

UFO

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ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

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SEPTEMBER 1989

NUMBER 242

Alexandria man gets UFOoric about his CAUS

Larry Bryant says he is "a regular civil servant with a passion for his off-the-job interest."

He works in the Pentagon.

His passion is UFOs.

Bryant, 51, is a writer for the Army News Service, a branch of the Chief of Army Office of Public Affairs in the Pentagon. He has been a civil servant since 1959.

In his spare time — seemingly all his spare time — Bryant heads up the Washington office of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, "which is right where you're sitting," he says to a visitor on the couch of his Alexandria apartment.

The one-bedroom, 800-square-foot Parkfairfax apartment is dominated by bookcases, file cases, cardboard boxes and piles of documents, briefings, books, doctoral theses and photographs regarding unidentified flying objects. Very little of it is science fiction.

Just when you think you have finally taken in all the stuff that clutters the place, Bryant opens a walk-in closet to reveal "32 years' worth of chronologically filed UFO information," he says. "This is, basically, my UFOrium."



BY
Buzz McClain

It is an amazing amount of information. But it is not enough. As CAUS' Washington liaison, Bryant files suits in federal courts trying to compel the government to release even more information on what it knows about UFOs.

On Monday he will submit his latest complaint in U.S. District Court in Alexandria: Bryant wants the FBI to free up the file on UFO researcher Stanton T. Friedman. The FBI refused Bryant's initial request for the file under the Freedom of Information Act.

Monday's action is small potatoes for Bryant: In 1987 he took his case to the hallowed heights of the U.S. Supreme Court, taking on no less than the secretaries of Defense, Army and Air Force.

Pentagon peeved

Dressed in pressed gray slacks and a crisp plaid shirt, his graying

hair cropped short, Bryant has a patient demeanor and a penchant for details.

He is not an insufferable chatterbox, as many with passions for their hobbies tend to be. A professional journalist, he is wary and difficult to draw out. But he answers questions with a forthrightness that is disarming. He is not afraid to look you in the eye, such as he does when asked if his "second life," as he calls his UFO pursuits, has interfered with his job at the Pentagon.

"Of course it has," he says calmly. "Unfortunately, my employer is unhappy with what I'm doing. They said I was an embarrassment."

"I think it came down from on high that I had to be dealt with," Bryant says. "They did that by attacking my work performance."

In 1985 he was given a low rating on his evaluation. "In the previous few years, my rating was at the top, it was exceptional," he says. "I suddenly zoomed from worthwhile to worthless."

That rating began several years of filing suits to "end the harassment," which took him to the Supreme Court to appeal lower

court rulings "that said I did not, as a federal employee, have a right to sue my employer."

The Supreme Court justices saw it Bryant's way, which set up a new trial in Alexandria. He lost.

"The judge ruled I failed to prove my case," Bryant says. The judge was the same one who had thrown out his case the year before.

"Sometimes, for principle you have to pay the price," Bryant says.

This year his rating was back to excellent. "It seems the current regime has realized the error of the previous regime and decided Bryant needs to be left alone," he says. "The pariah of the Pentagon has now stabilized."

He is proud that his Supreme Court case set a precedent. "Government employees now have the right to contest in federal court (against their federal employer). In that regard, it was worth every cent in legal fees."

Speaking of legal fees, Bryant says when he's paid "a few of these legal bills, I hope to get a car."

CAUS is small

CAUS has "a cadre of workers that can be numbered on both hands," Bryant says. The group's

annual budget is "probably under \$1,000."

"Obviously, I need a bigger place, a secretary and some automation, but I guess I'll never get to that position," he concludes.

Bryant, who is single, has never seen a UFO. But after all these years of chasing information on UFOs, Bryant is more certain than ever that there is proof of their existence in secret government files. "I think we're getting closer (to government UFO revelations) every year . . . The smoke, it gets thicker; there's a pretty big fire there to examine."

When asked why the government would conceal knowledge of extraterrestrial life (including crashed spaceships and E.T. bodies in the hands of the government), Bryant says it's because of the social and scientific ramifications. "Somebody's going to have to pay for 40 years of deception," he adds.

Until then, "I'm here to fill storage cabinets and to file lawsuits — and I'm all out of file cabinets."

Buzz McClain's column appears every Tuesday and Friday.

Believers

'Exposing' the UFO coverup

DOUG BENEROFE / SPECIAL
FOSTER CITY

Elaine Butcher was at a high school football game when she first saw it.

"When everyone else was focused on the opening kickoff, I turned around and saw a bright, shiny disk flying through the air," Butcher said.

Hank was grilling steaks on his patio when he suddenly noticed a strange-looking disk speeding above.

Elaine and Hank were just two of the 30 people who were in attendance recently at the first meeting of the mid-Peninsula chapter of the UFO Awareness Society. The meeting was held at Foster City's Schooner Bay apartments in the clubhouse.

"We want to provide a forum, free from ridicule and intimidation, where people can meet and openly discuss their thoughts and experiences regarding UFOs," said society founder and director Rick Edwards.

Although Edwards says the society has no specific theories or explanations, those in attendance seemed to believe that UFOs do exist and the U.S. government has engaged in a coverup for at least 40 years.

"You know what happens when you leak any of this UFO information? You get snuffed out," said one society member who requested anonymity.

Another attendee said he believes hundreds of top-level government officials have been killed or jailed for knowing too much about the "UFO coverup."

At the meeting, the society aired one interview as part of a 36-minute video called "UFO Coverup." In it, a man claiming to be an ex-government official said that starting with Harry Truman, the U.S. government has been secretly working with aliens on a project classified as MJ12, and that since 1988 an alien has been a guest of Washington and is busy writing a book about his home planet. Of course, the man said, the alien is top secret.

The reasons the government would work with aliens, according to the video, is to better the country's own technology (the aliens are advanced, he said) and to someday form an intraplanetary government.

The video described aliens as being roughly three feet tall, with large eyes and no teeth, elastic but

UFO investigator thinks craft likely landed near Turtle Lake

By VICKI VOSKUIL
Tribune Staff Writer

All last week Don Johnson was on his hands and knees in dirt.

Johnson has been trying learn whether an extraterrestrial vehicle has landed.

Johnson is North Dakota's UFO investigator and says a "major find" has been discovered in a farmer's field near Turtle Lake.

"All the sod is dug up and it looks like the whole ground has been boiled up," said Johnson, who has been investigating and studying UFO phenomena for 15 years.

Nearby farmers found the holes and large round markings in May while seeding. The farmers, whom Johnson would not identify, took photos, made a video and called the UFO national hotline and Minot Air Force Base to try to report it.

They never got through on the hotline and the air base didn't appear to be interested, something that UFO reporters often come up against, Johnson said.

The base only suggested that no hay be cut and given to cattle

DAKOTA

because of possible radiation contamination.

A spokesman for the McLean County Sheriff's Department said the department was not aware of the site and no one had reported its existence.

Johnson said he was told by a Burleigh County sheriff's deputy who knew the family involved. Johnson prefers not to disclose the site in order to preserve it for further research.

In the center of the field are two circular bare spots, one measuring 55 x 68 feet; the other 37 x 43 feet. Each have bulbous protrusions. Around their perimeter are spike-like imprints and holes dug at a 45-degree angle. The holes are three to 10 inches square and go into the soil up to 24 inches deep. In all cases sod has been removed first and cast aside, Johnson said.

"They are not rodent holes. I have taken all that into consideration," Johnson said.

He said the farmers were not

frightened, but curious when they walked over to the freshly turned dirt last spring. Johnson said at the time they described it as something completely new to them and asked what could have done this?

"I believe it was a UFO landing," Johnson said.

The site is near power lines, an area where alleged landings often occur and cause power surges and outages, Johnson said.

Johnson does his work for free and files reports with state UFO investigations director John Salter, Grand Forks. Both are affiliated with the Mutual UFO Network Inc., an international scientific organization headquartered in Seguin, Texas.

Johnson is a reserve officer with the Bismarck Police Department. People with information can contact him through the department.

Meanwhile, he remains excited about his first alleged landing investigation.

"I know they're out there. UFOs are reported worldwide every day and I'm just waiting for my time to come so I can witness it."

hard skin, with an active sex life. Their favorite food is strawberry ice cream, it is believed. They have no thumbs and they have web-like feet. They believe in the universe as their god.

"The whole country's general apathy toward these things is why nobody knows about these things," Butcher said.

"We are not here to form theories on this," Edwards said. "We are here to make information available and then let people decide for themselves."

John F. Murphy, chief of the office of external affairs at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, says he is not aware of any government attempts to cover up the existence of UFOs.

"I can't imagine that there is any possible truth to these UFO rumors," he said.

Meanwhile, Dan, an active member of the society,

said "the society is there to put all the different angles and pieces together."

To make his arguments more scientific, Edwards has invented the UFO alert, a pyramid-shaped device that detects magnetic changes that UFOs allegedly are known to cause. Edwards says he has had trouble selling these (they go for \$49.95), but some of those present at the meeting said they owned one.

On a down-to-earth note, the society also goes by the name of Resource Marketing. Edwards says the business community is reluctant to do business with a UFO organization, so he was forced to use an alternative name. The society is non-profit, sells T-shirts (for \$35) and accepts donations.

Since the society's inception three months ago, it has have collected \$123 in donations, \$100 from one person.

Most People Who See A UFO Are Unlikely To Report It

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a five-part series.

