comment, she said.

In Atlanta, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Roger Myers said his agency no longer tracks UFO sightings.

"We tell people to call their local police," Myers said. "I guess it's the official position of the government that UFOs don't exist."

WAYNE INDEPENDENT, Honesdale, PA - May 23, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

Eyewitnesses report on possible Wayne UFO sightings

By JENNIFER SHAFFER
Staff Writer

PINE MILL — Additional eyewitness reports lead many to believe that the alleged sighting of an unidentified flying object in the area this weekend is more than just an isolated circumstance. Donald and Yolanda Malloy, Pine Mill, report that they observed something quite high in the sky around 11 p.m. on the night of Saturday, May 21.

They described the sight to be an object suspended in the sky,

complete with eight lights, two wings and a curved front. Of the eight lights, two were amber in color. The rest were bright white. Apparently, when the couple first observed the sight, the lights were all on but were not blinking.

As the couple watched, the object began to move "ever so slightly, as if it knew it was being watched" and the amber lights in the front began to blink. The object turned very slowly, omitting a droning, whirring sound. Said Mrs. Malloy, "I'm not sure what it was, but it was

definitely not a plane or a helicopter."

The Malloys reside in Elizabeth, N.J., but visit their Pine Mill property on weekends and in the summer. According to what they've been told, an event similar to the one they witnessed Saturday night occurred in the late 1960's, before they bought the property. Neighbors told the couple that a craft of some sort had landed in one of the back fields, but had lifted itself off the ground before anyone could reach it. "We've never been believers, said

Mrs. Malloy, "but what we saw Saturday night makes us reconsider what our neighbors told us years ago. I've never before in my life seen anything like this."

Another area resident, Randy Ripple, Lake Como, reported a similar sighting. As he was returning home from Hancock, N.Y., Saturday evening, Ripple saw a long object suspended in the air over the lake in the direction of Camp Morasha. The strangely shaped object reportedly had eleven lights, two of which were blinking.

Three of the lights seemed to form a triangle in the object's front.

Ripple said he parked his car for several minutes and watched the object move "very slowly." He reportedly heard no sound. Said Ripple, "It was very foggy that night and the object could have been anything. But as I was sitting there another car slowed down. I'm sure that whatever it was, they saw it, too."

Kecksburg Crash Controversial

By KIM OPATKA
Bulletin Staff Writer

This final article in a six-part series on unidentified flying objects (UFOS) examines one of the most talked about and controversial incidents in the area, what has been termed a meteorite by some and an alien craft by others, which crashed in Kecksburg December 9, 1965.

The object was first seen streaking across the sky, with thousands from Michigan to New York witnessing a brilliant ball of fire which left a smoke trail, visible for about 20 minutes after it passed.

Many, including pilots who observed it, thought it was an aircraft which was on fire. Reports of debris from the object were made

Part Six

in many states, and an Ohio fire department was called to extinguish 10 small fires in an area where witnesses said they saw flaming fragments falling from the sky.

Shock waves were reported by pilots, and a seismograph near Detroit recorded a shock, wrote investigator Stan Gordon, of Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU) in a recent journal article. The crash has been a pet project of the Greensburg man "since the night it happened," he said, noting he is still trying to obtain information on the incident.

Although the military eventually labeled the object a meteor, as did the Associated Press account published in *The Bulletin* the day after the crash, Gordon says recent evidence, including the discovery of a man who saw the object, supports the idea that the object was a true UFO.

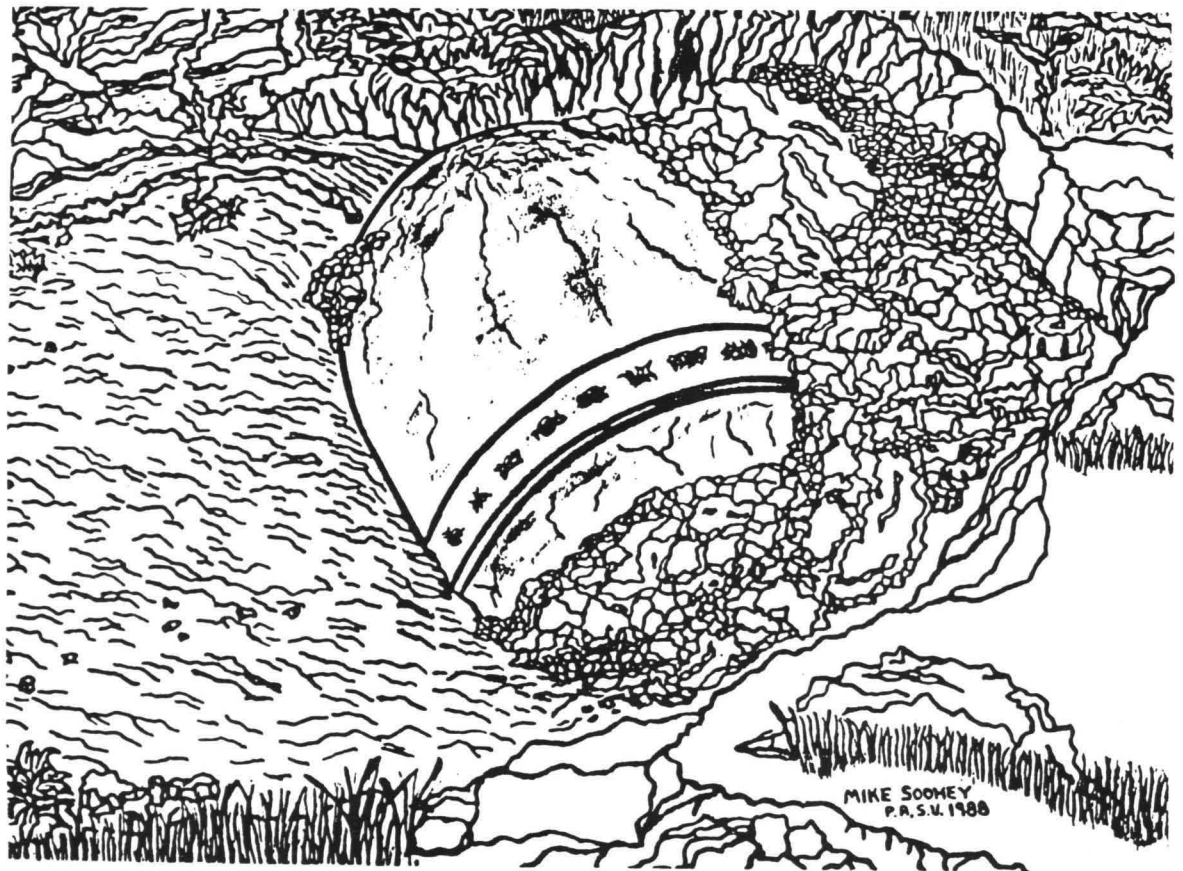
"I was a teen-ager then," said John (not his real name). "It was in the early part of December and there was a little snow and a little rain, and mud."

He was called to the scene after the 4:44 p.m. crash as a fireman from the Latrobe area, to search for the crashed object.

"I had seen a fiery object in the sky. I can't say exactly which direction but it was coming from the north. It was not too much longer and the fire whistle went off," he said. "I answered the call and was told they needed a search team because at the time they believed it was a downed aircraft. And I thought, 'my God, this is what I have just seen.'"

When firemen arrived at the Kecksburg Fire Hall, maps were reviewed and groups were given sections to search.

"It was getting semi-dusk and we had flashlights. We were taken in the back of a truck and dropped off and told to go 'this way' which we



Sketch Of Object In Kecksburg Crash

did. I was not on the initial contact team. Another team found the object.

"It was definitely, unequivocally, positively, absolutely no aircraft, plane, helicopter or rocket, at least not to my knowledge. It was in an area that was part field and part woods and we went down to investigate," he said.

"We found the object had crashed at a 30 to 40 degree angle, and had broken off numerous tree branches in its impact path. My initial reaction was 'This is no airplane.' I observed no shrapnel, no breaking up of the fuselage. It was one solid piece, no doors, no windows.

"Preliminary searches found no bodies or casualties. It was shaped like an acorn, laying on its side, like the acorn nut is in its shell when it's on a tree," he explained. "I've been a machinist for 24 years and I've worked with a tremendous amount of different metals, and I have never seen any type of metal that looked even close to that."

John said the object was not broken, "not even cracked, just dented a bit. It did not give off smoke, steam or vapors, at least none that we could see."

Reports from neighbors in the area said it had given off a faint trail of blue smoke, which disappeared after the crash.

He described the portion visible as between eight and 10 feet long, six and seven feet across, and said a man of average height would probably have had little trouble standing up inside it. The crater it plowed into the ground was "rectangular in shape."

John said the state police were there and the area was soon quarantined.

"They drove us out. It was late at night when we finally got back to the fire hall and it had been completely taken over by the military. They were carrying in large pieces of equipment, radios and such, and they had armed guards posted outside so nobody could get in or out. The firemen were thrown out. We weren't even allowed in to use the bathroom.

"The military had control of the whole operation," John recalled. "After a while we saw a flat bed truck come by with some other military equipment, a crane or something.

"It was not too much longer, an hour, and hour and a half, when the trucks came back and there was a large object on the back of the flat bed, covered by a tarp, with military escorts front and back. I got the feeling that if you had stepped on the road you were dead meat. They weren't stopping for anything."

Although the object was later said to be a meteorite, John doesn't buy the explanation.

"It had writing on it, not like your average writing, but more like ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. It had sort of a bumper on it, like a ribbon about six to 10 inches wide, and it stood out. It was elliptical the whole way around and the writing was on this bumper. It's nothing like I've ever seen, and I'm an avid reader. I read a lot of books on Egypt, the Incas, Peruvians, Russians and I've never to this day come across

anything that looked like that."

John notes that later it was denied that the object was even a meteorite, and the military "denied they were even in the area. But I know there were Air Force and Army personnel involved. It was like they just came out of the woodwork."

Gordon's research has revealed that one of the military groups involved was most likely to be the 662nd Radar Squadron, based at the Oakdale Armory, located near Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

The squadron was found to be under the control of the Aerospace Defense Command, and attempts to get information on the Kecksburg crash, through the Freedom of Information Act, have not provided much to go on.

One response said there had been no record of the squadron being activated on that date, Gordon said, wondering how so much equipment and personnel could be activated while the monthly report showed no entry on Dec. 9.

Through his research, Gordon says he knows the Air Force was still investigating UFO cases at the public level then, and that it was apparently the Project Blue Book staff which contacted the 662nd squadron. Subsequent reports have led him to theorize that even the Project Blue Book staff was not made aware of objects which could "affect national security," and that some intelligence teams investigated crashed of "foreign

(continued on page 8) 7

(continued from page 7 -
BULLETIN, Latrobe, PA
- May 6, 1989)
space vehicles."

Another strange occurrence that night, Gordon said, was reports by some civilians that radiation was released. He explained that some children playing in the area had reportedly been told by military personnel that that was a possibility, and men in decontamination suits were allegedly seen at the site later the next day.

Although he has considered the possibility that the object could have been space debris or a test device, Gordon says documents and evidence obtained in the last few years lead more in the direction of it being a "true UFO."

John concurs.

"It was definitely not of this planet. At the time I was a skeptical teen, but when you see something like that you don't forget it. When you get called out like that from the fire department you think you're going out looking for an aircraft of some sort, not a UFO.

"I'll never forget it. I still want to know what the hell it was."

JOURNAL, Ithaca, NY - July 18, 1989

80 residents called sheriff about UFO

'I've never seen helicopters do that'

By CHRIS SWINGLE
Journal Staff

There's still no definitive word on just what was flying around Ithaca skies around 10 p.m. Saturday. But there are lots of possibilities.

After the state police started receiving telephone inquiries that evening and talked about the sightings over police radios, someone from the Seneca Army Depot phoned them.

State police Sgt. Robert Parlett said the depot spokesman said the Army had night maneuvers under way, and were flying slow-moving helicopters in formation.

"We have not been invaded by people from another planet," Parlett said.

But Tony Struzik, a civilian executive assistant at the depot, checked records Monday on a reserve training unit's weekend activities and said no one was flying that night.

The Tompkins County sheriff's department received about 80 calls from people who

spotted something in the sky that was brightly lit, a spokeswoman there said Monday.

Descriptions were similar to those given eight weeks earlier, when some 75 calls were received by local police agencies.

So were helicopters overhead Saturday?

James Woodard of Dryden said he can't believe that helicopters could have traveled in the circle, triangle and horizontal patterns he saw. Woodard said he served in an Army infantry unit for four years that almost exclusively used helicopters, and, "I've never seen helicopters do that."

Also, he said, there was no "whop, whop, whop" rotor noise. "All I heard was like a hum," Woodard said.

Whatever it was, Tompkins County residents weren't the only viewers.

Enough people saw the same lights in Binghamton Saturday that WBNG-TV 12 television news discussed the mystery as its top story Sunday night, complete with a home videotape of the sight.

About 3,000 racetrack spectators in Whitney Point saw the object around 10:45 p.m., WBNG-TV reported.

Robert Nicholas, the manager at Tompkins County Airport, is convinced that it's all a gag done by pilots who want people to think they've seen a UFO. "I think it's just some people who do it for a laugh."

But Nicholas doesn't have any proof. "We still don't know who it is."

A spokesman at the Fort Drum military base near Watertown said the post doesn't track each of the many aircraft it oversees, so personnel there couldn't say if any of those aircraft might have been over the Tompkins County area Saturday.

What about the theory that it was a visit from outer space?

"I just think it's a little odd that the aliens — if they're aliens — would come out at the same time on a Saturday night," Nicholas said, referring to sightings exactly eight weeks earlier at roughly the same time of night.

John MacLean, a maintenance supervisor at the airport, was working Saturday night and got a couple dozen calls from curious observers.

He said went outside and saw what looked like six aircraft flying in formation.

"I'm convinced it was not a UFO," MacLean said.

There was no sound of blades rotating, MacLean said, so he doesn't think it was helicopters. But he said he could hear the noise of engines once they got closer.

Michael Holdridge, 40, saw the bright lights from his Coddington Road home. He was confused at the lack of noise. "I listened," he said. "I listened hard. I heard nothing."

"I know planes. I fly planes," Holdridge said, adding that what he saw moved too slowly to be any conventional aircraft.

Dick Shulman watched the lights through binoculars from a boat in the middle of Cayuga Lake, about two miles south of Taughannock State Park, on Saturday night.

"It was truly strange because it was huge," Shulman said, adding that the object made no sound.

Just 10 minutes before he spotted it, Shulman said he had remarked to his friends what a beautiful night it was, and how funny it would be if a UFO landed on the water.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - July 10, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

Mystery of Meteor Road still unsolved

By The Tribune-Review

There's no telling who'll show up in Kecksburg Aug. 13 when the Community Day Parade trumpets the 50th anniversary of the Kecksburg Volunteer Fire Department.

A chance exists that someone will boldly go beyond inspiring tales of firefighting heroics into another world to debate whether a UFO or meteor landed in a wooded area off Meteor Road — that's right, METEOR ROAD — 24 years ago.

Talk threatens to climb beyond the stratosphere ever since a Japanese television crew visited the area in Mt. Pleasant Township earlier in the year. The footage shot — no one seems to know what will be highlighted — will form part of a two-hour special scheduled to air in that country later in the year, possibly September.

Lore about what happened on Dec. 9, 1965, encroaches on the Zone of Beyond Bizzaro.

The Office of Special Investigations at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, won't comment on whether its personnel were running around Meteor Road that day.