By CLARK COX

Almost everyone has had experiences or seen things that he or she cannot explain.

There seems to be something special, though, about those inexplicable experiences if they involve objects in the sky.

An "Unidentified Flying Object," or "UFO," in contemporary jargon, is just that — an airborne object which one cannot identify. One would think that there is nothing so very mysterious, or even so very unusual, about seeing a UFO.

So overlain is the subject of UFO's, however, with contemporary totems and taboos, with mystique and with what most people regard as outlandish theories and explanations, that most people who see UFO's are reluctant even to report the experience, much less to theorize about what they have seen.

George D. Fawcett of Lincolnton, the North Carolina state director for an organization called the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) which investigates sightings of UFO's and attempts to arrive at explanations for these sightings, estimates that fewer than one in 10 people who see a UFO ever tell about the experience.

The writer of this series saw a UFO in 1981 — but was, himself, so reluctant to describe the experience that, when he finally decided to tell about it a couple of years ago, he had forgotten the date, the time of day, and some descriptive aspects of the airborne object he saw.

That seems to be a common, though not universal, experience among people who have reported UFO sightings to The Daily Journal.

Last October, The Daily Journal asked readers to tell the newspaper voluntarily about their UFO sightings. The request was repeated a couple of times since then.

Only five persons did so — and of the five, only three were willing to give their names to the writer. Only one was willing to let his name be used in print.

Only one (the same one) was able to tell a reporter the precise date, time, and place he saw the

UFO, and to describe the object with some precision. It is interesting to note that this observer is trained in scientific procedures and therefore may be expected to have been a more careful, objective observer of the UFO phenomenon he experienced.

The writer believes, however, that all five respondents — including the two telephone respondents who would not give their names — were telling the truth about what they saw (or what they believed they saw).

Like many UFO observers, the telephone respondents appeared to have undergone considerable emotional turmoil as a result of their experiences; the emotions they expressed over the telephone appeared to be genuine, as did their recollections of their observations.

Readers, of course, must form their own opinions about such reports, since the persons making the reports did not give their names.

In the case of the two persons (a mother and daughter) who did not allow their names to be used in print, The Daily Journal has followed the same policy it ordinarily follows with regard to printing reports of this type: The sources' names have been given to another staff member of the newspaper, in addition to the writer, as a means of assuring the verifiability of their reports.

George D. Fawcett says that North Carolina has been a "hotbed" of UFO reports, almost ever since the major 20th-century wave of UFO sightings began with reports of "flying saucers" about 1947.

Richmond County, "and the entire area surrounding it," says Fawcett, has been a particularly busy area for UFO sightings — even for North Carolina — since 1949, when local newspapers reported that a UFO spotted over Hamlet was chased by an airplane piloted by a local Air Force veteran until the UFO disappeared.

Fawcett has investigated UFO sightings in North Carolina since 1945; he was a student at Presbyterian Junior College in Maxton at the time of the 1949 sighting in Hamlet, and he personally investigated

that report.

His multitudinous files on UFO's — perhaps the largest in the world — contain numerous reports, he said in a telephone interview recently, of UFO sightings "from the Hamlet area, particularly — but also from Rockingham, and some from Ellerbe. And I have many, many reports of sightings from the area nearby — Laurinburg, Maxton, Robbins, Southern Pines, Rowland, Lumberton, Wadesboro, and other towns."

In the first three stories in this five-part series, something of the history of UFO sighting activity in Richmond and the surrounding counties will be outlined — beginning, today, with what the writer believes is the most reliable of the reports recounted recently to The Daily Journal.

The final two stories in the series will focus on interviews with Fawcett and another active MUFON investigator, Henry H. Morton of Wadesboro.

The fifth story will also attempt to draw some tentative conclusions about UFO activity in the area.

Garland Gilchrist, of Rt. 3, Rockingham, is a 50-year-old textile chemist who said: "I've always been interested in science, and I have read a lot in various scientific fields. I am of the opinion that there are people on other planets — not necessarily in this solar system — but I think it should be noted that I did not have these opinions in 1968; at that time, I was a skeptic about such things, and about the subject of UFO's in general."

But since Gilchrist and several members of his family saw a UFO in 1968, in Chester County, S.C., Gilchrist has read widely concerning UFO sightings. "I found that many aspects of our sighting were almost classic, in that we saw the very same things that have been reported in many other sightings," he said.

Gilchrist still believes that what he and his relatives saw was probably "man-made — but I truly have no idea what it was. I never saw anything like it before and I have never seen anything like it since."

"I have read the explanations for

many other UFO sightings, and I have to say that I've spent a lot of time outdoors at night. I know what an airplane looks like; I know what a helicopter looks like; I know what a star looks like, and I know what the satellites looked like that were circling the earth in the 1960s — I used to go out and look for them. I can understand how some of these things can fool you. But whatever this was, it wasn't like any airplane or helicopter I've ever seen, and it wasn't a star or an earth satellite."

The sighting occurred the Friday before Labor Day in 1968. Gilchrist said: "My wife Linda and I were living in Charlotte. There were just the two of us then — we didn't have children. We went to visit my sister, Betty O'dell, at her home in Chester County, S.C. about 12 miles northwest of the Town of Chester and about 60 miles from Charlotte. We had left Charlotte about 5:30, and we got to my sister's just before dark and were unloading our car; I'd say it was between 7 and 7:30."

"My nephew Donald, who at that time was 8 or 9 years old, was helping me unload the car; the women were in the house. One of the items in the car was an almost new pair of binoculars; Donald and I stopped to look at the moon — it was almost full — through the binoculars. As Donald was looking at the moon, I looked toward the west and saw a light coming across the sky. It was not very large and not very bright, but it seemed to be moving at a very high rate of speed. It looked, at first, like one of those early earth satellites, moving from west to southeast. I asked Donald for the binoculars and looked at the light through them; it then appeared very bright, and it appeared to be rotating. Through the binoculars, it appeared to be more like a series of lights, going around — like an oval-shaped top. I would say it appeared that there were portals, or portholes, on the side of whatever it was, and light was coming through these portholes from the inside."

"I called for my wife and sister. I handed the binoculars to one of them and said, 'Look at that thing up in the sky.' I recall that that is

exactly what I said. I didn't say, 'Look at that bright oval object spinning around in the sky, with light coming out of portholes on its side,' or anything like that. Yet, when they looked at the object, they described it in exactly the same way that I just described it."

"By this time it was almost right overhead — and still, we heard no noise of any kind. My niece Diane, who was about 12, had also come outside by this time and was watching the light with us."

"Then the object continued on to the southeast. We took turns looking at it."

"Suddenly, a strange thing happened: The light went to a point near the horizon, and just stopped — but through the binoculars, we could see that although it appeared to be hovering, it was still rotating. We watched it for what seemed like several minutes."

"Then, it seemed that the thing lit up much more brightly, so that for a second it illuminated the whole sky. I would compare it to a flashlight, which has a bright light for just an instant, then goes out. And that's what this thing did: It lit up the sky for an instant — and then it went out. It disappeared completely from view."

"I'm not the sort of person — none of the people who saw this thing drink or use drugs. We were not drunk or 'high' on anything. There were three adults and two children there, and each of us saw it, and we each described it the same way. I think that's the best proof we have that our descriptions are accurate."

"No, I don't attribute any mystical or mysterious significance to what we saw," Gilchrist concluded. "It was just something we saw in the sky, that we couldn't explain."

In the most precise sense of the words, then, what Gilchrist and his relatives saw was an "Unidentified Flying Object."

UFOs Are Interesting Riddles

My series on Unidentified Flying Objects in Richmond County and the surrounding area — which, as I write this, is scheduled to be running in this week's editions of The Daily Journal — wraps up what for the last several years has been a major career interest of mine.

I have long been interested in such unexplained phenomena as UFO's, "extrasensory perception," and near-death experiences — not because I accept the far-fetched mystical explanations that some people attach to these experiences, because I don't; but simply because, being mysteries, they exert a compelling fascination.



Clark Cox
Staff Writer

Local newspapers, I think, can play an important role in gathering data on such phenomena, which researchers may use at some time in the future to arrive at explanations which can broaden our knowledge of natural forces. Newspapers, by reporting such phenomena objectively, can also serve as something of a corrective force, both against too credulous acceptance of mystical theories and against unwarranted skepticism which attempts to dismiss mysterious phenomena with simplistic explanations.

In the past eight years, by my count, I have written: (1) a five-part series on various types of "extra-sensory perception," with a two-part followup series; (2) a five-part series on "near-death experiences"; (3) the story of a local woman's contacts with her dead

son; (4) the UFO series; and (5) an uncounted number of columns, editorials, and book reviews (including, space permitting, reviews this week and next) concerning "paranormal" phenomena.

I can't promise that my fascination with what some readers doubtless — and perhaps rightly — consider "silly" topics will allow me to abandon the writing of such stories for all time. If a good story comes my way, about anything, I hope to be able to write it.

But the current series marks the end of my research directed specifically at the writing of such stories.

By and large, these stories have been received favorably and with considerable interest by our readers, and I appreciate that.

More to the point, though, the stories have succeeded somewhat in awakening readers to the reality (subjective, if not objective) of paranormal experiences, and in interesting objective researchers in further investigation of these experiences. This last result will, I think, be particularly true of the present UFO series.