The township supervisors thought enough of what occurred then to christen the byway as Meteor Road. As expected, the road signs disappear as fast as a shooting star, said township Secretary Ray Zimmerman.

"They're a big item," he says.

Kecksburg Fire Department President Jim Mayes was on the road that day, looking down into a field as military personnel, state police and a swarm of authorities converged to do something mysterious and keep area residents from seeing it.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," said Mayes. "We had the four-wheel-drive truck and we took the military on down. They kept people there all night. There was a tractor-trailer and a couple other vehicles, and I still say they took something out of there. The big thing about it was the blue blinding lights — like a timing light."

The field of Jerome and Valeria Miller was tramped through by Boy Scouts a day later, searching for the magnet that would later draw college students from the University of Colorado and the film crew from Japan.

Valeria Miller was not at home at the time of the most famous drop-in since John Martin Keck started the village of Kecksburg in the 1860s.

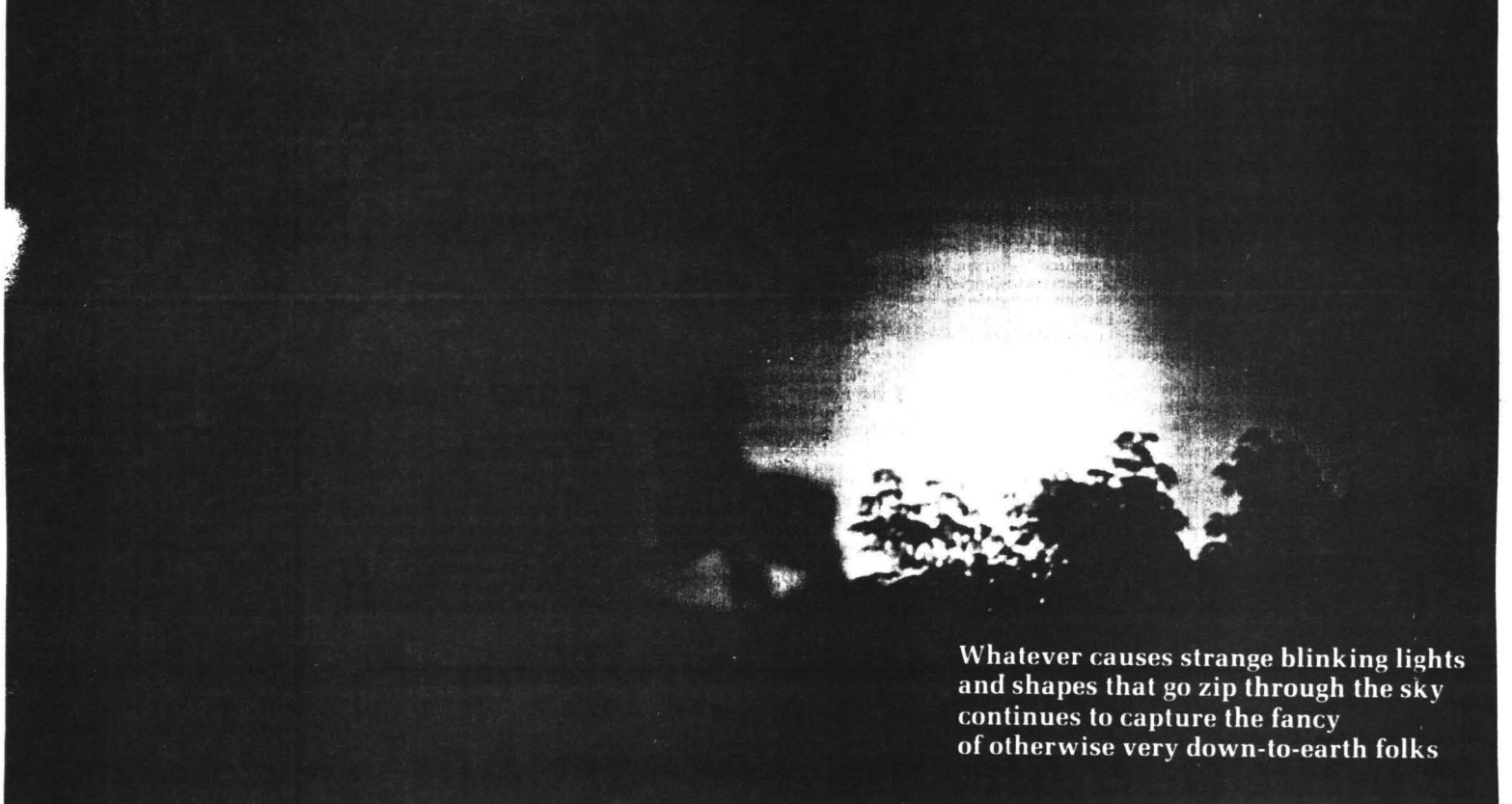
Stan Gordon, who heads the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, hasn't completely ruled out that space debris — and not a UFO — went down in the area.

But the easier to swallow suggestion has choked one eyewitness who disputed that theory in talking with Gordon.

The eyewitness, identified only as Pete by Gordon, said the object resembled a giant metal acorn and contained writing that "looked like hieroglyphics" on part of its raised surface. The object was supposedly loaded onto a flatbed trailer, covered with a tarp and hauled to an unknown location.

Gordon is in search of more witnesses who might want to come forward on what made the noise heard around the world, and whether, just by chance, anyone might have seen anything leave that area before authorities arrived.

Strangers in the night?



Whatever causes strange blinking lights and shapes that go zip through the sky continues to capture the fancy of otherwise very down-to-earth folks

(Staff photo by Donald R. Boorse)

UFO sightings numerous two decades after Air Force stopped identifying them

By Addam Schwartz
Staff Writer

A FAMILY OF FIVE was driving along Route 152 in Chalfont about 6:50 p.m. Jan. 31, 1988. The mother looked at the sky and saw a charcoal-black triangular object with three huge white lights. A large red light and some smaller white ones shone from beneath it.

The object was 50 feet above the car and looked as big as a house. It appeared to be concave underneath. It made no noise.

The father steered the car onto Lower State Road and parked. He and his family watched as the object hovered above them. The 7-year-old daughter started to cry before the object finally moved away, about five minutes after it first came into view.

More than 40 years after the flying saucer scare of the late 1940s, UFOs are no longer the exclusive property of rural swamplands, bad movies and supermarket tabloids.

But the gap between those who say the objects are interplanetary spacecraft and those who blame weather balloons and natural occurrences is still wider than the Milky Way.

The Chalfont sighting was one of about 300 reports statewide received last year by the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU), according to Stan Gordon, founder and director of operations.

A similar pace was evident early this year.

WHERE TO CALL

Here's where you can call if you think you've encountered an unidentified flying object:

- Thomas J. Carey, Mutual UFO Network Inc.: 947-6287.
- Stan Gordon, Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained: (412) 823-1834. PASU also operates a 24-hour hot line: (412) 838-7768.

Anyone wishing to report sightings, past or present, may write to PASU, 6 Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

"What's kind of interesting is the fact that back in the '40s, '50s and '60s, you had a lot of reports of (UFOs) that were typical flying saucers, which is a term I hate to use," Gordon said.

Today's objects tend to be triangular, cigar-shaped or rectangular and silent.

Chief Journalist Rich Beth, a public affairs officer with the Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Horsham Township, said he knows of no UFO reports received in his tenure at the base. He started in October 1988.

There was one incident last fall in which a man called the air station and threatened to shoot down a set of rotating red and green lights that hovered near his house, Beth said. "He called it a UFO. We verified that it was a helicopter."

The Air Force unit at Willow Grove has received no UFO sighting reports, said an officer at the base who declined to give his name.

PASU, based in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, is a state-

wide scientific clearinghouse for UFO sightings. Its volunteer members include scientists, engineers, physicians, former military officers — all with a background in research.

Gordon said the organization gets reports from police departments across the state, and sometimes from the federal government, as well as from people who saw something strange in the sky.

"I've been involved in this for over 29 years," he said, anticipating the inevitable question, "and I've never seen a UFO."

But after almost three decades of interviewing people who say they have seen strange lights in the sky, or oddly shaped flying craft, he believes the claims deserve study.

UFOs first entered the American consciousness in the late 1940s after a pilot reported seeing several disk-shaped objects flying over the state of Washington in 1947. The number of reports surged through the early 1950s, with sightings reported in waves followed by periods of relative UFO inactivity.

The Air Force conducted several investigations into UFOs during the 1950s and '60s, explaining most sightings as misidentified weather balloons, aircraft or natural phenomena.

Both the investigations and the conclusions often met with controversy from private UFO groups and independent researchers. Some critics said the Air Force did not tell all it knew.

The Air Force officially stopped investigating UFOs in 1969, but the sightings did not stop. Some academicians began to accept the idea that UFOs might come from other planets; the vast majority continued to scoff at the notion.

"In general," Gordon conceded, "over the years, the majority of UFO sightings are scientifically explainable."

Bruce G. Muchnick, an optometrist, astronomer and self-described "open-minded skeptic," cited a "classic" example of a misidentified UFO. In fall or spring, he said, people report seeing six or seven UFOs flying in formation in the evening sky.

"It turns out to be birds flying

at night," Muchnick said. The city lights often reflect off their bottom feathers and the result is an otherworldly vision.

Not all sightings can be explained so easily.

"Since August of '87," Gordon said, "and actually still continuing, we began to have quite a big buildup of cases we have not been able to explain."

Just ask Ellen Collins.

About 2:30 a.m. one day in February 1988, Collins recalled, she went to her bedroom window and saw an unfamiliar bright light outside that began to jump.

"Next thing I knew, the thing dived," Collins said. "It went up and it dove to my bedroom window. The way it came at my window was when you shoot a bullet and you can't even see it."

She craned her neck to look skyward through the window and saw "this big, giant thing hovering over my roof. It was the size of half a football field." The object was camouflage-colored, with three elevator-type doors and three lights on the bottom.

The room began to vibrate. Collins felt as though part of her were being transported somehow aboard the object, where pictures were taken of her, although her feet never left the ground.

"I had a peaceful feeling but I felt very strange," she said.

Today, more than a year after the incident, Collins no longer lives in Feasterville. Yet when she walks her dog after dark, she's afraid to look at the sky.

(continued on page 10) 9

"There were only two things in my life that really freaked me out," Collins said. "No. 1 was having a child, and No. 2 was seeing that g----- thing. ... This was one of the most scariest things. It was like having a child."

She used the same comparison when asked how she felt aboard the UFO: "My girlfriend said to me, 'Ellen, what does it feel like when the baby moves in your stomach?' It's something I can't describe."

Although she terms them "closed-minded and ignorant," Collins has something in common with the skeptics who disparage her story. After all, she said, "I was one of them."

"I was not a believer, and if you told me this story I'd probably hang up on you."

Despite their philosophical differences, Bruce Muchnick, the open-minded skeptic, and Thomas J. Carey of Bryn Athyn, a UFO investigator, have their similarities.

They share an interest in the skies. Carey has a large print of Saturn, as seen from one of its

moons, in his living room; Muchnick is an avid amateur astronomer.

They agree that the bulk of UFO reports can be explained in prosaic terms. They share a low opinion of alleged UFO photographs. Both men even recall seeing strange lights in the sky: Muchnick's turned out to be an experimental satellite; Carey's are still unexplained.

They differ, predictably, on the origins of UFOs.

Muchnick is a member of the Delaware Valley Skeptics, an offshoot of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal; Carey is state section director for the Mutual UFO Network and is affiliated with PASU.

"Ever since I was this high," Carey said, holding his hand 3 feet off the ground, "UFOs have caught my fancy. ... For most of my life I've been watching the controversy from afar. It's only in the last few years that I've become active."

Carey, superintendent of product management for CIGNA

Property and Casualty Companies in Center City, puts UFO reports in five categories: "No. 1, they're hoaxes. No. 2, they're misidentifications of natural phenomena, like ball lightning. They're misidentifications of aircraft. They're extraterrestrial in origin. They're extradimensional."

He said the last two categories, accounting for 10 to 20 percent of UFO reports, enter the picture "when you eliminate all the other stuff. When you get to the real good stuff, they're either extraterrestrial in origin or they're, to use the vernacular, from another dimension."

Muchnick, who lectures on astronomy and the human eye, isn't so sure.

"I have a strong personal feeling that there is life on other planets," Muchnick said. "I'm sure that there is at least a form of life existing elsewhere. It might not be very common — life might be rare in space — but I think it's there."

As for UFOs, Muchnick said: "In terms of my opinion, the jury's out. ... As long as you don't

approach UFOs as a matter of faith, as long as it's not like a religion, I don't doubt anybody's observation. I just want to find out more about it."

Muchnick said tricks of the eye and brain may be responsible for a number of UFO sightings.

One cause, he said, may be "floaters. These are little bits of debris ... that float in the jelly of the eye. People can see them and start thinking that they're UFOs, and it's not that unusual."

The same holds true for optical illusions, he said, which show "how the brain can be easily fooled. And these phenomena can occur in nature, too."

The inaccuracies of human recall make scientific UFO studies difficult, Muchnick said.

"I think that any time you deal with human beings, it's hard to investigate something strictly scientifically," Muchnick said. "Most UFO reports can't be investigated well because you're dealing with memory."

Tom Carey has other ideas.

When a sighting is reported, Carey grabs his notepad, portable tape recorder and autofocus

35mm camera and interviews the witnesses.

"I've met one fellow who was in essence a (liar)," Carey said, "but everybody else was sincere."

He recently investigated a sighting by a man driving through Trevoze who saw four rocket-shaped objects flying east across the sky near Oxford Valley.

Carey is fascinated by reports that the federal government has acquired remnants of UFOs that collided with Earth and is covering up the facts in what he calls a "cosmic Watergate."

One such report, he said, claims that "an alleged alien being was shot and killed" at Fort Dix, N.J., after a UFO crash.

"My big interest is in the so-called crashes," Carey said, "because there you're talking about something tangible, you know, that reminds you we're not all crazy. You want to see structure. You want to see entities. You want something you can analyze. Lights in the sky you can't do much with."

REPUBLICAN, Waterbury,
CT - April 22, 1989

UFO article misleading and incomplete

Bill Gruber's account of my UFO research in "The UFO Enigma" (April 2) was an outrageous, inaccurate account making me out to be a lunatic leading a cult. Apparently my extensive science background in meteorology and geology and the fact that I'm finishing a doctorate in music, never entered into the intelligence picture.

After photographing clear-cut craft in the Pine Bush, N.Y. area, since 1980, with hundreds of people and colleagues along the way, many of whom have taken their own pictures, have had their own encounters, and some have been abducted, perhaps I have come to some bizarre conclusions — to someone not acquainted with real

UFO phenomena.

His snide comments about other more "serious investigators" couldn't be further from the truth, as I'm one of the few researchers around the country out in the fields at night photographing and interacting with these ships — not the stupid lights that Gruber saw the two quiet nights he was out in

Pine Bush. I never said conclusively those lights were ships. Lights could be anything, and it's only in the last months or so that the ships have quieted down in the area, in spite of a continuing barrage of people wanting to come up with me.

If I was the only one in the Pine Bush area claiming to see these things, maybe there would be a problem. But I'm a New Jersey girl, who was called to the New York State area because people were frightened by close encounters. Gruber never bothered to interview any local residents, never called the Pine Bush Police Department. Although officers were told to keep things quiet, the officers have been out with us when we've had sightings in addition to having their own sightings and picking up "something" on their own police radar, other than cars. Gruber never even asked the woman who also met us the night he came what she had seen, and she has seen and photographed things extensively also.