The UFO series was by all odds the most difficult of these stories for me to research, because of the reticence of most persons who have sighted (or had "close encounters" with) UFO's to relate their experience, for fear of being thought either to be lying or to be insane. I appreciate those UFO "contactees" who have come forward, even if anonymously, for the sake of disseminating information about what I can testify is indubitably a real experience.

"Indubitably," I say, because, as has not been the case with my other stories in this vein, I have had a "close

encounter" of my own with a UFO (which will be described in the series). Such an encounter, for one who not only is skeptical about paranormal phenomena but who also regards himself as singularly unimaginative — and who does not use "mind-altering" substances and has never had anything else which could be described as a "paranormal" experience — is extremely convincing.

Having said all this, I should include a disclaimer:

I still don't believe in the mystical explanations for all of this stuff.

I believe that what I saw was a man-made, and man-operated, aircraft of some sort which I have never seen before or since. It was an "Unidentified Flying Object" in the strict sense of the words: I could not identify it. That doesn't mean that it had to be operated by extraterrestrials from somewhere far beyond Alpha Centauri.

Neither do I discount mystical explanations entirely. I am a Baptist, a faith which, we skeptics of the paranormal may too often tend to forget, entails a certain amount of "mystical" belief. I believe that there may well be intelligent life on other planets — perhaps, on a multitude of other planets. I believe that "natural" explanations will eventually account for such phenomena as dowsing, which are now regarded as "paranormal."

But I believe, also, that the proper attitude toward all "paranormal" phenomena for which no ready "natural" explanations can be found is an open mind and the conviction that the phenomena should properly be regarded as "normal" but as yet unexplained.

TIMES, Asheville, NC - Aug. 23, 1989

UFO Sighted?

4 Onslow County Deputies Spot 'Big White Dot' In Sky

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE — Four Onslow County deputy sheriffs spotted an unusual object in the sky early Monday fueling speculation about unidentified flying objects, a newspaper reported.

"There was one big thing up there," Capt. W.S. Edgar told the Daily News of Jacksonville. "There was a big white dot in the sky and then it started coming apart. I'll swear, it was weird."

He said he saw the object about 5:30 a.m. Monday from the Meadow Lane section along N.C. 24 in Hubert.

"Everybody saw it that worked that shift," he said. "I don't know what it was."

"It was oval-shaped with two tails, one on each end. One light shining out is what it looked like. The right end started fading and the left end started growing," said a deputy who was with Edgar. He asked not to be identified.

"It was somewhere between a half-mile and a mile up," the deputy said. "I saw it for 30 or 45 minutes and then it just vanished."

Deputy Tim Christian said he saw the object from near the Cash and Carry store on U.S. 258.

"I noticed a dark spot on the end. It got more defined and looked like that," he said, pointing to a drawing of a long, slender object drawn by the deputy who was with Edgar.

Gunnery Sgt. Don Gilbert of the New River Joint Public Affairs Office said he had no information on possible UFOs. A spokesman for the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, said no one there reported seeing anything.

CR: J. Fisher

UFO's: A Mysterious Phenomenon—Part II

UFO Sightings In This Area Go All The Way Back To 1879

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a five-part series.

By CLARK COX
It is commonly believed that sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFO's, began about 1947, with the wave of "flying saucer" reports in the United States.

But strange objects in the sky have been recorded throughout history. Some UFO buffs who believe that UFO's are alien spacecraft even theorize that the "wheel within a wheel" in the Old Testament was such a craft, or that the Red Sea was parted by the close passage of a spacecraft.

Joe M. McLaurin of Rockingham, compiler of the "Richmond County Historical Collection," said his files do not contain UFO reports — "at least, not filed by that category."

But McLaurin gave us what is perhaps the earliest report of a UFO sighting in the Sandhills area:

"I well remember," he said, "that when I was a boy, my grandfather often told me how, when he was about five years old, he was walking with his grandfather late one night in Marlboro County, S.C., and they saw a light in the sky stop and then circle the area."

McLaurin's grandfather, Daniel Lee McLaurin, was born in 1874.

George D. Fawcett of Lincolnton has personally investigated over 1,200 UFO reports for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) — mostly in North Carolina, which he said ranks fourth among the 50 states in the number of its UFO reports, over 800 in the last 50 years.

Fawcett says there have been three major "waves" of UFO reports in North Carolina — in 1973, 1975, and 1978.

Sightings were reported in the Richmond County area in all three of those years, Fawcett says — particularly during a six-day period in early April 1975, when UFO activity was so great in Lumberton and "throughout the immediate area" of the Sandhills that another UFO organization, the Center for UFO studies (CUFOS) published a book about the "Lumberton sightings." "There were 23 sightings in all during that wave," Fawcett said. "Nine had 'spotlights,' three made flat turns, three were reported to have made noises, two made signals in response to car headlights, 10 were seen to hover, and 11 were spotted at treetop level or below."

One of those 1975 sightings was made by a Hamlet police officer, Fawcett said: "It came down and

hovered right beside his police cruiser on the highway."

But neither in 1973, in 1975, or in 1978, were any of the area sightings reported to The Daily Journal — another indication that persons who see UFO's are extremely reluctant to report the experience. The only mention by local newspapers of the Lumberton area sightings was in a column by Harvey Burgess in The Hamlet News.

Some of the local sightings were reported directly to MUFON and other investigatory agencies, which keep the names of their respondents confidential unless permitted to give the names to news organizations. Others were reported to metropolitan newspapers and radio stations. Major news agencies such as the Associated Press failed to pick up most of these stories.

Henry H. Morton of Wadesboro, another MUFON investigator of long standing, said he received "21 reports of UFO sightings in Anson County last January alone — but I haven't received any reports from Richmond County in I don't know how long. I think it's just that I don't have that many contacts in Richmond County."

The only detailed mention ever made of any UFO in local newspapers concerned the first sighting of the "flying saucer" era: on Dec. 28, 1949, over Hamlet.

From The Richmond County Journal, Thursday, Dec. 29, 1949:

"Everyone agrees it wasn't a flying saucer but no one agrees on what it was — those who saw the mysterious aircraft flying over Richmond County yesterday have no idea what the object could be."

"The object, resembling a balloon, was first reported over Hamlet about 4:45 p.m. and was said to appear as being 30 or 40 feet in diameter."

"Whatever the object, everyone agreed that it was flying crazily as it passed over Hamlet and headed West. Witnesses stated that the craft first flew down, then levelled off and turned over."

"Phillip Gibbons took off in a light airplane to give chase and reported that when he neared the object it quickly turned into (the) sun and that he last saw it about 12 miles Southwest of Hamlet."

"Some expressed the opinion that the object was a weather balloon, used by stations to determine weather conditions. Mr. Gibbons stated that it did not appear as such to him. Weather stations partially discredited the theory also."

"Mr. Gibbons, an Air Force veteran, said the object was not disk or

saucer shaped and added that the fact it did not change direction for a period of some time tended to prove it was not a balloon."

The Rockingham Post-Dispatch, in its Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1949, edition, gave short shrift to the story, under the headline, "'Saucer' Myth":

"An unknown object, with a trail of smoke, was observed high in the sky over Rockingham about 4:30 Dec. 28th, floating towards the southwest. Many are the conjectures as to what it is, but most likely it was some sort of weather gauge (sic) sent up by a government weather office. Or perhaps a joke by some would-be prankster."

The Hamlet News Messenger of Dec. 29, 1949, had no mention of the incident.

From The Richmond County Journal, Monday, Jan. 2, 1950:

"Carolínians of this section were still reporting the flight of a mysterious aircraft over the week-end as the object was seen over both North and South Carolina."

"First reported in Fayetteville about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday it was seen a few minutes later over Hamlet and a little later over Greenwood, S.C."

"Evenly traveling in a straight line that extended for more than 200 miles, the object remains unidentified. ..."

"A report from Fayetteville stated that it appeared as a vertical neon lighting tube and at Hamlet it appeared as a dirigible standing on end. A Greenwood pilot who gave chase to the object described it as a smoke trail coming from an unseen plane."

"Whatever the object it has been discounted as a 'flying saucer' which was recently declared as imagination by the Army. ..."

From The Richmond County Journal, Monday, Jan. 9, 1950:

"The aviation editor for True Magazine visited The Journal office on Friday as the first stop on his tour of investigating reports of 'flying objects' in this area. The writer, John DuBarry, searched back issues of The Journal and interview (sic) staff members before proceeding to Hamlet. ..."

"True Magazine in their January issue published an article concerning 'flying saucers' in which they indicated that the objects were not aircraft of this world. The inference was that they were aircraft from another planet."

"Immediately following the pub-

lication of the story the Army and Air Force announced they were abandoning 'Project Saucer.' The service had been investigating reports on objects for two years but claimed they found nothing to warrant continuing the project. ..."

"A Journal staff writer attempted to reach Mr. DuBarry after his investigation tour was completed in order to discover the latest views of the writer. Mr. DuBarry had disappeared as completely as a flying saucer. ..."

Roy L. Lucas of the Daily Journal staff saw seven UFO's in 1955.

"A group of us were standing outside the Officer's Club near Edwards Air Force Base in California," Lucas said, "and we saw seven objects — they looked like bright white lights — moving in formation in the sky over the air base. They were very low. They would stop and hover for a while, then move away quickly."

"A couple of jets were sent up to chase them, but the objects disappeared. The B-52 bomber was under development at Edwards at that time, and there was a lot of excitement about the idea that these UFO's were trying to get a look at the B-52."

Lucas said it is his belief that "Everyone has seen at least one UFO." He said everyone has seen unexplained objects in the sky, but most people shrug off their puzzlement over the objects.

"When I was working at The Winston-Salem Journal in 1972," Lucas said, "we got some reports of some UFO sightings up in the mountains. A couple of reporters went after the story and were gone two or three days. They came back and said they had seen one."

One suspects that a reporter who has spent three days on a story had better report that he saw something.

Lucas added that when he was working at The Moore County News a few years ago, "We got a report from a preacher who said he had seen a UFO — and this one was in broad daylight."

Stan McQueen of Rockingham called The Daily Journal Monday afternoon, after reading the report of a UFO sighting in Chester County, S.C., by Garland Gilchrist of Rt. 3, Rockingham, and several members of his family in 1968.

"The thing that amazed me about that report," McQueen said, "is how close the description was to what my mother (Sybil McQueen), my father (the late Carl McQueen) and I saw when I was about 12 years old — it must have been in 1961 or 1962."

McQueen said: "My father used to go outside after supper and sit on the picnic table in our back yard and just look at the sky. He told me once he had seen plenty of UFO's. I

really didn't know what to think about that."

"But I know he saw this one, because we all saw it. He came running into the house and said, 'Come look at this.' The thing looked just about like what Gilchrist described. It was a bright light, moving fast, and when it got closer we could see that it was more or less circular, it had a sort of curved top and windows on its sides, and it seemed to be rotating. I couldn't see people moving around inside or anything, but I got the definite impression that the lights I was seeing were coming from inside those windows."

"And when the thing got overhead, it seemed to be perfectly flat on the bottom."

"We watched it until it went out of sight."

"I've never told anybody about seeing it, until today."

Carl McQueen told the writer of this series about the incident in 1977, but later the same day asked him not to publish the report because, "I can imagine what people will think."

Just about a week before the "Lumberton wave" of UFO sightings began — on the evening of March 27, 1975 — a UFO actually landed in a man's front yard in Hamlet, according to a report contained in Fawcett's voluminous files.

Fawcett said: "The man said the craft had revolving pink lights on top. It landed about 11:15 p.m., and two small creatures in silver suits, joined together by some sort of silver bar, emerged and tried to communicate with him in a language the man couldn't decipher; he said it sounded like Polish to him. After a few minutes, the little creatures got back on board the craft and it went straight up into the air and disappeared."

"The man was a former police officer and a trained observer. I talked to him, his mother, and later his wife, who called me and thanked me for being about the only person he'd told about his experience that gave any credence to his report, and for calming him down some."

"The experience had a tremendous emotional effect on the man. He became asocial, and after he threatened some neighbors, he was institutionalized for a while. He got over it, though."

Another man, who declined to give his name, called The Daily Journal Monday after reading Part I of this series.

His story is perhaps the strangest of all the reports encountered in the course of researching the series. If it is accurate, it may be only the sixth "UFO abduction" episode ever reported in North Carolina.

That story will be told in Part III.

OBSERVER, Gastonia, NC - Sept. 8, 1989 CR: G. Fawcett

Did You See McGuire UFO? Call Investigator

By ANN DOSS HELMS

Staff Writer

LINCOLNTON — If you caught a glimpse of a reddish-brown triangle hovering near McGuire Nuclear Station on Aug. 18, George Fawcett wants to hear from you.

Fawcett, a Lincolnton man who's been collecting UFO reports for 45 years, said Thursday he's intrigued by the daylight sighting by Paul Moore of Huntersville, a disabled security guard.

"They've had a plague of UFOs around McGuire over the years," Fawcett said.

Moore, 46, said he saw the airplane-sized triangle about 2:30 p.m. Aug. 18, when he stepped onto his back porch to feed his dog. A former security guard at McGuire, Moore lives about a half-mile from the plant's substation.

He spotted the reddish-brown, unmarked object in the air between a couple of trees, he said.

"When I first saw it, it kind of surprised me real good," he said.

The object dove to about 500 feet from the ground and headed toward the substation, Moore said.

"It just kind of popped in my mind that I was seeing something," Moore recalled. "So I closed my eyes and opened them back up and it was gone."

Moore has had a longtime interest in UFOs, but had never seen one before, he said.

After pondering the matter for about a week, he decided what he'd seen was real and reported it to Fawcett, president of the N.C. branch of the Mutual UFO Network, an international UFO research group.

Fawcett issued a public appeal for reports from other witnesses because of the timing and location, he said.

"Daytime reports are a lot more valid than night because you're not as likely to confuse it with lights in the sky," he said.

He said Moore's account is similar to reported sightings in Pennsylvania recently, and reports of UFOs around nuclear stations are common.

"Whether it came from Russia or Mars, it could be a serious problem. ...," Fawcett said. "It would be a threat to national security and human survival."

Fawcett is asking anyone else who saw the object to call him at (704) 735-5725, 4 p.m. to midnight.



George Fawcett

UFO's: A Mysterious Phenomenon—Part III

Local Man And Woman May Have Been UFO 'Abductees'

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third in a five-part series.

By CLARK COX

Some reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFO's, get more than a little strange.

Traditional UFO terminology classifies experiences with UFOs into "close encounters of the first kind," sightings of mysterious objects in the sky; "close encounters of the second kind," close viewing of such objects on or near the ground; and "close encounters of the third kind," actual contact with occupants of UFO's.

All but one of the reports contained in the first two parts of this series have been "close encounters of the first kind." The other report, of the Hamlet man who reported seeing small, silver-clad humanoid creatures emerge from a spacecraft in his front yard, comprised a "close encounter of the third kind."

But some UFO buffs now recognize a fourth category, in which people are taken aboard UFO's.

Over the past decade or so, there have been hundreds of reports throughout the United States of "UFO abductions," in which apparently sane and normal people claim not only to have encountered intelligent beings from UFO's but to have been taken aboard spacecraft by these aliens and subjected to interviews and "experiments."

The tales seem far-fetched; but a coterie of UFO buffs — including Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) investigators George D. Fawcett of Lincoln and Henry H. Morton of Wadesboro — claim that the reports are so similar that they must be believed.

The typical "abductee," according to widely published reports, has at first no memory of his experience beyond sighting a UFO, typically along a lonely road late at night; but he or she experiences severe emotional distress which is often associated with a sense of "missing time" — a nagging feeling that a period of time, of which the abductee has no memory, passed during the experience. Many of these people, in order to relieve the emotional distress, have voluntarily undergone periods of hypnosis during which they have "recalled" their abductions in detail — describing the aliens, the insides of the spacecraft, and the alien experiments in a manner quite similar to descriptions by other abductees.

"Many of these people," Morton said, "report similar experiences which have never been reported to the news media or written about in books — things which we have held back from the media, as a means of checking on the reliability of the abductee reports. There are just too many similarities for these reports to be imagination."

Skeptics, however — most notably, Philip F. Klass, editor of *Aviation Week* magazine — argue that the "abductees" are fantasizing about a shared cultural background of UFO reports, led on by investigators and hypnotists who ask leading questions. The "shared cultural background," Klass argues, may have originated for most of the abductees with a television motion picture, first aired in 1966 and rerun many times since, based upon the first reported case of UFO abduction — the famous 1961 case involving Betty and Barney Hill in New Hampshire. Klass notes that the hypnotist who worked with the Hills believed that their "abduction" was a complex shared fantasy.

(UFO abductions are discussed, also, in a book-review column by the writer of this series. The column is scheduled for publication this week, space permitting, in *The Daily Journal*.)

Whatever the correct explanation,



Site Of A 'Close Encounter'

Daily Journal staff writer Clark Cox and his wife saw an Unidentified Flying Object at close range in 1981 — hovering over the stand of trees in the background of this photograph, alongside US Highway 1 just south of the Moore County line. The Coxes parked their car at about where the car in the photo is parked, and walked toward the hovering UFO until they were almost underneath it. The UFO then left at high speed, moving over the nearby Camp Mackall Military Reservation. "At no time ... did we hear any noise," Cox said. (Staff photo by Clark Cox)

tions for the UFO abduction reports may be, it must be admitted that the reports have many unexplained features.

Only five UFO abductions in North Carolina have been reported, to date, to investigators from MUFON and other investigative organizations. The most celebrated of these, perhaps, was the 1979 case of Patrick Eudy of Locust, a salesman with a Monroe automobile dealership.

Eudy died last year — but *The Daily Journal* received a detailed report of his abduction experience from Henry Morton; that story will be told in Part V of this series.

Of more interest to local readers will be the following report of what might well have been a "UFO abduction," given by a Richmond County man.

The man telephoned a *Daily Journal* staff member after reading Part I of this series Monday afternoon. He said he had considered calling when the staff member requested UFO reports in a column last October — "mainly because we were very curious to find out if anyone else had ever reported a similar experience." But after "arguing" with his wife about the matter, he said, he decided not to call.

Apparently, the open-minded tone of Monday's newspaper story persuaded him to change his mind — together with his recent reading of *Communion*, a book by Whitley Strieber about Strieber's abduction experiences, which convinced the man that his and his wife's experience was not unique. He admitted that his wife did not know he was calling, but said he felt that she might be willing to be interviewed later about the incident.

He refused, however, even after some urging, to let his name be published. He and his wife, he said, both saw the UFO; but both are professional people, and he said he fears that their careers might suffer if their names were given in connection with this report.