Gruber apparently wanted me to look crazy. All the airports in the Middletown, N.Y., area are uncontrolled except for Stewart. This means that for the most part, most planes land at dusk, and these airports close at 6 p.m. or 9 p.m.

Ellen Crystall
379 Congress St.
New Milford, N.J.

INTELLIGENCER/RECORD, Doylestown (?), PA - May 28, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

Abduction claims researcher is used to skeptics

By Addam Schwartz
Staff Writer

David Jacobs, researcher of UFO abduction claims, is no stranger to derision.

"There is still a great amount of ridicule about UFOs in general and abductions specifically," said Jacobs, a history professor at Temple University who lives in Wyndmoor.

"Instead of science, instead of open-mindedness, instead of scholarship, we get passion, emotion and ridicule. It's unfortunate, but it just goes with the territory."

Jacobs is the author of "The UFO Controversy in America" (1975: Indiana University Press), which he adapted from his doctoral dissertation.

He's now working on a second book, which will focus on abduction reports — the stories of people who claim to have been taken aboard a UFO and subjected to examinations by aliens.

"I believe there is something to the reports," Jacobs said. "As a historian, one must go where the evidence leads one."

The evidence has led Jacobs to the theory that UFOs come "from not of Earth, let's just say."

It is a path fraught with skepticism, a journey through the unknown.

"What we don't know about the universe is quite vast," Jacobs said, "and what we do know about the universe is quite small. Our knowledge of astronomy is very primitive, very rudimentary, compared to what it's going to be a thousand years from now."

Jacobs has been researching UFOs since 1966. He became interested in abductions about 10 years ago when a friend, Massachusetts artist Budd Hopkins, began to investigate the claims of

people who said they spent time on a UFO.

Hopkins has since written two books on abductions, "Missing Time" and "Intruders."

"I was fascinated," Jacobs recalled. "As I began to research the abduction phenomenon more, I realized that Budd was into something here that was quite extraordinary."

Shortly thereafter, Jacobs himself began looking into abduction reports, using hypnosis as part of his interviews.

An article by Elizabeth Bird in the April issue of Psychology Today, titled "Invasion of the Mind Snatchers," criticized UFO researchers for using hypnosis: "Countless experiments have shown that, while hypnosis may elicit remarkably detailed accounts, they are no more accurate than normal memories."

"Indeed," Bird wrote, "suggestible people may produce notably less accurate accounts under hypnosis."

Jacobs conceded hypnosis can yield unreliable results if not done properly.

"When you do it as many times as I have done," Jacobs said, "you eventually learn the ins and outs of this particular type of hypnosis."

"A large number of cases — maybe 10 percent if not more — are consciously recalled without hypnosis," he added. These reports, Jacobs said, are the same as those induced through hypnosis.

Jacobs interviewed 40 people who claimed to have been aboard UFOs. Among them, they reported more than 200 abductions.

They are not alone. According to an article in the December 1987 edition of Omni magazine, "hundreds of people worldwide, from Canada to Brazil" say they

were abducted.

The stories are generally the same.

"Basically, people claim they are taken out of their bed or their car or wherever they are," Jacobs said. The subjects are taken aboard an object of some kind, stripped of their clothing and placed upon a table.

They are subjected to physical and mental examinations. "And then eventually they are released, taken back, and another one is brought in."

There are no friendly or unfriendly feelings, Jacobs said; the experience is as clinical as a hospital visit.

"I found that all of the stories are extremely similar," Jacobs said. "If this were a product of imagination ... then we would have every story being sort of idiosyncratic, with a large personal context."

Instead, he said he found abductions to be a "narrow phenomenon" with "tremendous detail, converging with other stories in the same detail."

The Psychology Today article speculated that abduction stories are "individual hallucinations" whose details are similar because they "conform to cultural patterns." That is, what might have been explained as a witch's spell or the devil's work in centuries past is now interpreted as a UFO abduction.

In addition to his history classes at Temple, Jacobs teaches a fall semester course titled "UFOs in American Society," through the university's American Studies department.

The class examines treatments of UFO reports by the news and entertainment media, UFO organizations, scientists, the military and the general public. Of

ten, the reaction is skepticism bordering on or veering into derision.

Jacobs blamed popular, often tongue-in-cheek depictions of UFOs.

"Nearly all of the ridicule has absolutely nothing to do with the phenomenon itself," Jacobs said. "All of the ridicule is cultural. There's absolutely nothing ridiculous about somebody seeing something strange in the sky. ... Why does the other person laugh?"

Jacobs said the Temple faculty has given him no problems about his field of research.

"I've been very lucky," Jacobs said. "My colleagues have pretty much ignored what I do, and I accept that. In the history department, they've been tolerant of my craziness."

Flash! UFOs are real!

Is 'Mr. Ed' giving
us the horse laugh?

By SYDNEY P. FREEDBERG
Herald Staff Writer

GULF BREEZE — Whooooo-ooo-aa, Wilbur! William Morrow & Co., the giant New York publishing house, has climbed aboard a tall talking-horse tale and is riding a steady course — all the way to the bank.

The publisher paid a character known as "Mr. Ed" \$200,000 to trot out Polaroid snapshots — purportedly "proof positive" of flying-saucer landings in this normally quiet Florida Panhandle town.

Most Earth people know another Mr. Ed, the TV one, the talking nag. That Mr. Ed wore sunglasses, took bubble baths with Mae West, danced the twist, and died toothless at age 33, nine years after CBS took the show off the air.

The new, improved Mr. Ed is not a horse, of course, of course. He is Edward Daniel Walters, alias Daniel Edward Walters, alias Daniel Walters, alias Edward Hanson.

The new Mr. Ed

He is a charming 43-year-old man with a wife and two kids, a glamorous house, a builder's license, a customized Chevy two-door, and — whooooo-ooo-aa, Wilbur! — a little trouble with the law a long time ago.

His book, with a March 1990 publication date, is tentatively titled *UFO-Proof Positive: A True Story of the Gulf Breeze Sighting*.

What's more, says Publishers Weekly, a British production company has cut a deal for a mini-series, good for as much as \$450,000.

Morrow, which brought America the literature of Perry Mason and the biography of Clint "Dirty Harry" Eastwood, won't comment on its new author or a possible hoax. Nor will Ed's New York agent, Phyllis Wender of Rosenstone/Gelder: "I don't think my opinion is relevant."

Mr. Ed's circle of friends keeps the "proof positive" photographs secret. Word is the publisher has an "expert" ready to testify that no one can prove any evidence of double exposures or trick photography.

Close encounters began in this conservative town of 5,478 back in November 1987, when the Gulf Breeze Sentinel, a struggling, 50-cent weekly, scooped the world with dramatic photos of a glowing spaceship.

The weekly ID'd the photographer as "Mr. X." Shortly thereafter, "Mr. X" confessed he was "Mr. Ed."

Watch the bobbing UFO

He told Duane Cook, 44, the jocular editor-publisher, about the UFO bobbing up and down and weaving around his house.

Once the spaceship appeared in his back yard, another time near his bedroom. It disgorged four-foot-tall critters with big eyes and little mouths. They wore dark gray shields and carried silver rods, according to a graphic printed in the Sentinel's special UFO edition — reprints now available for \$7.

"Standing only 12 inches from my face was a shielded creature looking straight back into my eyes," Mr. Ed declared.

"Step forward," one commanded. "Photographs are prohibited," another declared in Spanish, prompting some Panhandle skeptics to suspect the aliens came from Miami.

In his original account, Mr. Ed omitted not only his name but also

some startling details of the sightings: how the "blue beam" from the saucer somehow lifted him several feet off the ground.

And it was only later that Mr. Ed revealed that, during his first abduction, the aliens implanted a humming device in his head, telling him when they were returning.

On their last visit, May 1, 1988, the creatures removed the hummer.

The Sentinel published lots of pictures of the spacecraft. Some photos arrived in the middle of the night, stuffed through the newspaper's mail slot — just above a UFO doormat welcoming aliens to Gulf Breeze.

The paper identified the photographers as "Believer Bill" and "Jane." Mrs. Ed, Frances Hanson, also took some pictures.

She shot her husband, fresh out of the shower, a towel around his bottom, his arms raised skyward, as if surrendering to the bright flying object in the sky. She also shot the UFO hovering above the family pooch, in a sort of ho-hum, eyes-cast-downward mode.

A divided town

Mr. Ed's revelations divided Gulf Breeze, a usually staid community not far from Eglin Air Force Base, where partygoers chat about Stealth bombers and Star Wars stuff and "Intelligent Life at Last" T-shirts sell for \$8.99 at the Big Bee Drug Store.

Soon, the local coroner, a chemical engineer, a Junior League churchgoer, a teacher and a rich city councilwoman all said they, too, had seen UFOs — often in a lonely, wooded park called Shoreline, facing the barrier island of Pensacola Beach. A dozen citizens claimed they had been abducted. They formed their own UFO "support group."

Planet Earth took note, eventually culminating in the big book contract.

The UFO news hit the Japanese airwaves. Hollywood sent film crews. Robert Stack taped an *Unsolved Mysteries* episode. Humorist Dave Barry, an alien sympathizer who writes for The Herald's Tropic magazine, traveled to Gulf Breeze by means of conventional aircraft.

"I thought Ed was trying to sell me a condominium time-sharing project," Barry says now. He deemed Mr. Ed's tale "too strange to be true."

"Why would this guy keep seeing it over his house?" Barry asks. "It's sort of like room-service UFOs for Mr. Ed."

Magazines drop their stories

People magazine turned skeptic, too, when Mr. Ed's agents wouldn't let its reporter interview him.

Life magazine, after an on-the-scene inquiry, put the kibosh on any book excerpts.

Even the fearless National Enquirer, purveyor of all sorts of weird revelations, left Mr. Ed at the starting gate.

It assigned Dr. Robert Nathan to the case. A member of the technical staff at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, he examined Mr. Ed's pictures. He noted the object always seemed to be brighter than the environment in which it is photographed. "My feeling was they were a hoax," Nathan says.

"Ed's flying fluorescent kitchen lamp," concludes Ray Stanford, a UFO writer-skeptic.

"I will swear on my life, my wife, my former wife, my dog and I will even swear on my cockatoo that this is a fake," he says.

But Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a Naval physicist based in Washington, argues that Mr. Ed may well be right. "Whether we accept it or not, apparently we have visitors," he says. He is impressed by some of the non-Ed sightings and witness testimony.

A couple of weeks ago, though, Maccabee acknowledged that he's getting 10 percent of Ed's book advance, "less than \$20,000," he says.

Suspicions of Mr. Ed

No one has come under more suspicion than Mr. Ed himself, a man who doesn't like to be photographed.

He popped up in Gulf Breeze about six years ago. Here, he lives in a home with a circular driveway. He tools around in sneakers and T-shirts advertising his low-profile company, Edward Custom Builders. He belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. He has a Santa Claus laugh. He and his wife host parties for teen-agers

Clendenon to speak here on Unidentified Flying Objects

A researcher and lecturer on Unidentified Flying Objects, who urges the public to "keep your minds open," will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

William D. Clendenon of Biloxi, Miss., who has been studying UFOs and extraterrestrials for more than 40 years, will discuss his research in the Gilbert Faust Lecture Hall, D102 Science Building. The event is open to the public without charge.

Clendenon, who says he has seen UFOs and talked to alien beings, is the author of "Mercury: Messenger of the Gods," a book published by Owl Press of Rosholt, which explores his theories. He is staying in the area as

the guest of Judy Stately, founder of Owl Press and editor of "Search Magazine," a periodical about parapsychology and paranormal phenomena. Clendenon is a contributor to the magazine, published by Palmer Publications of Amherst.

Stately requested that Clendenon be given a forum in the university, and Franz Schmitz, chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, agreed, noting that UW-SP encouraged inquiry on the subject of unidentified flying objects by offering a special course on that subject several years ago.

While serving in the Navy, Clende-

non's assignment was to teach sailors how to identify various types of aircraft. A model plane enthusiast and pilot who worked in an Air Force wind tunnel for many years, the researcher is familiar with all kinds of flying machines. He has designed a Mercury Vapor craft which he says is similar to the ones he has sighted. He says they appear to be "air-breathing, turbine aircraft," which probably serve as scout or shuttle vehicles from the mother ship.

Clendenon reports he has made numerous sightings, including about a half dozen close-range encounters in Alabama, Tennessee, Ohio and Washington state. He says he also has had meetings with alien beings who look like humans, but have faces that are symmetrically perfect. "The men have no evidence of ever having shaved and the skin is smooth and flawless, much like a baby's face," wrote Stately in an article about the researcher and his experiences. Clendenon says the aliens are not frightening or hostile and have never tried to harm him.

Now in his 60s, Clendenon believes it is time for him to share his findings with the public. He has tried to work with the government and with NASA, but he says those officials don't want the American people to know the truth about UFOs. He recommends open congressional hearings on the subject, but he contends that military and governmental authorities are reluctant to have the information released.

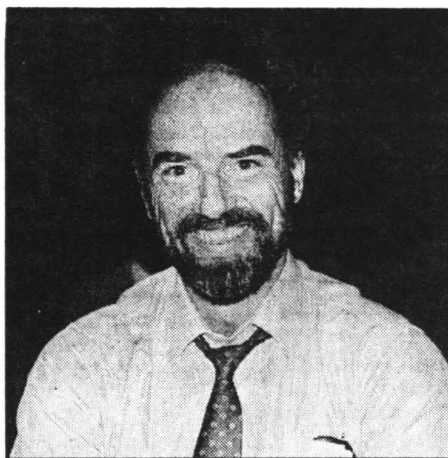
Clendenon believes a university is a good forum for him to discuss his beliefs because of the quest for knowledge which exists within an institution of higher learning. He has studied myths and tales from other civilizations and cultures and says there is a common thread of sightings among all of them that is worth investigating.

Clendenon emphasizes his disbelief in "little green men" stories and rumors of abductions. He only discusses his own experiences and what he has found out through his studies, warning people to question rumours about frequent sightings and ongoing contacts with aliens. He has not seen a spacecraft for about 15 years and his last encounter with extraterrestrials was more than 20 years ago.

He also has had a longstanding interest in the "Big Foot" legends, having spent a lot of time in the forests of Washington state. But he says he has never seen the hairy creature or discovered its prints.

Stately describes Clendenon as "a cross between a leprechaun and Indiana Jones—a combination adventurer and sweetheart." They met for the first time at a UFO convention in Arkansas. There are several such gatherings throughout the United States each year.

While in the area, the UFO expert plans to take in another popular event—the Experimental Aircraft Association show in Oshkosh, which he has wanted to attend for a long time.



PHILIP KLASS / Special to The Miami Herald

'It's absolutely preposterous, the things the debunkers are trying to say. The UFO phenomenon stands on its own.'

EDWARD DANIEL WALTERS

to play "spooky" ghost games. Supposedly, Ed once boasted that he hoped to pull off "the ultimate prank."

Mr. Ed now says, "It's absolutely preposterous, the things the debunkers are trying to say. The UFO phenomenon stands on its own."

People have spied on him, polygraphed him, administered personality and Rorschach tests, and, he says, always found him normal.

"Just because I managed to have a glimpse of a secret being held tightly by our universe, I resent the effect it's had on my life. . . I have told the truth, and the truth will always prevail."

A little trouble a while back

Ed doesn't like to discuss his past, but he admits he had a little trouble with the law once. "Teen-agers do things that are stupid," he says.

In 1966, he says, he went on a mere-mortal joyriding expedition with four friends that landed him in Raiford prison for a couple of years.

Sheriff's deputies in Jacksonville arrested him for stealing a '65 Plymouth. A month later, they got him for a '59 Thunderbird. The day after that, there was a '66 Mustang. And shortly thereafter, a Pontiac.

"When I refused out of stupidity to tell the police who these other four kids were, then they pretty much threw the book at me," Ed explains.

He plea-bargained away the auto-theft allegations in exchange for a guilty plea on another charge: uttering a forgery. "I don't remember the details on that," he says.

Court records show he forged a \$350 check to someone named "Samuel B. Benson," signing it "J.L. Butler."

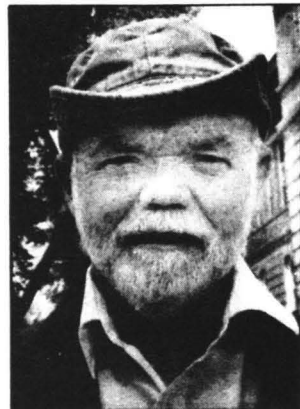
No secrets about his past

Ed says his youthful rap sheet isn't "a deep, dark black picture," adding that he disclosed it to UFO aficionados studying the ET affair in Gulf Breeze. "I was not trying to hide this."

"The judge thought I was not remorseful, and at the time they had plenty of vacancies in jail," Ed says. "It wasn't like today where you get arrested for something like this, and they slap you on the wrist." He adds, "Never been in any problems since."

Ex-con or no-con, Gulf Breeze is adjusting nicely to its status as a UFO spaceport despite the mayor's complaints about what the notoriety is doing to his town.

Not long ago, the cops busted one strange fellow from Palm Beach, a member of the "Free Confederation of Planets," allegedly for trespassing at the high school. That's where the UFO once landed, says the defendant. It deposited a bubbling, extraterrestrial chemical and killed a patch of grass, he says.



William D. Clendenon

On the lookout for UFOs

Clendenon calls for end to government coverup

By KELLY BERG
of the Journal

William Clendenon wants people to rise up and demand the truth from the government about UFOs.

Clendenon, of Biloxi, Miss., has spent the past 40 years researching the UFO phenomenon. He has written a book, due out this year, about his experiences and how he feels the government is covering-up on the subject. He is in the area visiting friends and recently spoke at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

His interest in UFOs began during the latter part of World War I when a number of sightings by both the Allies and the Axis were reported. Each side believed the crafts belonged to the other. The UFOs were dubbed ghost rockets.

Clendenon, a former aircraft identification instructor for the United States Navy, said he also began seeing something in the form of a greenish ball of light.

He explained the light around the UFOs as ionized air that the crafts use as fuel. The UFOs are like a generator and work in a turbine fashion. The light circulates around the craft and the ionized air emits the hazy light around it, he said.

The United States and Canada had begun building something very similar in design, but gave up because they could not control it. It wobbled and they quit.

But they quit too soon, said Clendenon. They just had to learn how to control the wobble and use it to their benefit. The UFOs he saw wobbled

the same way. The aliens used the wobble to their advantage, he said.

The United States and Japan are trying to build an aerospace plane that uses fuel from the earth's atmosphere. Plans for completion are set for 10 years, but India historical documents from thousands of years ago describe exactly how to build a ship similar to the UFOs and the aerospace plane, said Clendenon.

Clendenon has been studying a particular UFO photograph for 37 years. The photograph is a famous one taken by his friend George Adamski.

Validity of it has been disclaimed by various experts. It has been reported by Air Force special investigators to be a chicken feeder, swamp gas, a surgical lamp and the top off a 1937 vacuum cleaner, among other things.

"It just goes on and on," said Clendenon. "The public has gotten 35 years of baloney about that photograph."

He said it was an old military trick to mix in some misinformation with the truth and slowly add more misinformation until the public no longer believes the truth.

Clendenon continued to analyze the photograph and back-engineer the thing in the picture to get something that resembles blueprints for a spaceship. He gave the prints and some models to Adamski, who in turn gave them to the aliens, he said.

It was then that Clendenon began to see the UFOs in his back yard. Aliens even came to his door posed as salesmen and survey takers, he said.

Another photograph of a UFO was featured on the cover of "The New Report on Flying Saucers" by the publishers of True magazine in 1967. When he wrote to get the address of Kurt Kreitz, the man who had taken the photo, he was given the run around by both the magazine publishers and the government, he said.

He does not claim to know where the UFOs come from or why they follow the program they do, but he said he would like to find out.

The aliens told Adamski they were from Venus, he said. Either the government is lying about the possibility of life on Venus or the aliens are doing some kind of their own cover-up, said Clendenon.

"We have to demand as a whole population that government have open congressional hearings (on the subject)," he said. If not, "we're going to have another 40 years of baloney."

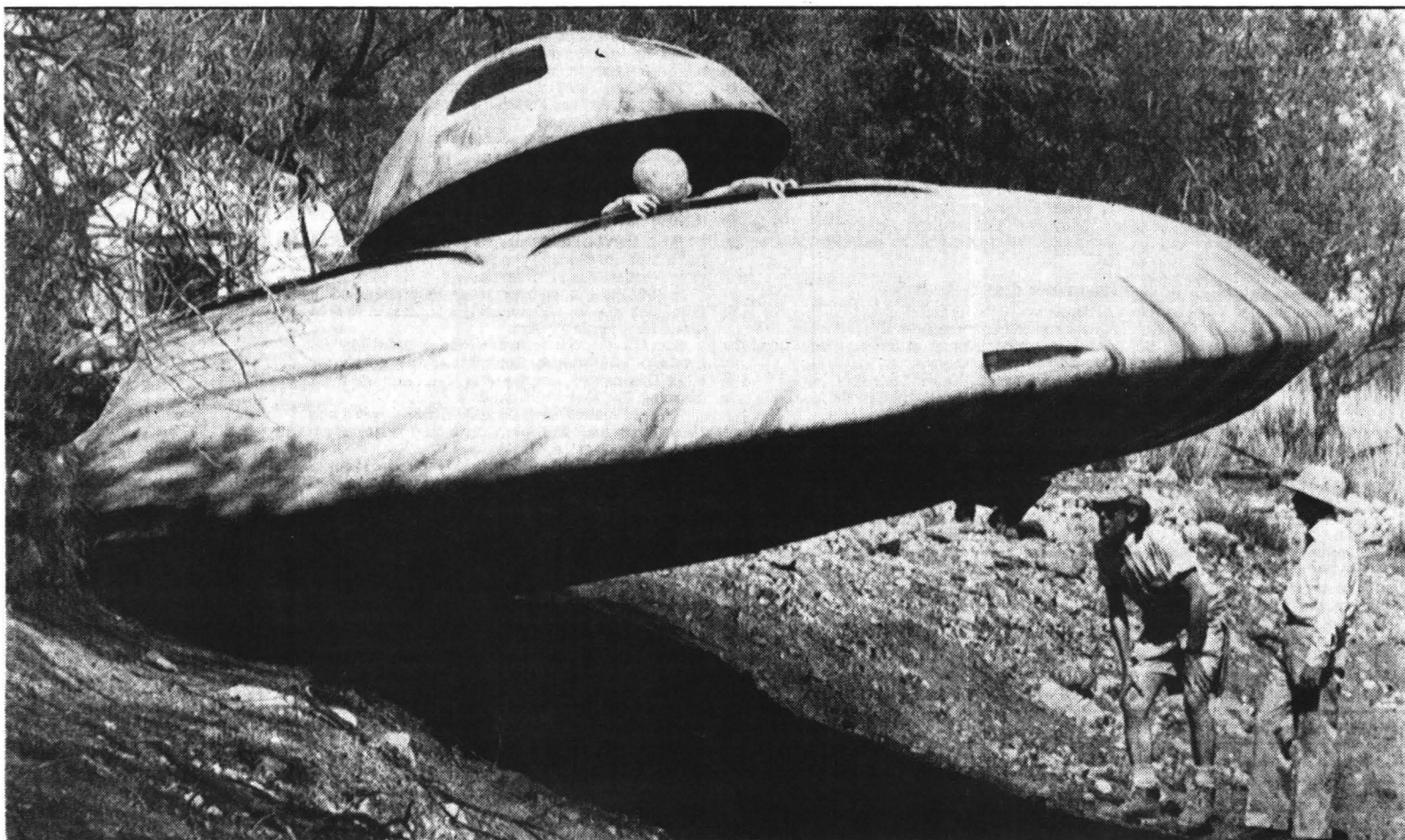
Clendenon said he is traveling around because he believes it is time the public demands the truth.

He went to the Experimental Aircraft Association gathering in Oshkosh this week and gave the 1952 Adamski photo to the Russians and Australians, who were "fascinated" by it, he said.

"It is not just our problem, it's a world problem," he said.

Clendenon's book, "Mercury: UFO Messenger of the Gods", will be coming out before the first of the year. It will detail his experiences with the UFOs and a possible government cover-up. The book is being published by Owl Press of Rosholt.

JOURNAL, Albuquerque, NM - Aug. 10, 1989



Saucer Work

Director Raymond Bridgers, left, shows Leis Fitts of Roswell how to study a flying saucer this week during the re-creation of

an alleged discovery of a spacecraft and alien bodies in 1947 near Socorro. The filming is for NBC-TV's "Unsolved Mysteries."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



AUSTRALASIAN POST, Melbourne, Australia - Aug. 5, 1989 CR: P. Norman



★ George Blackwell (right), with a model he made of the spacecraft, talks to UFO researchers Pat Gildea (left) and Paul Norman at the site of the encounter.

'Martians' warn farmer to stay away

They landed on his farm and let him have a good long look, but made sure he kept his distance...

By DENISE DALGLIESH

STATIONHAND George Blackwell used to be a dyed-in-the-wool cynic ... until the night he came face to face with a UFO.

Although shocked by the close encounter George, 56, says that if the alien beings manning the spacecraft had invited him aboard he would have leapt at the chance.

George recalled his experience exclusively for POST in a bid to assist the Victorian UFO Research Society, which studies reports from witnesses who have observed UFOs at close range.

George, who lived on the cattle grazing property "White-Acres", near Sale (V), woke at 1am on September 30, 1980, to hear a strange high-pitched whistling noise and the sound of terrified animals.

"The noise was getting louder and I looked out the window and saw what I first thought was an aircraft about to crash into the paddock," George told POST. "Then I realised it had no wings.

"I threw on some clothes and raced out to the porch. It was a clear moonlit night and I could see the craft clearly.

"It was dome-shaped, about three-and-a-half metres high and roughly eight-and-a-half metres long with blue and orange lights. It was moving slowly about two metres above the paddock and as I watched it cruised down to the water tank, hovered over it for some minutes and then landed.

"I didn't know what the hell was going on ... my first thought was I had caught some cattle rustlers."

George jumped on a motorbike and bolted down to the paddock where the craft had landed.

"I opened the paddock gate and got a hefty electric shock. My watch stopped right at that moment and my body went numb ... it just didn't want to respond.

"That gave me a nasty fright so I just stood there stunned, watching this thing. I'd never seen anything like it in my life. It was bell-shaped with a smaller dome on top. I couldn't see any doors, rivets or seams, only portholes with lights behind them, and although I didn't see or hear anyone in it, it was obviously under control — its movements weren't erratic."

The UFO remained stationary for about 10 minutes then started to lift off. George rode straight at it and stopped about five metres away.

"The whistling noise increased in pitch, like a jet engine about to take off, and it lifted gracefully off the ground. I was so close it nearly blew me off the bike and I could feel a blast of heat on my legs. It was incredibly graceful and I felt quite calm — if someone had beckoned and asked me to go for a ride, I would have."

As the spacecraft rose George noticed a large circular rim around its base which receded as the craft rose. The whistling noise levelled off to a hum, and rocks and cow pats fell from beneath the UFO. It flew off

straight over the ocean. Stunned, George returned to his bungalow to find that 50 minutes had elapsed.

Next morning George and Ralph Anderson, the owner of White-Acres, discovered a brown ring about 10 metres in diameter on the ground where George had watched the UFO landing.

The ground appeared to be scorched, and around the circle were six distinct spots where the grass was unharmed. Upturned cow pats and rocks were strewn around the circle under the flight path of the UFO.

The nearby water tank, which had held 2200 litres the night before, was nearly empty. The tank had been cracked but the ground around it was bone dry.

"It was like the tank had been sucked in by some enormous force and had cracked under the strain," George told POST. "I had checked the tank the night before and it was full then. The cattle were still spooked the next morning and refused to go back in that paddock for months."

In the cold light of day George remained adamant that what he had witnessed was a UFO landing.

"I can assure you it wasn't science fiction — it was genuine," he told POST. "I used to be the sort of bloke who'd laugh and pass rude remarks when people mentioned UFOs, but now I think people who make those sorts of statements are ignorant.

"Whatever race of beings made that craft they were a long way ahead of us. I don't think they'd hurt you, I certainly didn't feel

fearful. Looking back I think the shock I got off the gate was just their way of telling me not to be so abrupt." The Victorian UFO Research Society

contacted George soon after his experience. Paul Norman, vice president of the society, has spent 36 years investigating UFOs.

"In the Blackwell encounter there is tangible evidence of a UFO

landing and his experience is one of the best close sightings to occur in Australia," he told POST. "It ties in with UFO sightings from around the world — many are associated with water. I investigated this sighting extensively and George Blackwell is an honest, credible man who didn't just dream up this encounter ... it happened."

Judy Magee, president of the society, said: "We get hundreds of reports of UFO sightings but you can write off 80 per cent as natural phenomenon. George Blackwell's encounter falls into the 10 per cent of definite sightings — they can't be explained in any other way."

Notebook

STUART WAVELL

Alistair Grant



Close encounter: Colin Andrews, left, and Pat Delgado in one of the 148 circles that have appeared in the fields of southern England in the past month

Running round in circles

THE circle was 37 ft across, a perfect swirl of flattened green wheat spinning out from a tight centre. Despite a week's exposure to passing ramblers, it was in almost pristine condition, the horizontal plant stems neatly brushed towards a sharp division with the surrounding crop.

"I have never seen anything like it before," declared Pat Delgado who, with fellow researcher Colin Andrews, had recorded the mysterious appearance of 148 circles in the fields of southern England during the previous four and a half weeks.

Delgado, a retired electro-mechanical design engineer, was referring to a distinctively baffling feature of this circle near the village of Chilcomb, two and a half miles from Winchester. Curving out from its edge, like a tadpole's tail, was a 28-yard channel whose flattened stems were combed immaculately towards the circle. Enormous pressure appeared to have been applied to these precise formations so that the soil carried impressions of the otherwise undamaged stems.

The circle's centre lay between a tractor's wheel tramlines, and some 200 yards from ancient tumuli.

Why, one wondered, would an alien leave his spacecraft to walk into the field and then return? Perhaps for a very human reason. I recalled that Delgado and Andrews's new book, *Circular Evidence*, mentioned the discovery of a "luminous, white, jelly-like substance" which had defied analysis.

Aliens are, of course, taboo among serious British UFO investigators. The two researchers, who favour the theory of a rotating energy field, say they are working with 35 scientists, and stress their own technical credentials.

Delgado worked at the British missile testing range in Australia and later for Nasa. Andrews, whose Andover home is their operational base, is a senior electrical engineer with the local borough council.

Their remarkable aerial photographs are largely due to Busty Taylor, a fully qualified driving instructor with a pilot's licence. Busty is a man.

But last week their professionalism was called into question by the British UFO Research Association (Bufora).

It accused them of "fostering a space-age myth" in their

rejection of a meteorological explanation, of ignoring the extent of hoaxes and of perversely insisting that the circles are mostly confined to Hampshire and Wiltshire.