"We have often wanted to tell people about what happened, but

we never have," he said. "As a result of not talking about it for so long — it happened a little more than five years ago — there are a lot of details that we have simply forgotten. But the most interesting thing about the whole experience is that the details we remember, we disagree on — even about the most basic parts of the experience."

The man also declined to have his name sent to MUFON investigators. "Frankly," he said, "I'm a little afraid of what they might find out. Something happened to us that night, but our memories of what happened don't jibe. I don't know if I'm ready to find out just what did happen."

The man said: "I've always been interested in UFO's, at least to the extent of reading magazine articles. But after what happened, I stopped wanting even to read about them for a few years."

"My wife and I weren't married at the time. We were dating, and, well, we were looking for a place to park. Our search took us to the River Hills area of Richmond County and down a dirt road, where we parked at the edge of a newly plowed field. It was a huge field — about five acres, I would say. We were sitting there in the car, talking. It was about 10 p.m. on a spring night."

"She noticed the light first. There was a stand of trees on the other side of the field, and she said, 'The woods are on fire.' But as we watched, even though what we at first thought was the light from a fire kept getting brighter and more intense, we could see that it wasn't a fire — because we could see all the limbs of the trees in front of the light."

"This bright light rose, I would say, about 100 or 150 feet into the air. It looked to be about 100 feet in diameter. It stopped and hovered, and then a much smaller light shot out from underneath it and shot away."

"Then, the big light started circling the plowed field, coming toward us. At no time was there any sound, that we could detect."

"I panicked, to tell you the truth."

I was scared. I said, 'Let's get out of here!' I started the car and drove away, but I told my wife to hang her head out the window and watch the thing and to 'let me know what it's doing.' I was very frightened."

"But she says that wasn't the way it happened at all. She says we sat there and watched it circle the field two or three times. When we drove away, she says, she doesn't recall anything about my telling her to look out the window for the light. And she doesn't recall my being frightened; in fact, she says, we went back to the field later that night to look for the light. I certainly don't remember doing that."

"I did go back to the area a couple of days later, looking for that plowed field — but I drove all around, and couldn't find it. I haven't gone back lately. It gives me a creepy feeling to even think about going back there."

"The differing memories we have about the whole experience — that's what bothers me. ..."

The writer of this series and his wife saw a UFO at close range — a "close encounter of the second kind" — in December 1981. Unforgivably, for a reporter, the writer took no notes — and has since forgotten the exact date and some of the details of the incident.

Here is what the writer remembers:

I actually saw the thing three times over a four-night period — but although I have told many people about seeing it, only two other persons, not including my wife, have reported seeing something that might have been the same thing.

The first sighting was on a Tuesday evening near dusk. I was driving along Mill Road in East Rockingham when I saw an evenly spaced row of three white lights moderately low in the sky to the southeast and some distance away, moving parallel to Mill Road. The lights disappeared behind some high ground. They didn't resemble any aircraft lights I had seen before.

That Thursday evening, again near dusk, my wife and I were driving to visit the Jerry Warden family in the outside community of Richmond County when we saw what seemed to be the same pattern of three white lights moving in a southerly direction over the Cordova area. I told my wife about having seen the lights two nights before. When we reached the Warden home, we told Jerry and his wife Jamie about the lights; and they remarked that they had seen something similar through the trees which surround their home, and that they had thought at the time that it was a very low-flying aircraft.

Then on Friday, about 10 or 10:30 p.m., my wife and I were returning from a visit to my wife's parents in Hoke County. Just inside the Richmond County line, on US 1, we saw ahead of us, and a little to the right of the road, a row of three evenly spaced lights. This time, the lights seemed to be hovering over a stand of pine trees just south of what was then Robert

Parks's store; and instead of being white, the lights were red and green. I forget if there were red lights on each end and a green light in the middle, or if it was the other way around. We drew closer to the lights, and when we passed them and realized that they were very close to the road, I pulled the car over and stopped. I have since tried to re-create what I did that evening, and I stopped just about 200 feet south of where the lights appeared to be.

We got out of the car and walked back toward the lights, trying to get a closer look. It was a very dark night, with no wind, and quite warm for December. I walked along the edge of the roadway, and my wife was to my left and slightly behind me. The row of lights — which we assumed from the start were on an aircraft — seemed to be hovering at treetop level; if that's truly how close they were, I would estimate that the lights on the ends were about 40 feet apart. The lights were not circular in shape, but oval.

We could easily have walked directly underneath the lights — but when we were about 60 feet away, I stopped. I squinted and tried to discern a shape to the aircraft. I could not see anything. My wife walked a few paces ahead of me, and she, too, stopped. Then, whatever it was began to move — slowly at first, but after it crossed the road, it picked up speed. We ran back to the car, turned around, and gave chase as the object appeared to fly over Camp Mackall. Before long, it was obvious that the craft was flying too fast for us to keep up, and we gave up the chase.

At no time, even though it was a still night and we were very close to the craft, did we hear any sound — even when the craft began to move. Because of the location near Camp Mackall, I have always thought that what we saw was some sort of military aircraft. But it doesn't fit the description of any type of military aircraft of which I am aware.

The writer's wife said: "I really don't remember it all that well. What Clark described is pretty much what I saw, although I can't remember anything about the colors of the lights."

"But I don't remember that we ever stopped walking. And I thought that, when the object began to move, we were standing right underneath it."

When the writer finally reported the experience in print for the first time, in a newspaper column in September 1987, a reader from West Virginia wrote him a letter saying that the experience "sounds like a classical UFO abduction experience."

But neither the writer nor his wife have ever experienced any "missing time" or any emotional distress concerning the incident, nor have they experienced any of the other well-known components of the "UFO abduction experience."

POST-TELEGRAM, Bridgeport, CT - Sept. 1, 1989

■ 'UFO' sighted over city

Bridgeport had a close encounter of the bizarre kind Thursday night when what appeared to be an unidentified flying object glided over the city.

The object, which appeared as a series of dim lights in a diamond-shaped pattern, buzzed Lafayette Square and the downtown area for several minutes before disappearing into the cloudy late-night sky shortly after 11 p.m. Thursday.

Although it may be a while before Bridgeport officials welcome an extraterrestrial to the city, police frequencies were abuzz with officers reporting their versions of UFO sightings.

CR: R. Collins

George Fawcett Is 'Dean' Of UFO Experts In State

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth in a five-part series.

BY CLARK COX

On Jan. 2, 1988, an unusually warm night for January, three Hamlet residents — a man, his wife, and their daughter — were outdoors when they spotted an "Unidentified Flying Object" (UFO) moving through the sky. Like the UFO described by the writer of this series in yesterday's story, this one had colored lights at each end and a light of a different color in the middle. They saw the object hover over some nearby trees. Then the daughter watched it through a telescope as it moved away and passed in front of the moon. Soon it was out of sight.



FAWCETT

"I think I got that report from the International UFO Clipping Service — but I can't be sure, without checking my files, from what newspaper it was clipped, and I don't have the names of the Hamlet people at hand," said George D. Fawcett.

On May 5, 1988, Hester Brown and her son Larry saw a "saucer-shaped" UFO with "colored windows" circle a section of sky above their home near Robbins, in neighboring Moore County. It circled the area for 10 minutes, then disappeared into the distance, going "in the direction of Charlotte."

"Mrs. Brown reported what they had seen to officials at the Raleigh-Durham Airport, and subsequently I was made aware of the report," Fawcett said.

Those two reports were among a dozen or so reports of Sandhills area UFO sightings that Fawcett, of Lincolnton, discussed in a 50-minute telephone call with a Daily Journal writer on Aug. 15.

Fawcett, 60, who is co-state director (with Henry H. Morton of Wadesboro and Bob Hair of Eden) of the North Carolina chapter of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), is the acknowledged "dean" of UFO experts in North Carolina.

He has studied UFO's and the people who have seen them for the past 45 years, personally investigating more than 1,200 cases on behalf of MUFON by interviewing eyewitnesses and attempting to track down explanations for the apparitions in the sky. "Some cases, we spend 120 man-hours and more investigating," he said.

Many times, Fawcett and his cohorts in MUFON — an international organization which has 50 representatives in North Carolina alone — have managed to account for UFO's as having been man-made aircraft or other "natural" phenomena.

But many UFO's do not lend themselves to such explanations, Fawcett says. Like Morton and, apparently, the majority of their MUFON colleagues, Fawcett suspects that a small but significant number of UFO's may be alien spacecraft, manned by intelligent beings who have traveled perhaps unimaginable distances to Earth.

UFO's, says the MUFON membership application form, "are objects observed in the skies or on the surface of our Earth ... that defy conventional explanation after a thorough study and investigation by competent people. Some of the things reported as UFO's are balloons, planets, meteors, satellites, stars, advertising aircraft, and the like. These are the 'IFO's' (identified flying objects). The 'hard' sightings that are yet to be explained are daylight discs, objects with unusual lights that are simultaneously tracked visually and on radar at fantastic speeds, objects which leave physical evidence after landing, authenticated photographs,

and in rare cases, visitations by humanoids or entities. It is in this category of sightings that the serious UFO researcher is attempting to gather additional evidence in our quest to resolve the UFO phenomenon."

"Sightings of UFO's are consistent and persistent, on a worldwide basis," Fawcett said last week. "They follow such a consistent pattern that I can actually predict what they're going to do, where they're going to appear, in advance. I have made such predictions, a year in advance in some cases, and my predictions have been borne out by the facts."