It also cited the authors' apparent reluctance to reveal that they were consultants to Flying Saucer Review — "a journal which has featured a secret 'plot' to remove UFO books from libraries and linked UFOs with genies".

I put this to Andrews. "I am indeed a consultant to Flying Saucer Review," he said. "I don't see what that has to do with it. I haven't gone out of my way to push that because we want to keep the research scientific."

"The vortex doesn't have to be intelligent, although personally I believe it is."

He contends that the phenomenon is not only increasing at an exponential rate, but that it is evolving. Indeed, the book's photographs show a bewildering array of single, double and triple circles, ornamented with permutations of 'Saturn' rings, satellite circles and swirl patterns.

The latest twist, claim the researchers, is a molecular change in affected crops which is passing into the food chain.

"The pattern is initially spiralled, but it starts growing into patterns like a dart board," Delgado said. "Of the 95 circles reported in Wiltshire until last week, one third were developing the same molecular damage."

Their critics at Bufora assert that by drawing media attention to Wessex and ignoring evidence of wider distribution, Delgado and Andrews are inadvertently encouraging elaborate hoaxes by groups fixated on the mysticism of Stonehenge, Avebury and Silbury Hill.

The researchers readily agree that the mysterious force appears to be taking an interest in them. "We can be talking, even on an aircraft, and the phenomenon appears to respond to the discussion, even the thought," Andrews said.

Fortunately, they can identify genuine circles with dowsing rods. And by felicitous circumstance, Delgado's naked hands are tuned to energy forces and subterranean water. In their book, Andrews relates several personal close encounters with the paranormal.

I asked if they had any evidence of animal life being affected. Andrews triumphantly

emerged from his kitchen with a frozen jamjar containing a fly, still clinging to a stem. "This was taken from the centre of the vortex at Chilcomb. His wings are outstretched. He was about to take off. He's been zapped dead," Andrews beamed.

They have other flies in the sky — the Optica aircraft of Hampshire and Wiltshire police who, they say, exchange details of new circle formations. "They recognise we can't keep sweeping this under the carpet," Andrews said.

"It's big. We need help. We have the Japanese and French flying in, and still our government is not prepared to get off their backsides and come down here."

He flourished a graph of sightings. "The way this is going, something is going to happen in the next few months."

Circular Evidence by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews is published on Thursday by Bloomsbury (£14.95).

The recently published *Controversy Of The Circles*, by Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller, is available from Bufora, 37 Heathbank Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0UP (£3.95).

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England - July 30, 1989 CR: N. Oliver

Mystery circles take to the hills

A TEAM of top scientists is travelling to Wales to investigate a massive outbreak of mystery circles.

A staggering 98 were found on two hill tops near Llanthony in the Black Mountains, bringing the total to more than 250 nationwide. The phenomenon has continued to baffle the experts who have been studying the circles since 1976.

Colin Andrews, spokesman for the sci-

entists, said the new find could prove vital in solving the riddle.

"The new circles have appeared on the tops of hills in less than one week. We believe we have something of major proportions."

The exact location is being kept secret to avoid tourists stamping over the perfectly-formed shapes. However, in the latest — and so far the largest — outbreak,

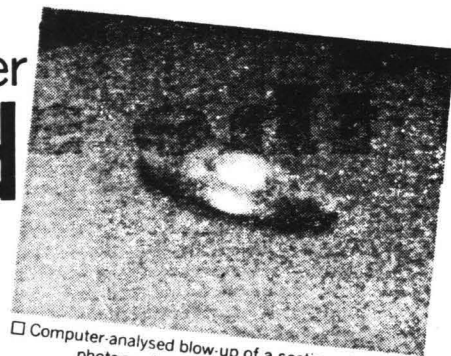
acres of heather have been shredded into what scientists refer to as tadpole-shapes because of a five metre-long, curling line which clips the outer perimeter.

"Because of the scale of the formations, we are sure there is no human involvement. We can eliminate the hoax theory once and for all."

Yet again, the circles have been found near ley lines, believed to be energy forces under the earth's surface.



Proof of close encounter 'UFO tried to abduct WA family in car'



Computer-analysed blow-up of a section of a photograph shows a verified UFO.

US UFO investigator Paul Norman with his album of sightings.

ON January 20, 1988, the Knowles family of Perth made world headlines when they claimed a UFO plucked their car off the road on a

By RALPH JOHNSTON

lonely stretch of the Nullarbor.

The bizarre story prompted a media frenzy but the public

scepticism which followed forced the family into hiding.

But one man believed them — and has spent a year and a half trying to prove them right.

Paul Norman, an American UFO researcher, has been turning over new stones in investigating the Knowles' encounter.

Much of his evidence defies earthly explanation — dust particles in the Knowles' car with "unnatural" shapes, inexplicable dents in the car's roof and strange symptoms of stress among the family members and their two dogs.

Scientists originally dismissed the case, claiming the Knowles' car was struck by "dry lightning" or pieces of a meteorite which had broken up as it entered the earth's atmosphere.

Strange black dust found inside and on top of the car was attributed to iron oxide from worn brake linings.

But Mr Norman, who heads the 400-member Victorian UFO Research Society, took the case into his own hands.

He took samples of the dust back to America for thorough testing at three different laboratories.

The tests showed the dust was mainly potassium chlorate, which could not have come from brake linings.

Magnified photographs showed the dust particles had straight edges.

Mr Norman said potassium particles with straight edges were "not known in nature".

Radiation

"They indicate the dust was subjected to great heat and then suddenly cooled," he said.

One of the rear tyres of the Knowles' Ford Telstar was ripped open in the "encounter". Yet, Mr Norman said, there was no damage to the rim.

Tests also showed the car's suspension coils had been stretched to capacity — "which could only have occurred if the wheels were off the ground".

After the incident, the Knowles' two dogs, which were in the car, started losing their hair. Mr Norman said the bald patches were caused by "some form of radiation".

The veteran researcher was in Perth last week visiting the Knowles family when he spoke to the *Sunday Times*.

The Knowles family described their UFO as a "bright, egg-shaped object".

On the same night as their encounter, the crew of a tuna boat fishing 300km off the south coast reported a blue light hovering in the sky.

Two weeks later the driver of a bus crossing

the Nullarbor claimed he saw "a metallic cigar-shaped object" in the sky.

And in October, an Ansett Pioneer bus driver and seven passengers said "a large bright ball of white light" followed them for more than 10km.

That sighting was on the same stretch of highway as the Knowles' encounter.

Mr Norman has been involved in other unsolved cases.

Perhaps the best-documented — and most bizarre — is that of Frederick Valentich, the 20-year old Moorabbin pilot whose Cessna plane literally disappeared on a flight over Bass Strait in 1978.

Shortly after 7pm on a clear October night, Valentich radioed Melbourne that a large aircraft had just passed over him.

In his last recorded radio transmission, a copy of which was obtained by the *Sunday Times*, Valentich said the mystery aircraft seemed to be "playing some sort of game" with him.

Mystery

He described the craft as "a long shape" and said "it's got a green light and sort of metallic, shiny outside."

At one point, the young pilot said: "It's not an aircraft, it is..." at that point his transmission became garbled.

He repeatedly asked if any military aircraft were operating in the area, and was told by air traffic control that none was.

His last words deepened the mystery: "That strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again... it is hovering and it's not an aircraft."

An intensive air, sea and land search failed to uncover any trace of Valentich or the missing aircraft.

American UFO expert Allan Hendry said the aircraft had been "captured" by an alien space ship.

After the incident, Mr Norman spoke to more than 20 people on the Victorian coast who claimed to have seen green lights in the sky on the night Valentich disappeared.

In another air encounter, Mr Norman said a US army helicopter was overtaken by "a 60-ft long, cigar-shaped object" over Ohio, in 1981.

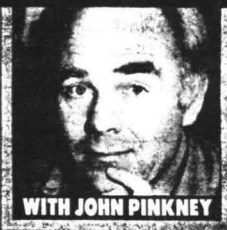
The pilot, Major Larry Coyne, said he saw "a red light coming at us on collision course like a missile, locked on the helicopter".

"The craft was directly in front of us, when suddenly we shot up from 1700ft to 3500ft in a matter of seconds," he said.

All four members of Major Coyne's crew verified the story.

CR: P. Norman

STRANGE ENCOUNTERS



WITH JOHN PINKNEY

GIANT UFO GIVES RAAF JET THE SLIP

A GIGANTIC UFO — which eluded an RAAF jet for 15 minutes — has apparently erased the memories of a family in Narrogin, WA.

"My wife, daughter and I vividly recall seeing the huge oval object hovering near our house," farm machinery engineer "Harry B" told me (full name and address supplied).

"But shortly after that, everything went blank.

"None of us had the faintest recollection of going to bed — or of anything else that happened until we woke at around six the next morning."

The family's eerie encounter began late one night in May, 1981, when they were living in Denbarker, WA.

"I was sitting watching TV in the lounge when the set went berserk, with loud static and lines all over the screen," Harry said.

"Imagining lightning might have hit the transmitter, I switched off the TV and began preparing for bed.

"However, as I walked towards the rear toilet, I heard a powerful humming noise overhead. It sounded like a transformer substation.

"Then abruptly, an enormous black shadow filled the moonlit yard.

"I looked up — and saw an absolutely monstrous craft, oval-shaped and with yellow-blue lights around the base.

"I rushed inside and got my wife and elder daughter out of bed.

"By the time they reached the door, the thing was hovering over the dam in the back paddock.

"We just stood staring, as it descended and floated about two metres above the water.

"Streamers of blue and yellow bright light were pouring from it — and it was making a crackling noise, like electricity.

"I had the presence of mind to ring Pearce Air Force Base.

"They took my report without comment — but I learned next day that they'd had other calls and had scrambled a Mirage jet to investigate.

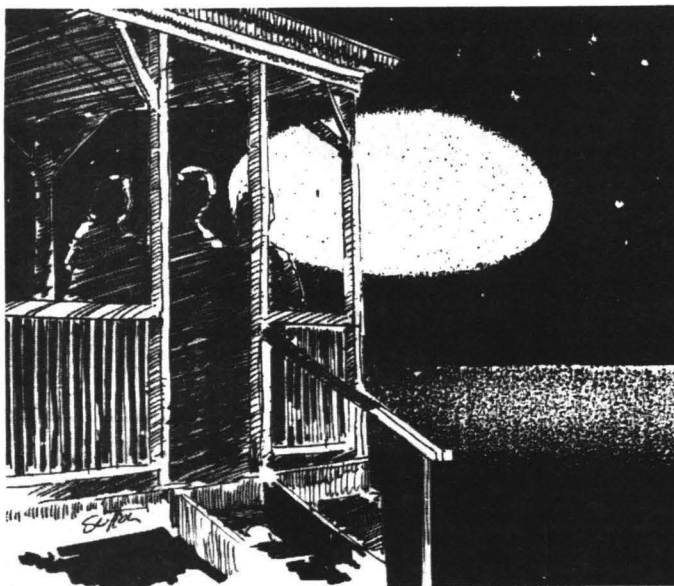
"We heard what must have been that jet screaming back and forth above our house.

"Suddenly, my wife started flashing the outside rear lights on, for no apparent reason.

"Almost immediately, the craft flashed back to us.

"After about 15 minutes of signalling, we heard a rush of tiny feet in our driveway. It sounded like a herd of sheep — but we could see nothing.

"This scared us so much that I rang the RAAF base again. The duty officer told



me to try and stay calm and try to remember everything that happened.

"From about that point, the gap in our memories begins. When we woke the next morning and discussed the experience, none of us could recall having gone to bed.

"Next day, we went down to the dam to see what we could find.

"Grass was singed at the edges — and there was a damp mark around the retaining wall, indicating that the water level had dropped by 1.5 metres.

"I estimated that at least 120,000 litres of water had vanished from that dam overnight.

"An officer at Pearce Base told us to say nothing to the media, and we obeyed that instruction for eight years.

"But now, having read in your column of other 'missing time' cases, we're consumed with curiosity about what might have happened to us during the hours we can't remember.

"There are also other mysteries.

"For six months before the UFO incident, we were plagued by faces at our windows andappings on the walls.

"One night, our elder daughter ran out of the bathroom screaming, saying a face, too horrible to describe, had stared in at her.

"The police came that night — but could find nothing.

"The following week, deep holes — apparently made by a craft on tripod legs — were found in a neighbour's paddock.

"And we heard that the old man who'd previously owned our property had been chased in his Land Rover, by a bright light.

"He remembered his son firing a 303 at it. But at that point their memories, just like ours, went blank."

● Hypnosis would almost certainly help the family to remember much of what happened to them that disturbing night.

To many UFO theorists, this could seem a classic case of abduction by aliens, who subsequently "wiped" the family's memories.

And this is not the first time an immense amount of stored water has vanished after a UFO sighting.

A large proportion of UFO sightings have been made over lakes, rivers and oceans.

Investigators have suggested that the craft may be "stealing" water, for conversion into fuel.

Edmonton man has close encounter with UFO

By RANDY LaBOUCANE
Staff Writer

An Edmonton man claims he had a close encounter with a UFO on May 28, and a UFO research group is taking it very seriously.

At 1:45 a.m. says he was gazing at the stars in the backyard of his home near Stony Plain Road and 142 Street when he noticed a star was moving.

"I followed it for four or five minutes. I saw it like a star only very faint. At first I thought it could be a satellite but it moved in a

streak across the sky." The object was said to move in a zig zag. "It would stay at one point for about a minute or so. Then it would move to another point about 90 degrees from that line."

But Gilmore says nothing could have prepared him for what happened next. "I think it spotted me. I came down to take a look at me. I could see depth and everything into it. The bottom was shaped like the bow of a boat. It had two ovals black in color but you could see into. It looked

large to me but there was nothing to judge it against. I held up my index finger to get a relationship but it's hard to judge. I guess it was about 1,500 to 2,000 feet away and about 800 feet wide.

"I was completely mesmerized. I felt like my face fell two feet," say Gilmore, his voice shaking slightly. "It hovered for about five seconds. It was shimmering and what looked like heat waves radiated from it but there was no heat. I guess my knees were knocking together."

When the UFO left, Gilmore says he found himself running down the back alley after it. "A person wonders about these things. I ask myself would I want a million dollars or have a question answered that all of mankind wants answered?"

"The first day I didn't phone anybody. I thought maybe I shouldn't tell anybody. But I got home from work and called the manager of the Municipal Airport. He told me to contact the Space Sciences Centre who told me to call SEE

(Society of Earthbound Extraterrestrials).

Guy Desrosiers, a founder of SEE, calls Gilmore's sighting "the most credible in years. We usually talk to them twice to see if their story changes," says Desrosiers who says his degree in math and physics "keeps me naturally skeptical."

SEE, which boasts over 500 members in North America, placed an ad in a newspaper calling for witnesses to the Gilmore sighting and received 12 replies. All but two were

crank calls. Desrosiers says one caller likely saw lightning or a static ball of electricity which does unusual things during storms. Another may have been a double sun where ice crystals in the atmosphere mirror the sun's image.

Gilmore says, "It doesn't surprise me nobody else saw it. Unless you watching it from the beginning you wouldn't see it. I know for a fact now there's something other than us. I thought it would have been good to have witnesses."

THURROCK GAZETTE, Essex, England
April 21, 1989 CR: T. Good

'Rugby ball' UFO seen over river

RESEARCHERS have been investigating a surge of UFO activity in the skies over Thurrock in the last ten weeks.

Strange lights and mysterious objects have been spotted with increasing frequency, says the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Association.

by Staff Reporter

"In the last two to three months we have had 18 reports of UFOs in this area," said investigator Peter Oliver. "That is a big increase on the number of reports we had been receiving previously."

The association has now set up a hotline so that members of the public who spot UFOs can contact them without delay.

Among the latest sightings have been a bright object described as a "rugby ball with a tail," and a brilliant green light hovering over the A13. Both are being investigated by the society which has ruled out the possibility of them being normal aircraft.

The "rugby ball" was seen by a man in Grays, at about 3am on April 12. It was covered in flashing lights and he watched it hovering over the river for half an hour

before losing it in the clouds.

The object was seen by people in Canvey and Rettendon within hours of the Grays' sighting.

Later the same day, the brilliant green light was spotted by an elderly Grays woman at about 9pm as she was putting out her milk bottles.

She said she watched it for about ten minutes and during that time it changed from green to yellow and then to white.

The edges of the object gave off light similar to a Bonfire Night sparkler, she said. Eventually it moved off in the direction of the river.

Mr Oliver said he had interviewed the woman and it was certainly not a helicopter or any other form of aircraft that she had

seen.

"We would like to hear from anyone else who saw these objects in the sky," he said.

"We would also like to hear of any other UFO sightings or supernatural experiences."

"Many people are reluctant to talk about these kind of things because they fear ridicule by neighbours, workmates or even family and close friends."

"But we have carried out many interviews and take these things very seriously. The data we gather is processed and used to try to find out what these things are and where they come from."

Anyone with information should contact the society's hot line on Basildon (0268) 286079.

B.C. WOMAN, Vancouver (?),

B.C., Canada - May 1989

CR: G. Conway



Out of This World

When Dorothy Izatt peers out her window, she observes the sky, clouds and stars. But Dorothy also sees UFOs; she's recorded more than 1,000 sightings.

"Sometimes people don't believe the number of sightings; many people have only had one or two," Dorothy explains, acknowledging the skepticism directed toward her.

Her first sighting was from her Richmond home, Nov. 9, 1974, at 4 p.m.

"I can remember that day so well," Dorothy says.

She had just walked to her bedroom bureau to extinguish a candle. Feeling like she was being watched, she looked out the window and saw "an enormous white light—diamond shaped, with lights spinning around the bottom like a ferris wheel."

The light disappeared after about five minutes but re-appeared later that evening. Similar sightings occurred the next two nights.

When Dorothy finally told her husband what she had viewed, he thought she was hallucinating, but he and their four children now accept the fact Dorothy sees UFOs, or light beings as she prefers to call them.

After a lengthy employment as a clerk and later a cashier, Dorothy, 60, retired last year. Her growing family now includes seven grandchildren and recently she became the delighted great-grandma of a baby girl.

Dorothy films many of her encounters with a Keystone XL200 Super-8 movie camera. Her camera was checked by an

expert from the University of Chicago and he found no evidence of tampering. Her film is sent out for processing, usually to a drug or department store.

She's spent more than \$10,000 on film and processing, and no longer photographs all her sightings "as it became too expensive."

When she shows her movies and gives lectures on her experiences, Dorothy tries "to be gentle, because people want to learn." She says several people tell her of their own observations. Dorothy never directly approaches the public with her information. Instead, she responds only to those interested enough to inquire.

Dorothy has no problem seeing the crafts but has found her films show even more detail. In many cases, there will be an image of a craft for several frames of film then, suddenly, in only one frame, there will be a bright display of light, often colored. The light forms arcs, balls or lines. Then, just as suddenly in the next frame, only the craft appears.

This kind of phenomenon makes her photos valuable to experts. The late Dr. Hynek, scientific director for The Center For UFO Studies and technical advisor for the movie Close Encounters Of The Third Kind, corresponded with Dorothy. He was willing to take on her information as a research project but, unfortunately, died before the project was initiated.

Dr. Jule Eisenbud, charter member of the American Parapsychological Association, has also exchanged letters with Dorothy and used her slide of a UFO in a lecture in Chicago.

Dorothy's photographs have also appeared in several books and periodicals. She was featured in issues of Canadian

UFO Report, England's Flying Saucer Review, and recently in John Robert Columbo's book, Mysterious Canada.

Dorothy feels the light beings "help us realize that we are not alone." She does not know from what planets the beings emanate. "All I know is what I'm shown." As we discover outerspace, Dorothy continues, we should be prepared to meet other beings.

Dorothy is currently preparing a video on her experiences. This one-hour documentary will include tape of her sightings, and witness reports. Due for release in early May, it will be distributed through the media prior to being available to the general public.

by Corey Van't Haaff

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England
July 9, 1989 CR: N. Oliver

Boffins in spin over circles

SCIENTISTS investigating mysterious circles that have appeared in cereal fields throughout Southern England say crops involved should be banned from the breakfast table.

They warn that the cereals undergo a change in molecular structure and shape and have urged the Government to take action.

"We have written to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food," said Colin Andrews, a spokesman for the scientists.

"It is possible that a molecular contamination is taking place," added Mr Andrews, technical officer for Test Valley Borough Council, Hants.

So far, more than 160 of the perfect shapes, which are between 10 and 25 yards across and formed by flat-

tened cereal crops, have been spotted. Last Wednesday alone, 11 new discoveries were made.

A team of 60 experts, involved in a study codenamed Operation Whitecrow, has taped sounds and "luminations".

Sound

Mr Andrews, who has put £90,000 of his own money into the investigation, explained: "We picked up a small point of light. A very high pitched energy sound was also recorded."

The tapes are currently being studied by engineers at Sussex University who hope to have preliminary results within a fortnight.

Mrs Thatcher is said to have taken a personal interest

in the teams' work. The Prime Minister wrote to Mr Andrews saying she had read his recent book on the subject and was passing a funding report to the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Andrews said: "Nobody has a clue why the plants grow in such an extraordinary pattern."

"About three weeks after the field is flattened, the plants start to grow into a complex pattern like a huge dartboard."

"The shape consists of seven concentric rings leading into a bull's-eye."

He added that 48 spoke-like outlines are formed, crisscrossing the rings.

"There is evidence of something most important here. We must find out what it is."

NEWSLETTER, Stafford, England
March 31, 1989 CR: T. Good

New mystery as police witness UFOs

POLICE officers from Stafford joined stunned stargazing local families to watch mysterious UFOs above Highfields this week.

Malcolm Sutcliffe and girlfriend Dawn Brindley of Highfields spotted the first lights at 8.15pm on Tuesday. They observed them for some time through binoculars and noticed they seemed to be hanging motionless in the night sky.

They described the first UFO they saw as a "a large

white light, not moving, with red, blue and yellow lights flashing from within."

Watching it for an hour they compared it with several planes going past, which confirmed their suspicions that the stationary UFO above them was not an aircraft.

As the lights refused to move they contacted their neighbours, Ellis and Theresa Sutcliffe, for a second opinion. Still unable to explain the weird glowing lights above them, they con-

tacted Stafford police.

Two officers arrived, PC Terry Gibbs and PC Kevin Muller at around 9.00pm. They could offer no explanation as to what they were.

But they agreed the object hovering above Stafford consisted of a brilliant white light and a variety of flashing colours. They observed them for half an hour before leaving.

Later the same night Malcolm Sutcliffe saw another similar light this time hanging

over Stafford town centre. Stafford police reported several other sightings of UFOs by members of the public at around the same time.

A third slightly different UFO was spotted in the direction of Weston Downs. Again it was stationary but this time witnesses described it as "Cone-shaped with light colours coming from underneath it."

The final sighting of a UFO occurred at around 10.15pm.

This fourth UFO was red in colour, but whereas the others had been stationary, Chief Inspector John Davis said it had sped across the night sky giving off a red tail before flying into one of the larger white lights.

Chief Inspector John Davis of Stafford Police said the lights had not yet been identified but discounted earlier theories that the UFOs could have been connected with evening balloon rides from the Shugborough estate.



OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - April ?, 1989

Talking trees? Physicist says it might be so

□ Trees may not scream "ow" when they're chopped down, but they do let out a few W-waves in their own language, contends Ed Wagner

By MICHELLE STEIN
of The Oregonian staff

WIMMER — If Ed Wagner were a tree, some folks might say he was losing his leaves.

That's because Wagner, a physicist, believes that trees talk to each other. He doesn't understand a word they're saying, but that's because he doesn't know how to speak their language.

He does, however, know the name of the language. He should, since he's the fellow who named it.

"I call it W-waves," said the 59-year-old Wagner.

W-waves? As in Wagner Waves?

"No, the W stands for wood," he said.

Maybe the W should stand for weird, because that's what some people think of Wagner's discovery.

"I've gotten phone calls," said Wagner, who lives with his wife, Claudia, and three children on 15 wooded acres. "Most have been rather skeptical. It doesn't bother me.

"I realize it's something so new, so incredible to most people, that it's hard to accept."

Compiles proof

That is exactly why Wagner, who has a doctorate in physics from the University of Tennessee, has compiled a pile of proof. He knows doubters far outweigh believers.

Hard facts are his best ally.

The truth of the matter is Wagner didn't set out to prove trees talk. Actually, he was trying to figure out why sap flows up a tree — a project he has tinkered with for more than 20 years.

So it was sap he was studying in January 1988 when Wagner attached electrodes to a fresh slice of tree and then, using steel needles, repeatedly stabbed his specimen for some sort of reaction.

"The voltage varied as I probed up and down the sample," he said. "That got me really excited. . . I didn't know what was happening."

But he was determined to find out. Soon



The Oregonian/MICHAEL LLOYD

Physicist Ed Wagner believes that trees communicate with each other in a language he calls W-waves. Wagner examines probes he earlier used to "listen" to this tree's interior.

"I've gotten phone calls. Most have been rather skeptical. It doesn't bother me. I realize it's something so new, so incredible to most people, that it's hard to accept."

— Ed Wagner

Wagner's electrodes were fastened to an entire tree and the scientist was probing for a reaction.

He wasn't disappointed.

"I came up with these very large patterns, these waves, moving up and down the tree continuously," he said. "They seem to be reflecting back and forth in the tree."

Wagner wasn't sure what any of this meant,

but he was sure it meant something. He intensified his research, often working 60 to 80 hours a week on the project.

Next came the Big Test. Up to this point, Wagner had used only steel needles to elicit a response. This time, though, he took his ax and hacked hard into the tree's trunk.

Now the tree didn't actually yell "ow," but the needle on the strip chart recorder (there to document the tree's reaction) jumped sharply just seconds after the ax fell.

Wagner was ecstatic.

Knew he was onto something

"I knew I was onto something great, and that I had to pursue with all haste," he said.

This, of course, led to the question: If a tree falls in the forest, do the other trees hear it?

Apparently, they do. In the weeks that followed, Wagner hooked electrodes into two trees, 100 feet apart, and swung his ax into one of them. The bludgeoned tree, as before, responded immediately, but the moment-to-be-pondered came

several seconds later when the strip chart recorder on the second tree actually showed a small response.

"It was a delayed response," Wagner explained. "But it was definitely a response. I tried the test on other trees, and got the same response."

And no, Wagner said, the trees were not crying. In some newspaper stories about his discovery, it was theorized that the trees were crying.

"Trees don't cry," Wagner said, shaking his head.

At least not like humans. Their cry is more of a battle cry.

"It has long been believed that trees communicated," Wagner said. "But the popular theory has been that trees produced chemicals when they were under attack, thus warning other trees."

Maybe so, said Wagner, and maybe not. When one tree is under attack, he believes, it sends out a W-wave warning to surrounding trees, allowing them time to prepare their branches for battle.

Joe Zaerr of the Oregon State University College of Forestry in Corvallis isn't so sure about the W-wave warning system. In fact, he's not sure about any of Wagner's theories.

"I have some serious reservations about his work," said Zaerr, who teaches forest tree physiology. "He has measured a real phenomenon; my difference in opinion is how he's interpreted that phenomenon."

Zaerr is familiar with Wagner's research: He helped Wagner prepare his first professional paper on W-waves, which was published on Oct. 11, 1988, in Northwest Science Magazine.

Zaerr thinks Wagner may have stretched his theories a little too thin. Indeed, he said, an electrical field does exist in plant life, but whether trees can actually communicate through that field is something most scientists have yet to discover.

"I'm reluctant to say he's wrong, because I don't know," Zaerr said. "But at the same time I suspect a lot of the things he claims won't prove true in later research."

Of course, that's Zaerr's opinion, and Wagner probably doesn't care about his or anybody else's opinion.

After all, there's always the chance that he's right.

"I believe that almost every aspect of plant behavior is tied up with these waves," Wagner said. "You might call them life waves, since I know that they are essential for the life of the plant."

And if he's wrong? Well, there's always sap.

"I still don't know why sap flows up a tree," Wagner said.

Lizardman 1989?

NEWS, Greenville, SC - July 28, 1989 CR: J. Fisher

Tall, dark, hairy creature reportedly roaming rural Laurens County

By April Moorefield
News Clinton bureau

LAURENS — Reported sightings of a tall, dark, hairy animal roaming rural Laurens County's countryside have some residents wondering if a bear has rambled down from the mountains or if some strange beast has strayed into their midst.

Whatever the case, the Laurens County Sheriff's Office has had at least two reported sightings of some type animal — described by one woman as more than 8-feet-tall, hairy and dark colored — in the Cold Point area, located south of the city of Laurens.

There also have been several other unconfirmed reports of sightings of the animal in the area, sheriff's officials said.

Arlene McCall was one of the first people who reported seeing the creature almost two months ago.

Something stood in her path as she drove along the highway on her way home from her second-shift job at Wal-Mart Distribution Center, she said.

"When my light hit it I could see it was walking on two legs. It took one step back, but I was gone. It was something so scary you didn't want to go back and look for it."

— Arlene McCall,
a Laurens County resident

"When my light hit it I could see it was walking on two legs," she said. "It took one step back, but I was gone. It was something so scary you didn't want to go back and look for it."

It was either dark brown or black, and had long arms, she said.

"I could tell it was humped over — not at the back, but behind the neck," she said. "Then my car lights hit it, I could see big, red eyes."

Sheriff's Capt. Robin Morse said the Sheriff's Office isn't discounting the reports, but he doesn't think it's anything out of the ordinary.

"Some people think that maybe it's a little bear that has wandered down from the mountains," Morse said. "That does happen occasionally."

The state Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission biologist for Laurens County, Tim Ivey, said he would not speculate except to say the only large animals found in this area are white-tail deer and an occasional black bear.

During the past 12 years there have been three confirmed instances where bears have strayed into the Laurens-Newberry County area, Ivey said.

"It isn't real common, but occasionally a juvenile black bear will move through the district," Ivey said. "But they don't stay very long in one place."

So far, Ivey said, his office hasn't received any calls about the creature.

Ken and Pam Treadway, who live in the Cold Point area, said several people in the area have seen a shadow of something suspicious running through the woods near Cold Point. Few have gotten close enough for a look.

Treadway and several other people went out on horseback with dogs to see if they could catch a glimpse of the animal. They didn't see anything unusual.

"You think about the Lizard Man from last summer, and it makes you wonder exactly what this is," Mrs. Treadway said.

Morse said he urges anyone who does see anything suspicious in rural Laurens to call the Sheriff's Office.

"That way we can get someone out there to verify the complaint."

Trek the yeti trail

THE often dubious description "off the tourist trail" takes on genuine meaning when attached to the first British commercial trek to the mainly unmapped and unnamed Lunana region in the kingdom of Bhutan. The £3,590 trek is through a district near Tibet where isolation is assured by the snows which cover it for much of the year. Covering passes of 16,000ft and visiting dzongs (monastery fortresses), the trek ends at the Thimphu Tsechu annual religious festival in Bhutan's capital. If you need any further incentive, there is always the possibility you'll come across the elusive snowman of Lunana which, says Himalayan Kingdoms (tel: 0272-237163), "makes a whistling noise like a traffic policeman (sic) and has, apparently, remarkable mimicking abilities".