"UFO's have been sighted in 143 of the 155 world nations. Two Presidents of the United States — Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan — have reported seeing UFO's."

There's more interest in UFO's now than ever: Six movies are now in production on UFO abductions alone — the first of which, "Communion," based on the book by Whitley Strieber (reviewed on Page 3 of today's Daily Journal), is due out in September.

"And still," said Fawcett, "there's a lot more to the UFO phenomenon than we know or can say. It has become a more intriguing mystery than ever."

Fawcett said he first became involved in UFO studies when, as a teen-ager, he began keeping a scrapbook about World War II.

"There were a lot of reports of UFO's in the skies over Europe at that time," he recalled. "One of my scrapbooks — I now have 44 — has a clipping of an article from Paris, distributed by the Associated Press, headlined: 'Silver Balls Floating In Air: Nazis' Latest War Device?'"

This report was followed, Fawcett said, by reports of "ghost rockets" over Sweden in 1946 — and then, in 1947 and thereafter by a myriad of "flying saucer" reports from the United States.

"These early reports really got my imagination to working," he said. "I got into writing other UFO enthusiasts and doing investigations on my own."

"Now, I have 35 filing cabinets in my house alone, with more than 15,000 items about UFO's. I have 800 photographs, 600 slides, and 655 books — all of which I have read, over half the number of books ever published in the English language on UFO's and related subjects. I get hundreds of letters a month about UFO's, and hundreds of telephone calls."

Fawcett's current top-priority project is an attempt to raise \$4.5 million to put a UFO museum in North Carolina, to which he would donate his collection of UFO materials.

But UFOlogy is not a fulltime occupation for Fawcett. He has been a textile worker, a newspaperman, a YMCA director, and a restaurant owner-manager, among other occupations.

His twin brother, Garnet, is a banker in Pilot Mountain and still lives in the Fawcetts' hometown, Mount Airy. "We've both been married twice, we both have two children, and we've both had melanomas removed from our backs in the last year," George Fawcett said.

Sometimes telephone callers are confused by the twin Fawcetts. "Garnet got so many calls from people about UFO's at one point a few years ago that his wife just yanked the phone cord completely out of the wall," George Fawcett said.

George Fawcett has written one book and hundreds of articles about UFO's, has worked as a consultant to several civilian UFO research organizations and movie companies, has taught college-level courses on the subject, was sole state director of MUFON's North Carolina chapter from 1967-80 and has been its chief publicist for

decades, and has delivered hundreds of lectures on UFO's to groups of every description.

"My wife had me down as a UFO, myself, one time," Fawcett jokingly told a recent gathering of MUFON members at his home. He'll be speaking to the group again Sunday, when it gathers in Winston-Salem for its annual conference.

Fawcett distributes a "UFO Resource Guide" — a guide to what he considers the best UFO research materials and organizations — which he said cost him \$30,000 to produce and on which, to date, he has realized \$22,000. "Maybe I'll make my money back out of it," maybe not," he said.

Reader response to this series has been astounding.

Since the first installment in the series was published Monday, so many additional UFO sightings have been reported to The Daily Journal that the original design for the series has had to be readjusted; that is why today's installment is so long.

On Wednesday, two readers telephoned to say that they had witnessed Richmond County's first recorded UFO — the object to which local pilot Phil Gibbons gave chase by plane on Dec. 28, 1949.

J.B. Howell, a pilot with the U.S. Forest Service in Richmond County, said: "The story that ran in the newspapers at the time was absolutely true. I know, because I saw that UFO myself, and Phil Gibbons and several other fellows were with me at the time."

"All of us were pilots. We were standing on the ramp at the Rockingham-Hamlet Airport. Phil was there, and Foy Barwick, who ran the airport at that time, but I can't say for certain who else was there. George Davis might have been one of the others, and possibly Curtis Copeland — but both of them have left Richmond County, and Foy is dead now."

"It was a long, shiny, silver-colored object, and it seemed to hover and then take off at high speed toward the southwest. I believe some other newspapers later reported that it was seen, not only in South Carolina, but on into Georgia."

"Phil was the most experienced pilot among us, and he took off after it. As he climbed up, it moved off rapidly to the southwest, and he lost it."

"I seem to recall that some Air Force colonel came by the airport a few days later and interrogated us about the thing."

"None of us who were at the airport that day believed in UFO's — but we never did determine what that thing was. Just a little while ago, a man at the airport who had read your articles asked me what I thought about UFO's. I told him, 'I was an eyewitness to that one, that's all I can say.' Right up until today, I can't say that I've really seen a UFO, as far as something being from another planet; I've always thought that they were something that the military was playing with, but I don't know."

"I've been a pilot for a whole lot of years since then, and I've never seen anything else that could be called a UFO — except for one time, when I saw a series of lights that moved out kind of strangely. But I attributed that to the military, too."

Priscilla Pennigar Andrews of Rockingham remembers the 1949 UFO, too.

"At least, it must have been the same one," she said, "although I have forgotten the date. I remember that it was in the late '40s — I couldn't have been more than just barely in my teens — and I was with a friend in the front yard of her home on Ann Street. Her mother saw it, too."

"It was an elongated, cigar-shaped UFO, and it moved erratically up and down, just as other people in your article Tuesday de-

scribed it."

Mrs. Andrews' memory of another UFO sighting is more vivid, however. She saw this one in the summer of 1954, with her husband, Floyd, and five other couples, on the beach at Garden City, S.C.

She said: "We were recent high-school graduates at that time. My husband was managing a store in Garden City for the summer, and we were staying with my parents. We went out with some friends to have a cookout; we drove our cars up to the sand dunes and walked out onto the beach."

"It was around twilight. Out of nowhere, a saucer-shaped object appeared, right over my car. It hovered there, near the ground, and a huge, bright beam of light, like a spotlight, came out of its bottom — out of the center of the bottom of the saucer. Then, the saucer went out, around us, at terrific speed; you didn't see it coming, it was just there. And then it just went away — no movement up or down, it was just gone. It made a noise that my husband described as a kind of 'turbine' noise — a strange noise. It seemed perfectly flat on the bottom, and it didn't appear to have lights or windows at all, except for that one. When the beam of light came out, though, I had the distinct impression that it was like a door or window had opened or slid aside so the light could shine through."

"We were all completely awestruck — just spellbound. I still remember the experience, and my feelings, vividly; but at that time, and for a long time after that, it was just the sort of experience you didn't dare talk about."

"My husband and I lived in Spruce Pine for a number of years, and we went one night to the technical college there to hear George Fawcett speak. I remember that he had some pictures of objects that were very, very similar to what we had seen. I later wrote him a letter about it."

"I am not a skeptic about UFO's; I have always believed in them and had an interest in them, but in 1954 I was not as knowledgeable about them as I am now. Of course, the air base was at Myrtle Beach at that time — but I don't believe that what we saw was any kind of military plane. I have often wished that I could see something like that again."

Margaret Dailey of the Midway community near Rockingham had a noticeable tremor in her voice when she telephoned The Daily Journal.

"I'm pretty nervous about doing this — but after reading those first two articles, I decided I ought to tell somebody," she said. "I could never explain it to anybody before."

"I guess this happened about 1976, one night in fall, about dusk. My two daughters — they were about 11 and 6 years old then — were riding with me in the car, headed to Reid's Grocery in East Rockingham. We saw two little lights in the sky, that looked like they were just about over town. Then they got real big, and this one big light just shot toward us, like a comet. I got real nervous."

"But instead of getting closer, the thing got down to one small light, and it traveled across the sky toward the east and went out of sight."

"I never heard about anybody else seeing it."

"About 1984, I guess, I saw something else. This one was right over our house. It was round, with multi-colored lights and what appeared to be windows, and it was rotating — just like what other people have described to you, I guess. Then it just disappeared."

"I called the police department, but they didn't know anything about it. I guess they thought I was crazy."

Probably the police did not think Mrs. Dailey was crazy. They get a lot of UFO reports — most of them from normal, com-

mon-sense people who have simply seen something they do not understand.

Pat Montgomery of Rockingham is a noted sky-watcher, who frequently calls The Daily Journal with information about such celestial apparitions as full-spectrum rainbows, "sun dogs," and unusual cloud formations.

He is also a UFO buff, who has seen a few things he cannot explain.

A few years ago, he called us about one such object — a swiftly moving light which appeared unlike any aircraft lights he had ever seen.

"I called the Rockingham Police Department and reported what I had seen," Montgomery said. "They couldn't tell me what it was, but they said they would send someone out to look for the object and they asked detailed, sensible questions about it."

"I was very impressed by their concern and their professionalism."

The only "rash" of UFO sightings reported to The Daily Journal within the past 20 years or so occurred on a Monday morning in December 1979.

Two nights before, dozens of Richmond County people said, they had seen a large, not-too-bright, red light in the sky. The light was too large to be from an aircraft, or to be an astronomical object.

The Daily Journal did not report these sightings — because, the same day, an Associated Press dispatch explained what the Richmond Countians (and thousands of other people along the East Coast) had reported seeing.

It was a ball of boron gas, released during the takeoff of a space satellite at Cape Canaveral, Fla., and borne far northward by prevailing winds before it finally dispersed.

An anonymous female telephone caller told The Daily Journal: "One night about three years ago, in the spring, I had taken my son to his grandmother's house here in the county. As I was coming home, I saw some kind of object in the sky, over some trees. I don't want to say exactly where this was, because it was near my home and I don't want to give any clues to who I am — but it was near a body of water."