SUNDAY TIMES, London, England - July 9, 1989 CR: G. Duplantier

Lizard Man Is Quiet . . . Really Quiet

"He'll slip right up behind you, and eat the chrome right off your car."

—From "The Lizard Man" song

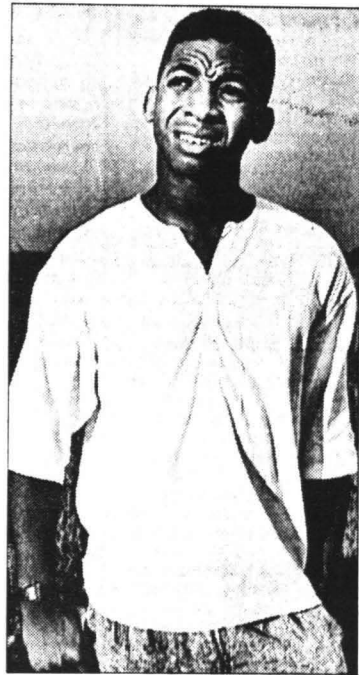
By JOHN MONK
Columbia Bureau

BISHOPVILLE, S.C. — A year ago, Lee County Sheriff Liston Truesdale was caught in a frenzy — a media feeding frenzy.

"I got 200 calls a day from all over the world. England called four times in one morning," Truesdale recalled last week, sitting at his desk in the county courthouse.

Reporters wanted to know about sightings of a swamp thing dubbed "Lizard Man," a 7-foot scaly green monster who snacked on cars and hunted people.

The Lizard Man was — except for the annual Cotton Festival — the most exciting thing to ever happen in Lee County, a 411-square-mile patch of quiet woods, swamps and fields in central South Carolina.



Chris Davis last year told of an encounter with the "Lizard Man."

But it's been 10 months since a sighting. Now, few reporters call. "Things are back to normal," Truesdale said.

For Bishopville, normal means "nothing to do but rock on porches," said Sarah McCutchen, a born-and-bred Bishopvillian who works for the Lee County Observer.

Like many, McCutchen doesn't believe there ever was a Lizard Man. Bishopville's lack of activity might have fueled people's imaginations, she said.

Truesdale, 59, is not so sure the Lizard Man was fiction.

"I can't prove that there is, and I can't prove that there isn't," he said.

As sheriff for 15 years, Truesdale is the county's top law officer. His refusal to dismiss the Lizard Man gave the sightings credibility they otherwise might not have warranted.

He took it seriously because most of the sightings came from respectable residents, Truesdale said.

First, on July 14, 1988, residents of the county's Browntown section reported something had been eating their car.

"You can see the marks in it — and that is tough chrome," said Truesdale, who keeps a sheaf of color photos of the damaged car in his desk to show visitors.

Then someone tipped the sheriff's department that a 17-year-old youth named Chris Davis had seen a monster.

Davis told a weird tale. He said several weeks before, while he was changing tires on a lonely dark road, a monster chased him. It was 7 feet tall and had red eyes, long arms and three fingers. It grunted. Davis barely got away.

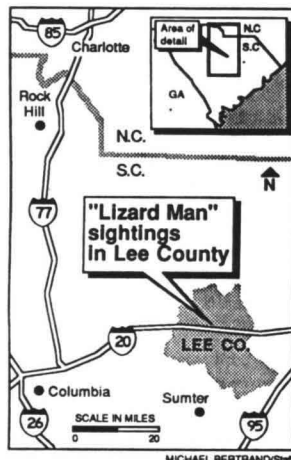
Truesdale knew Davis' family as respectable people. He asked Davis to take a polygraph. Davis did; he passed.

Word spread. The media arrived. Davis — who at first shunned publicity — hired an agent and planned to write a book and make a movie. Later, a state trooper and a county deputy said they saw Lizard Man tracks when they investigated garbage strewn across a road.

Meanwhile, merchants in town cashed in. Scores of people detoured from I-20 to come to Bishopville.

At Kelley's Exxon, visitors could buy a variety of Lizard Man regalia, including bumper stickers that said "Catch Me If You Can" and green T-shirts that said "Lizard Patrol."

Now, there are no bumper stick-



ers, and the T-shirts sell for \$8 — down from \$12 a year ago.

"Last year, we sold 15 to 20 T-shirts a day," said David Kelley. Now, they sell about four a week.

Davis has lost his excitement about the Lizard Man. He made about \$3,000 in various marketing endeavors, but then the money dried up. The book and movie never panned out.

Now, he has mixed emotions. He knows he saw something, but he's not sure what.

"It probably was a prankster," said Davis, a rising senior at Bishopville High next year.

These days, Truesdale suggests there may be more to reflect on in Lee County than the Lizard Man.

Six county residents, says Truesdale, swear they have seen flying saucers. Like Davis, they are credible witnesses, he said.

"They said it was a large, oblong object in the sky that looked like a turtle on its back, and they said it had lights on it . . . the brightest lights other than the sun they had ever seen."

Was it real?
"I'm not saying they didn't see anything," Truesdale says.

State Law Enforcement Division Chief Robert Stewart said some of his investigators took bloodhounds to Lee County last year to hunt the Lizard Man.

"We got T-shirts, but we never did get him," chuckled Stewart.

And down at local radio station WAGS, they don't play the song "Lizard Man" much anymore. Last summer, it was on twice an hour.

"We hardly ever get a request," said WAGS disk jockey Jason Loney.

Bigfoot conference produces disagreement, many questions

by Ulla Thogersen
Contributing Writer

Some 100 bigfoot enthusiasts from around the country and abroad convened on campus over the weekend to discuss new evidence that could verify the existence of this elusive creature. But the "evidence" presented — such as twisted trees and unfocused photos — have provided nothing new.

Nevertheless, a piece of "evidence" of the abominable snowman, the "yeti" from the Himalayas, drew considerable attention among the participants in the eighth annual meeting of the International Society of Cryptozoology.

Robert Hutchison, an author and journalist from Switzerland, presented a series of elaborate slides showing footprints of the "yeti" — a creature which is thought to be similar to Sasquatch or "Harrison Bigfoot."

But the conference, titled "Sasquatch Evidence: Scientific and Social Implications," did not produce any substantial conclusions that could help bigfoot investigators to coordinate their

efforts.

The meeting generated disagreements ranging from what the Sasquatch really is — an animal or a humanoid? — to whether it would be an endangered species once it is discovered.

Bigfoot hunters attending the conference expressed concern that the animal would be endangered if it was shot. Some of them said they would never shoot the animal if they found it. The participants, however, agreed that no more photos or footprints would be of provide anything new in the future, and that efforts should concentrate on finding a Sasquatch.

Another aspect touched upon during the conference is the fact that bigfoot investigation may prove beneficial in the AIDS research.

Mark Francis, director of the North American Bigfoot Information Network, said "being man's possibly closest relative, (bigfoot) would be a far better subject for cancer research, disease testing and AIDS research."

Nancy Magnuson, professor in microbiology at WSU who con-

ducts research in AIDS — but did not attend the meeting, said if the animal was proven to be more closely related to human beings than chimpanzees, it could be valuable for AIDS research.

One thing the participants agreed upon was that there is still no hard evidence acceptable to the scientific community as to the existence of bigfoot.

But this is hardly surprising since investigators themselves not only disagree as to the methods verifying new "evidence," but they are also suspicious of each other — who is reliable and who is not?

John Green, author and Sasquatch investigator, said bigfoot investigation is "a competitive activity" and there is "a lot of people involved who's whole ambition is to get the first Sasquatch."

He said one of the reasons why hard evidence does not exist today is that politicians and scientists won't accept eyewitness reports on Sasquatch.

WEEKLY NEWS, Manchester, England - June 17, 1989

Let out a yell when she saw the "Monster"

ONE of the passengers on a monster-hunting boat let out a yell. She'd just spotted a 50-foot-long image on the screen of the sonar scanner.

Now the image is being studied to see if it's the year's first sighting of the elusive Loch Ness Monster.

The sonar equipment is on the boat which takes tourists on Loch cruises in the hope of spotting Nessie.

"The full-colour sonar equipment was just recently installed," said Ron McKenzie of Loch Ness Cruises. They also act as the loch rescue service and auxiliary coastguard.

Large blob

"The sonar gear is under the boat and scans the depths, sending back images to a monitor on the boat."

"We had it fitted just to add to the interest of the tourists who come on the cruises hoping for a sight of Nessie, but we didn't expect to get results so soon."

"It was actually one of the

tourists who spotted the image on the monitor. We'd turned for home and were around four miles out on the loch and just passing an area where the bottom suddenly drops from 400 to 600 feet, when she let out a shout.

"We could see a large blob about 50 feet long, which looked rather like a dolphin with a long nose and a hump, moving at 300 feet."

"The sonar image is recorded, so we were able to play it back immediately and study it."

But was it really the elusive monster, whose first reported sighting was back in 565 A.D. by no less than Saint Columba?

"The images are now being examined by experts," said Ron, "but already any faults in the equipment have been ruled out, so we did pick up something strange."

Slaughter of pigs being investigated by county officers

The Faulkner County Sheriff's Office is investigating the recent slaughter and disappearance of 35 pigs from a farm owned by Artis Davis on Highway 286 west of Conway.

Sixty-seven pigs were placed in Davis' pens on the night of July 29, but only 32 remained the next morning. At least 12 of them were killed, according to Chief Criminal Investigator Ken Kelso.

Kelso said the pigs apparently were hacked to death with a sharp object. Some had their legs cut off and some had puncture marks around their necks. Kelso said there was a surprisingly small amount of blood in the area, considering the magnitude of the slaughter.

Kelso said the sheriff's office has no real leads in the case, but officers are pursuing several possibilities. He said one possibility is that the slaughter may have been the act of a satanic cult.

The pigs were all about 4 months old, and weighed from 85 to 135 pounds. They were valued at about \$50 each.

LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT, Conway, AR - Aug. 6, 1989

Yacolt family tells tale of Bigfoot

By BOB SISSON
The Columbian

YACOLT — Brenda Goldammer and her teen-age stepson say they never believed in Bigfoot until Sunday night, when they saw what they described as a huge, hairy creature with a high-pitched scream and a face like a gorilla in the woods behind their house.

Honest, they say.

But, as is typical in reported Bigfoot sightings, there is no solid physical evidence left for those who weren't there to consider — no clear footprints, no droppings and certainly no photographs or body parts.

Bigfoot — or Sasquatch, as the Indians called the alleged ape-like monster — is one of the Northwest's most famous legends. More than 750 purported sightings of the creature have

been reported over the last century.

Brenda, 30, and her stepson, Nickolas Goldammer, 16, said they were inside the house at 31853 N.E. Garner Road, about one-half mile south of Yacolt, about 9:30 p.m. Sunday when, they said, they heard a screech outside. Brenda's two dogs were barking, she said, and her horse was bucking, and the chickens "were going crazy" in the chicken house, she said.

She said that when she went out to investigate, her German shepherd, Rusty, ran into the woods behind the house, "then he came flying back here, yipping like somebody hit him, and ran under the porch. I looked out there and there was this thing, this big hairy gorilla-faced thing."

Nick ran after it, she said,

spotting it behind a tree and then watching it run across a creek and into some brush on a knoll, about 50 feet away.

"It stopped and it turned around and looked at me," Nick said. "I stood there rubbing my eyes, not believing what I was seeing."

"It looked straight at us," she said. "That's when my heart dropped. That thing must have been 6 or 7 feet tall and had to weigh 300 or 400 pounds. . . . You couldn't see its mouth because everything was all hairy."

"I never saw it before in my life and I know I never want to see it again," said Nick.

Brenda called 9-1-1 and Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Butler arrived about 40 minutes later. He reported he could find no physical evidence.

INTERESTING STUFF

EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio, TX
June 4, 1989 CR: A. Huron

WEIRD SOUTH TEXAS PHENOMENA

by Craig Phelon

Rural Texas is well-known as a great source of folklore and legend, but the stories circulating there the last few years have taken on a curious supernatural flavor. Gunslingers and Indians are fairly tame compared to UFO sightings and other occurrences, real or imagined. Here are some relatively recent stories that may either enrich our storehouse of South Texas

folklore, or provide the early indications of what some people believe will be a real close encounter of the third kind.

UFO SIGHTINGS

Unidentified flying objects seem to be more numerous than raindrops in various parts of South Texas during the past few months, judging from reported sightings.

Several residents from Austin to San Antonio, including two pilots and an air traffic controller, reported seeing an extremely bright, unidenti-

fied object speeding through the sky last February.

More recently, UFO sightings have been reported in Goliad, Corpus Christi, Hebbronville, Boerne and Alamo Heights.

ANIMAL MUTILATIONS

Although reports of mysterious animal mutilations seemed to have slackened off since the 1970s, they remain a mystery. In many reported cases, the animals were butchered with such precision and under such strange circumstances that even veterinarians were stumped about how the work was done.

Some blame the mutilations on religious cults; others on space aliens. And there's a group that says it's all part of some secret, U.S. government project.

Thomas R. Adams of Paris has become a regional historian on animal mutilations.

He runs a bookstore called Crux Publications that specializes in UFO-related materials. Adams also prints a magazine called Stigmata.

Adams' file of newspaper reports tells of animal mutilations in various parts of Texas including Laredo, Harlingen, Rio Grande City and, of course, San Antonio.

In fact, one strange case happened near Calaveras Lake on a small ranch that San Antonio lawyer Willie B. Snell owns.

Snell says back in '79 or '80 he found a dead pig outside its pen. The animal's heart and genitals were cut out and all the blood was drained.

The incisions were made in perfect circles, Snell says. A veterinarian, who also viewed the corpse, told Snell he didn't know a surgeon who could have made the cuts so perfectly.

Snell also says it appeared no one tampered with the pigpen and there were no footprints or animal tracks near the pen or

COURIER AND ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - June 10, 1989 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I



A section of Loch Ness near Urquhart Castle where there have been several sightings of Nessie—but none by Nicholas Witchell!

Newsreader's monster hobby

NEWSREADER NICHOLAS WITCHELL has a monster of a job—but it's nothing compared to his hobby.

For Witchell, anchorman of B.B.C. 1's "Six O'Clock News," is a "Nessie" hunter, and he's been pursuing the mysterious creature, which is supposed to lurk in the gloomy waters of Scotland's famous loch, for more than 20 years.

Witchell's preoccupation with the Loch Ness Monster began when he was a 13-year-old schoolboy, and he's not shaken off his ardent pursuit of the mythical creature—even though he's never seen it!

He first became fascinated by what just might be prowling the deep and icy cold waters of Loch Ness after he read a magazine article.

"I wrote about it for a project at school—and won a prize," he says.

He followed this up by going on expeditions to the loch, and he has been writing about Nessie ever since.

His documentary account of the sightings, speculation and general "Nessie-mania" over

the years was published in his book, "The Loch Ness Story," in 1974.

A year later it came out in paperback, was updated in 1982—and now Witchell has revised it yet again.

During his several lochside vigils—the longest was for five months in 1972—has he glimpsed anything that could have been Nessie? And does he believe Nessie's for real?

A SPECIAL correspondent looks at the unusual hobby of newsreader Nicholas Witchell.

"In 1973, I saw what looked like a telegraph pole sticking up out of the water apparently moving against quite large waves," he says.