"I was so startled that I stopped the car in the road and watched the object. Then I pulled over and watched for a moment or two. I was a little bit afraid, because I didn't know what the object was. It hovered, sank toward the ground a little, then disappeared completely."

"It was flat on the bottom and curved on top — like half an egg, cut off in the middle. It was pale yellow, and it was big — much larger than any airplane could have been. It was hovering right over the tops of the trees; I was within just a few feet of it, since I was parked just under the same trees. I heard no noise at all."

"I had the impression of different-colored lights — inside the yellow light, if you can understand what that might have looked like."

"I went home and told my husband about it. We went back to the spot, but we couldn't see anything. It was gone."

"I thought it might have been a weather balloon, because it didn't make any noise. But about six weeks later, I read in The Charlotte Observer that several sightings of UFO's had been reported about that same time, in several North Carolina towns."

"I heard of one other person in Richmond County who had seen something like this, about the same time — but I don't know if it was the same thing or not."

The Daily Journal received this woman's call several months ago — long before the descriptions of other UFO's, "flat on the bottom and curved on top" and having "different-colored lights" were published in the newspaper this week.

Defense Department Says Rocket Was Responsible For UFO Reports

JACKSONVILLE (AP) — The oval-shaped light with two tails sited in the early morning hours of Monday by a number of North Carolinians turned out to be not an unidentified flying object but a test rocket launched by NASA for the Department of Defense.

Major Alan Freitag of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization said Thursday that the bright, fast-moving light that set hearts racing was a sounding rocket and a Black Brant booster launched from the Goddard Space Flight Center at Wallops Island, Va.

A second test rocket was launched at 10 a.m. Tuesday, but Freitag said bright sunlight prevented it from being seen.

The rocket, which emits a gaseous cloud, is being

used to test the capabilities of a Delta Star satellite launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla. on March 24, he said. The rocket, hidden behind the cloud, is sent toward the satellite to test whether Delta Star's sensors can locate it behind the plume, he said.

He said the Defense Department expects Delta Star will orbit the earth at least through the end of the year, adding that at least two more sounding rockets will be launched from Wallops Island within the next month.

Some Onslow County deputies reported the sighting and the *Durham Morning Herald* also received several calls from area residents who said they saw the object.

BEE NEIGHBORS, Sacramento,
CA — July 13, 1989
UFO reported

Yolo County's emergency dispatch center received two calls between 2 and 2:30 a.m. Monday reporting some kind of flying object flashing two or three green and white lights about 10 miles northwest of Woodland.

Officers dispatched to what the log records indicated was the "edge of twilight zone" whimsically reported back that the Jeonsens were having their annual party.

Book Reviews

A Survey Of Currently Available Books On UFO Phenomena

By CLARK COX

The following reviews are written primarily for readers of The Daily Journal's current series on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's), who will already be familiar with much of the background information.

Several books, all still available, on the specific topic of UFO abductions were reviewed in a Daily Journal book review column about a year ago: *Missing Time and Intruders*, by Budd Hopkins, surveys of recent investigations in the field by a leading researcher and writer; *The Interrupted Journey*, by John G. Fuller, the story of Barney and Betty Hill, the first reported UFO "abductees" in the United States; and *UFO Abductions: A Dangerous Game*, by Philip J. Klass, a skeptical look at the abduction reports which devotes particular attention to the works of Hopkins and Whitley Strieber (see below).

The Klass book is now available in a new "updated" paperback edition from Prometheus Press (222 pages; \$14.95). Readers who wish to learn about the arguments against UFO's as "supernatural" or "extraterrestrial" phenomena would also do well to read Klass's three earlier works, particularly *UFOs: The Public Deceived*.

Another interesting UFO abduction "case history," which is frequently mentioned in other books dealing with the topic, is still available in paperback. It is *The Andreasson Affair*, by Raymond E. Fowler (Bantam Books, 241 pages, \$4.95).

Information on how to obtain all the books mentioned in this column and a host of other UFO books and study resources — 162 in all — is available from George D. Fawcett of Lincolnton.

The 10-page listing "George D. Fawcett's Recommended UFO Enlarged Listings," may be obtained by sending \$5 per copy, plus a 45-cent stamped, self-addressed long envelope, to Fawcett at 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092.

On the skeptics' side of the UFO ledger, a subscription to the publication "The Skeptical Inquirer," published by the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), is recommended. This digest-sized quar-

terly magazine, averaging more than 100 pages, has articles about detailed scientific investigations, not only of UFO reports, but also of all sorts of claims of "psychic," "paranormal," and "ESP" phenomena. A year's subscription (four issues) is \$22.50 from The Skeptical Inquirer, Box 229, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215-0229 (credit-card orders may be placed to the toll-free telephone number 1-800-634-1610). Back issues are also available: a listing in each issue of the magazine notes what articles were featured in each prior issue, dating back to 1977.

Another Prometheus Book, *The Second Book of the Strange*, by Laurence D. Gadd and "The Editors of The World Almanac" (R) (1981: 341 pages, \$16.95), has a 42-page chapter on "Unidentified Flying Objects" which is as good a general introduction to the subject as exists, containing a history of the phenomenon with nearly equal weight given to credulous and skeptical viewpoints.

The most detailed books ever written on the UFO abduction experience are Whitley Strieber's *Communion and Transformation: The Breakthrough*, both available as Avon paperbacks (the latter just published in paperback: 276 pages, \$4.95).

Strieber, formerly a top writer of horror and science fiction novels, has become a controversial figure among UFO students. His two best-selling books purport to tell the true story of Strieber's own experiences as a UFO abductee over a period of years — replete with periods of "missing time" retrieved during sessions of hypnosis, during which he reputedly remembered a frightening story of being visited repeatedly by alien beings who took him aboard spacecraft and performed mystifying "experiments" upon him.

There can be little doubt that Strieber believes the story he tells. He has passed several lie-detector tests and has undergone several carefully documented physical and neurological examinations which would seem to rule out such disorders as temporal lobe epilepsy (a favorite theory of Klass) as the cause of his visions and experiences.

But Strieber himself is far from certain whether the events "really"



WHITLEY STRIEBER

happened or whether they — and the hundreds of other similar reported abduction experiences — represent some strange new psychological syndrome.

His most persistent critics maintain that Strieber is a "fantabulator," a personality type who lives such a detailed and colorful fantasy life that he cannot always distinguish between fantasy and reality — particularly when he is nearly asleep.

The "alien" beings seem always to have visited Strieber at night, rousing him from sleep while not making other members of his family aware of their presence. The familiar phenomena of "hypnagogic" and "hypnopompic" hallucinations — visual and auditory hallucinations which occur as a person is going to sleep or waking from sleep — have often been cited by skeptics to explain such "paranormal" phenomena as "out-of-body experiences" and may provide an explanation also for Strieber's strange experiences.

Strieber is a compelling and persuasive writer, however, and he almost makes the reader suspend disbelief and accept the strange narrative at face value.

Not quite, though. An axiom of science is that "extraordinary claims demand extraordinary proof," and Strieber simply does not provide extraordinary proof. Both books are shot through with internal contradictions in the narrative, which neither Strieber nor his publishers seem to have noticed. Also, in *Transformation*, Strieber

recants some bits of personal history which, he wrote in *Communion*, he "recalled" under hypnosis. Upon later factual investigation, he now reports, he found these memories to be false — thus casting doubt upon his entire process of memory under hypnosis. (Critics of the hypnotic method of retrieving details about UFO abductions point out that the subjects are apt to be very desirous of pleasing the hypnotists by telling them stories that they know the hypnotists want to hear, and that the hypnotists often, in effect, create the narratives by asking blatantly leading questions of their subjects.)

At another point in *Transformation*, Strieber professes to have been absolutely flabbergasted when he received a letter from a woman who, after reading *Communion*, recalled a UFO abduction experience from her childhood, which she said she had previously "screened" from memory with a false childhood memory of having observed a pack of wolves. Strieber notes that he once had the same "screen memory," and concludes

that, since the woman had no way of knowing about Strieber's own wolfpack sighting, this particular screen memory must be a common device implanted by the aliens to obscure their subjects' memories of having been abducted. But Strieber need not have been flabbergasted:

His own "screen memory" is described in great detail in *Communion*.

At still another point in *Transformation*, Strieber cites the case of an executive of his publishing company who, upon encountering a strange couple at a display of *Communion* in a New York bookstore, was forced to conclude that the two were aliens in disguise, checking out what one of their abductees had to say about them. But the encounter, if described correctly by Strieber, is capable of a much more mundane interpretation — that the couple behaved oddly because the publishing executive, who was apparently frightened by them, behaved so oddly as a result that he frightened them in turn.

JOURNAL, Stevens Point, WI — Aug. 5, 1989 CR: J. Staszny

Science community keeps an open mind

Scientists are keeping an open mind about UFOs.

"There may be other things out there," said Franz Schnitz, chairperson of the physics and astronomy department at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "If they are intelligent beings, one would think they would want to contact our scientists."

If the beings were intelligent enough to have the kind of equipment to come to earth, it would seem that they would want to contact the scientific community, since they were beings of science themselves, he said.

Scientists have been sending out patterned signals into space that any intelligent being would have to notice, Schnitz said. The signals are mathematically patterned so that though the languages spoken may be different, an intelligent being which would have some kind of counting or math system would be able to understand them.