"It was there for just a second and then there was nothing but a trail on the water.

"It was such a fleetingly brief sighting that I don't claim to have seen anything unusual—particularly after I'd taken such a rigorous attitude with others claiming to have seen something!

"Let's be honest, there have been moments of considerable doubt when I've been away from Loch Ness for long periods working in the cynical world of hard news journalism, and I've thought to myself, 'Come on, there isn't anything there.'

"But then I've remembered the people I've met and questioned and, before cynicism completely overtakes me, I tell myself these are decent people

training scheme, and worked for B.B.C. TV's Midlands "Today" programme in Birmingham, B.B.C. Radio Merseyside and with the B.B.C. in Northern Ireland.

There were stints, too, as a reporter for B.B.C. TV in Beirut—and in the Falklands War. He moved to the "Six O'Clock News" more than five years ago.



Nicholas Witchell

describing very clearly what they've seen.

"I think on the basis of all these people I've interviewed and the scientific expeditions I've been part of, there probably is a species of animal there which we know nothing about."

Nicholas Witchell (36) and the son of an R.A.F. officer, was born in Shropshire and studied law at Leeds University before opting for a career in journalism.

He gained his law degree, joined the B.B.C.'s graduate

MODOC CO. RECORD, Alturas, CA - July 27, 1989
also dealt many times with local scoffing.

Never before, however, have I witnessed such malicious and slandering opposition toward the folks who claim to have seen a Sasquatch, than on the Paiute Indian Reservation.

I personally spoke with two members of the tribal council who made slanderous and defamatory remarks toward a few locals who claim recent sightings. The rest of their comments were racist and had nothing to do with the

Sasquatch or why I was there.

In my opinion, members of the tribal council denying the possible existence of the Sasquatch and condemning those who claim sightings is pure ignorance and hypocrisy. The Sasquatch is part of their own legend and folklore.

I feel it's time the native American peoples were given the respect they deserve, and I would urge all Ft. Bidwell residents to cast a different vote come the next election.

Additionally, after speaking with nearly all of the key witnesses and spending a week beating the bush, I am convinced that these folks indeed saw a Sasquatch or two.

I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the eye-witnesses who shared the details of their encounters with me, especially Mary Sam and family; and to the people of Modoc County for their kindness and generosity, especially Vern and Marilyn Hill.

Remember, ridicule without investigation or inquiry is the crown of ignorance upon the head of a fool.

--Mark Francis

Ft. Bidwell needs new council

Dear Editor:

As an active Bigfoot researcher for several years, I have traveled across the country numerous times investigating sighting reports. I have spoken with and befriended literally hundreds of eye-witnesses over the years and have

One case of animal mutilation happened near Calaveras Lake on a small ranch that San Antonio lawyer Willie B. Snell owns.

the carcass. Even more strange, he says, the usual wild scavengers would not touch the carcass.

GIANT BIRDS

In the wake of the UFO phenomenon, many sightings of strange creatures are being reconsidered. Could it be that what people really saw were space beings in disguise?

Everything from leprechauns to Bigfoot has been linked to UFOs. The same holds true for the nearly forgotten giant-bird sightings in South Texas.

Two youths in Harlingen said they spotted through their field glasses a "horrible-looking" black bird with the face of a gorilla sitting by a drainage ditch on Jan. 1, 1976. They said the bird looked to be about 5 feet tall.

Reported sightings of similar creatures cropped up all over the place: Brownsville, Poteet, Raymondville, Olmito, Eagle Pass, San Benito — and San Antonio, where a flying giant bird was reported by three elementary school teachers.

A similar large-winged creature was reported in Houston in 1953 and was dubbed the "Houston Bat Man." Ugly, large-winged creatures have been reported in other parts of the country, as well. Sometimes they're referred to as "Mothman."

The stories were recalled in Dennis Stacy's Texas Strange column that used to run in the San Antonio Express-News.

Hypnosis sheds light on prophecies of Nostradamus

CONVERSATIONS WITH NOSTRADAMUS, HIS PROPHECIES EXPLAINED, Volume One, by Dolores Cannon; America West Publishers, Boulder, Col.; 322 pages, \$13.95.

By Karen Knutson
GAZETTE STAFF

Dolores Cannon, a resident of Huntsville, recently had a writer's dream come true: She published her first book.

Cannon, who's been a stringer for the Northwest Arkansas Times for 10 years and has written numerous magazine articles, had searched for years to find a publisher for her work. And that wasn't because her writing abilities weren't up to snuff; it's because the publishers shied away from the subject matter.

"There's my normal writing, and then there's this," Cannon said, explaining that she is a hypnotic "regressionist" who takes her subjects back in time to relive past lives. The topic of "Conversations with Nostradamus" chronicles her experiences via hypnosis with Nostradamus, actually Michel de Notre-dame, a French physician and astrologer who published a collection of prophecies in rhymed four-lined quatrains called "Centuries" in 1555.

The book, which is available at "New Age" stores such as The Bookshop at 7710 Cantrell Road, aims to decipher the actual meaning of 136 of the quatrains. It includes information about the Anti-Christ, the future of the next three popes and the Catholic Church, the Third World War, technology, cloning and more; it's the first of three volumes.

"It was scary," she admitted. "I live in a fundamentalist area, where most people don't know I'm interested in psychic phenomena, so this book is like coming out of the closet. My first agent

thought I would need to be under a pseudonym. A lot of people will think I'm a kook. But I just had to get my story out."

Cannon, born in 1931 in St. Louis, married a career Navy man in 1951 and traveled all over the world. In 1970 her husband was discharged, and they retired to Huntsville. There she studied hypnosis methods with her husband, an amateur hypnotist, and became interested in regressive hypnosis and reincarnation.

The basis of the book came about when a student of Nostradamus named Dionisus spoke through Cannon's subject Elena [a pseudonym] a couple of years ago. ("All my subjects wanted to be anonymous," she said. "They are ordinary people who didn't want their lives to be disrupted. They aren't people who are out to perpetrate a hoax.")

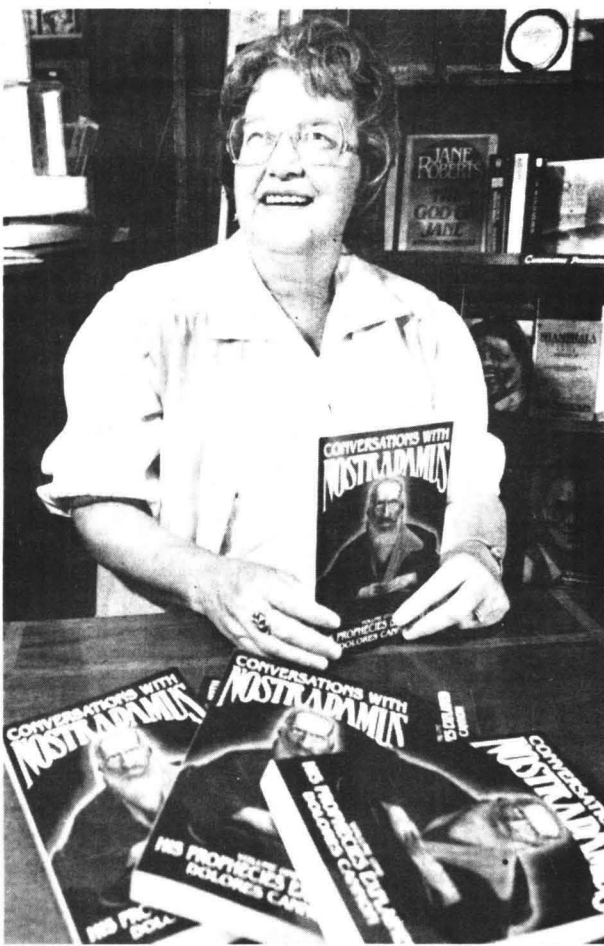
Nostradamus, Elena said, "has been deliberate in his confusion. He says that fewer would have understood in his time, but that we are more into an age of enlightenment. He said that man has grown to a point in time where understanding the quatrains are easier for those who take the time, not only to read but to listen to what is inside of themselves."

Cannon said she hadn't been familiar with Nostradamus before this project began, so she got busy in libraries to verify the information revealed to her through the subjects.

"I love history and research," she said. "So what better way is there to combine them than to go back in time and talk to the people who were there?"

Not everyone's past lives were interesting, she said. "Many lived dull, boring lives; they were nobodies. But if you got somebody in an interesting time period they could tell you what was going on around them."

Along with the Nostradamus series, Cannon has written two more books to be released next



Cannon waits to autograph books at The Bookshop.
— Staff Photo by Jeff Bowen

year through America West Publishers, which also distributes the books: one on Jesus and another about Hiroshima.

"The information came from the same young girl, who dropped out of school when she was 16," she said. "I took her through 28 lives, lots of countries, cultures, languages; she even sang in dead languages. It would have been impossible for an uneducated girl like her to fake that. Besides, she never knew what time period I'd be taking her back to."

In one life, Cannon said, her subject "was a man killed by the atomic bomb explosion [in Hiroshima during World War II], and

she knew so much about Japanese culture, which I cross-checked and learned it was true. Then we went back to the time of Christ, and she had been a teacher of Christ. So I stayed with it; it's really astounding what I learned. If I had hit that the first time with her, I'd have been skeptical, but this was after many sessions together."

People "will cut me down to preserve their own belief systems," Cannon said. "But I'm not a kook. I have an ordinary life, a husband, children, grandchildren. My work makes me feel like a genuine time traveler. But it's not the only thing I do."

COLONIST, Victoria, B.C.,
Canada - June 18, 1989

Snicker if you like but they don't care

The Canadian Press

VANCOUVER — They call themselves cryptozoologists and they don't care if you snicker.

They spend their spare time delving into folklore in a bid to fathom the mysteries of fabled water monsters of British Columbia.

It's an amusing hobby, says Paul LeBlond, an oceanography professor at the University of British Columbia and co-founder of the B.C. Cryptozoological Club.

"It's intellectually stimulating," LeBlond insists. "It's worth doing. It's also worth laughing at."

Cryptozoology, he said Saturday, is the study of "hidden animals" such as the Abominable Snowman and the Loch Ness Monster.

Monsters haunt as many as two dozen B.C. lakes, said Jim Clark, who's been trying to prove it for a decade.

Clark, 29, of suburban Coquitlam, recently founded the 20-member crypto club with LeBlond, 50. He's also writing what he hopes will be "the definitive book of B.C.'s inland-water monsters."

British Columbia has "more hidden animals per capita, with the possible exception of Africa, than anywhere in the world," Clark maintains.

Most are serpentine creatures — like Cadborosaurus (Caddie), the denizen of the deep which purportedly pops up now and then off southern Vancouver Island.

Similar creatures allegedly have been sighted in Kootenay, Arrow, Harrison, Skaha, Osoyoos, Shuswap and 17 other Interior B.C. lakes. The undisputed king of cryptids is Ogopogo, the legendary serpent of Okanagan Lake that helped put Kelowna on the tourist map.

There are two varieties of serpent, Clark said: the Long Neck, with a pair of horns on its head and a face like a bull terrier; and Merhorse, with eyes like a giant squid's and a seaweed-colored mane.

Club member John Kirk, 33, isn't sure which one he saw on May 19, 1987.

The Vancouver man was standing on a slope overlooking Okanagan Lake when he spotted a creature with "a 12-foot-long neck, a tiny head at the tip and faint humps sticking out of the water."

Kirk, who had been filming the sunset through a video camera telephoto lens, zoomed in. When the film was later analysed, it was estimated that the creature was about 18 metres long.

A cryptid matching Kirk's description has been sighted in the lake almost 1,000 times since 1860, said Arlene Gaal of Kelowna, who's written a book on such creatures.

It's even part of Indian folklore, said Gaal.

"They called it Naitaka, meaning demon of the lake," she said.

"All we're looking at is a species that hasn't been identified," she said. "It's not a monster."

Even the B.C. Skeptics Society remains "quite willing to be convinced," said chairman Barry Beyerstein.

"These things can't be ruled out," he said.

"But you have to wonder why one has never been snagged in a net or shot by a hunter. And you never hear about skeletal remains washing up on a beach."

DAILY NEWS, Pullman, WA - June 24, 1989

Bigfooter jailed for allegedly threatening life of man attending conference at WSU

By TONY SEMERAD and
STEVE THOMPSON
Staff writers

Jon Erik Beckjord — a self-proclaimed authority on Bigfoot's extra-terrestrial origins who is shunned by leading experts in the field — was arrested Friday in Pullman on charges of harassment and coercion.

Beckjord was in town for the conference of the International Society of Cryptozoology (ISC) at Washington State University.

He was arrested by Whitman County Sheriff's deputies about 8 p.m. Friday — hours after he arrived in Pullman to challenge conventional theories on Bigfoot. Barred from ISC's official conference at WSU, Beckjord had planned to hold a "counter-conference" of his own today to attract ISC members.

There also were reports that Beckjord would attempt to infiltrate the official ISC conference.

"These are trumped-up charges," Beckjord said late Friday from the Whitman County Jail at Colfax. "This is just a scheme to keep me off the campus and away from that conference. The county authorities have not done

an appropriate check on this. No background check, no calls. Then I arrive in Pullman and a few hours later, bang, I'm busted."

The charges against him stem from threatening letters Beckjord allegedly wrote to Mark Francis, a 23-year-old Sasquatch hunter from Twinsburg, Ohio.

"Those letters are forged," Beckjord charged from his Colfax cell.

Francis and Beckjord harbor longstanding animosity, according to friends.

"There's something wrong," Beckjord said. "How can I be arrested in the state of Washington for allegedly harassing someone in Ohio while I'm a resident of California?"

Beckjord was arrested under a warrant signed by Whitman County District Court David Frazier.

He was booked into the jail at 9 p.m. Friday, according to a jail spokesman, who refused to give any further information. Beckjord was being held on \$2,500 bond.

The Malibu, Calif., resident was reportedly arrested at the Pullman Police Department by authorities from the Whitman County Sheriff's Department, a Pullman



BECKJORD

police dispatcher said. Beckjord said he went to the police department to check the veracity of threats that he would be jailed.

Francis, who is expected to attend the ISC conference this weekend, also reportedly requested a restraining order against Beckjord that would prevent him from entering the WSU campus at least until Tuesday. Francis could not be reached for comment late Friday.

The ISC conference, hosted by WSU professor Grover Krantz, begins at 10 a.m. today at Todd Hall and runs through Sunday.

Said Krantz: "Beckjord's arrest shouldn't affect the conference because he's not part of it in any way. But we have had concerns he would try to disrupt it. I never thought of Beckjord as violent, but he protested so much that he was peaceful that sometimes I wondered. I do know that he's a

weirdo."

Added Dan Perez, director at the Center for Bigfoot Studies in Norwalk, Calif.: "It's turned nasty. I wouldn't mind seeing him at the conference, but I know of other people who do not."

Similar problems arose with Beckjord and other investigators at a 1978 conference Vancouver, B.C., Perez said, calling the matter "kindergarten stuff."

"This taints the whole subject," Perez said Friday night. "It doesn't make anyone look good."

Among Beckjord's friends, Paul Freeman agrees that the charges were concocted to keep Beckjord away from the meeting.

"I've known him for six years and he wouldn't do something like this," said the Bigfooter from Walla Walla. "Why would a man write this guy a letter on his letterhead and make a death threat and then show up himself? It's just a big mess."

Freeman said the arrest could "really hurt the meeting. They'll say Bigfoot hunters are putting each other in jail. That doesn't do us any good, we're all in this together. I may just quit having anything to do with any of these people."