Though scientists have been receiving signals from space, they have no logical or regular pattern to them, he said. The signals are jumbled, like static on a television. They do not appear to be from an intelligent being. Schnitz does not believe in the stories about flying saucers. If something was proved, he said he might.

Many UFO sightings are legitimate in that they are unidentified objects, but sometimes lights and clouds can play strange tricks on people, he said. There is a lot of unidentified debris in our atmosphere.

Once Schnitz saw something unexplainable. As he observed it closer, it turned out to be a spotlight playing on some clouds. He said most things can be explained if studied.

Looking at most of these stories, "they don't stand," said Schnitz. There may be a government cover-up of some things, he said. "We have to trust the government to at least make some correct decisions."

For government to cover up a UFO scandal time and time again would be almost impossible, said Schnitz. With the amount of astronomy work going on at the universities, it would be difficult to hide all the information.

Other places in the world would also be experiencing these phenomenon and it would be hard to have a global cover-up of that sort, he said.

The people who claim sightings are not all crack-pots, he said. "As a science community, you must keep an open mind until something is proved wrong," said Schnitz.

UFO's: A Mysterious Phenomenon—Part V

Anson Investigator Thinks Some UFO's Are Spacecraft

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a five-part series.

By CLARK COX

Henry H. ("Yeah, they still call me 'Punky'") Morton, 40, of Wadesboro, is not a man to go about things by halfway measures.

He dropped out of North Carolina State University when his burglar-alarm installation business grew so rapidly that he couldn't keep it going and go to classes too. Moving back to his native Anson County, he founded Selectronics Inc. in Wadesboro, which still does some burglar-alarm work but now specializes, says Morton's business card, in "electronic design and manufacture."

In the intervening years, he has been a real-estate broker, a bank executive, a leader in the delivery of area emergency medical services, an amateur musician and actor and costume designer of some note, a technical consultant to Steven Spielberg during the filming of "The Color Purple," a world traveler, and a self-taught expert in a number of business and scientific fields — including "Unidentified Flying Objects," or UFO's, a field in which he first became interested when he was eight years old.

"I did some reading, saw some television programs, and thought that the implications of these events were phenomenal, and that it was something people ought to be studying," he said. "I ordered a copy of the Air Force's Project Blue Book report, which in effect said, 'We're not going to investigate UFO's any more, so don't ask.' That wasn't good enough for me. About 1972, I found out about the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), joined the organization, and started getting its newsletter."

For nine years, until this year, he was state director of the North Carolina Chapter of MUFON, an international UFO research and investigative organization; he is now co-state director, with George D. Fawcett of Lincoln and Bob Hair of Eden ("I had to pass part of the work on to someone else, and devote more time to business"). He frequently delivers lectures on UFO's which are remarkable both for their information content and their humor.

"MUFON is somewhere to turn for those who have had experiences with UFO's. It's a listening post and an information exchange, and we try to make the information we develop available to the public," Morton said.

"But we don't spend all of our time saying, 'Yeah, you saw a spaceman.' There are over 100 natural, earthly things that have been identified as explanations for UFO sightings, and we often can filter through those things and explain sightings to people who have been distressed by them. We have both skeptical and non-skeptical investigators. No one else really has that."

Morton's own belief is that some UFO's, at least, contain "extraterrestrial intelligence. I don't think that's such a strange belief. We're presumptuous to think, 'We're it,' when the universe is so large. Many of those other specks of matter out there might have life on them. If so, some of their civilizations are behind ours, some are even with us, and some are ahead of us. Those who are ahead of us must be making every effort to travel through space. How many could be headed this way? They may not all be from the same place — they may be from 1,000 different civilizations. That would explain the different types of craft that are seen, the different types of aliens that are reported."

"Why do they come here? How could we know? Maybe Earth is just a weekend spot for them. Maybe they come to laugh at us. Maybe they stop here so the kids can go to the bathroom. Their options are so vast, what value could we have to them but amusement? Or maybe we have value in letting

them see how they were, a million years ago.

"Why are they so often seen in lonely, out-of-the-way places late at night? Well, they aren't, always. There have been mass sightings over large cities, and one crowd of 16,000 fans at a soccer game in Argentina was treated to a 'half-time show' by a UFO. I don't think it matters to a lot of them where they come down — although a lot do seem to be spotted over or near sensitive military installations."

"All kinds of weird things have happened with UFO's," Morton said. "No one who took the time to investigate would have grounds to say, 'There's no such thing.'"

Morton went on: "What do we know for sure about UFO's? What are the facts? Well, for one thing, they're real, material, hard, opaque. For another thing, they are intelligently controlled, because they interact with human beings and with things on the ground — they even 'toy around' with us. There is strong evidence of a kind of *continuous* interaction with humans. And for a third thing, they do things that simply aren't in the cards for us, not for the next 25 or 50 or 100 years — speed, turning patterns, energy emissions, the various effects they have on plants and animals."

"My own estimate is that just one in 25 people who have a 'close encounter of the first kind' (a distant sighting of a UFO) will admit to it. If that's true, how few would admit to having a 'close encounter of the third kind' (actual contact with an occupant of a UFO)? Yet there are so many reports that people can't be making all of these things up."

"Suppose there have been 2.6 million UFO observers since 1947 — that's a conservative estimate. Even if just *one* of these is not a naturally occurring earthly phenomenon, a hallucination, or a hoax, then it's valid evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence. The same is true, but even more so, of the UFO abduction reports."

"That's the bottom line for me, when I talk about UFO's."

Human beings tend to discount reports of UFO's, Morton said, because, "Man clings to that inherent defense against the unbelievable — by simply refusing to believe. It's a wonderful protective device, but it keeps minds closed."

"We want to think we're the kings of the hill. If we're confronted with aliens in spacecraft, we have to accept a much more subordinate stance in the universe. We're ants under their heels. People don't like to think that."

Morton himself, though he has investigated scores of reported UFO sightings, has seen only one UFO.

"It was the realization of a life-long dream," he said.

"I got a call from the Wadesboro Police Department about 8 o'clock one evening, telling me that in the southern end of Anson County a woman had seen a big light, moving fast, right over her house. It had to have been low, because there was a very low cloud ceiling that night — I estimated 2,200 feet — and the cloud cover was absolutely opaque."

"Driving to the scene with a friend, I crested a hill just south of town and saw a bright green light in the sky that I estimated to be about two miles south of us. It was not flashing, and it appeared to be monochromatic light — I have worked enough with lasers to recognize monochromatic light, and there's no naturally occurring source of it."

"This pinpoint of light changed its location about 15 degrees in less than one second; that kind of speed precludes aircraft, reflections, temperature inversions, swamp gas, and a whole lot of other things from consideration. After 45 to 60 seconds, it vanished."

Later in the interview, Morton told what is perhaps the most incredible UFO story ever recorded in this area of North Carolina: the story of Patrick Eudy, a Locust man who worked with an automobile dealership in Monroe, who claimed to have been "abducted" by occupants of a UFO on the night of March 9, 1979.

"Eudy was at a friend's house that night, shooting pool," Morton said. "He left the other man's house about 3 a.m. to drive home to Locust, where he lived with his aging mother; he had to drive about 10 miles, on a rural road that runs parallel with Highway 200."

"On that rural road is a steel bridge with low overhead struts. As Eudy started across the bridge, he instinctively looked up, as you will on such a bridge no matter how many times you've crossed it, as if to check to see that the struts would clear the car — and when he looked up, he saw what he thought was a very bright star."

"He remembered crossing the bridge — but the next thing he knew, he was coming into his driveway at home, the sun was coming up, and it was 6:10 a.m. He couldn't figure out how it could have taken him that long to drive home, or how he could have been mistaken in thinking that it was 3 a.m."

"Eudy slept for about an hour, then went to work. By this time, the exposed areas of his skin — his face, neck, and arms — were broken out in blisters, as if he had been severely sunburned. Several co-workers asked him about that. He also noticed that the paint was cracked on his car, as if it had been subjected to terrific heat. He called his friend, who verified that Eudy had left his house about 3 a.m."

"The 'sunburn' was treated by a doctor and went away. Eudy had his car repainted. Two years went by, and he continued to be puzzled by what had happened that night. He began to have what he called 'daydreams' in which he would clearly visualize being in what he thought was the cockpit of an airplane, seeing the earth below — but he had never flown, much less been in an airplane cockpit. He was disturbed by these daydreams; he went back to his doctor, and the doctor sent him to a psychologist. Nothing eased his emotional distress."

"Finally, Eudy wrote a letter to MUFON headquarters in Texas. He said in his letter that he didn't believe in UFO's, and he didn't want his name used — but he was scared, and he said, 'I'll do anything' to try to get to the bottom of what was scaring him. We set up a session for him with a hypnotist. Eventually, he went through 12 sessions with a hypnotist, who was able to 'pull out' from Eudy what happened."

"Under hypnosis, Eudy said he recalled that the car was 'levitated.' As it cleared the end of the bridge, the car just lifted into the air and moved inside a spacecraft of some sort, into an area Eudy described as looking 'like a car showroom.' Some creatures, 3½ or 4 feet tall, surrounded him. He wasn't frightened by any of this at the time; he stated that he felt helpless, but kind of euphoric. The beings levitated him into a small room and onto what appeared to be a stainless steel table, where a steel ball hovered over each part of his body in turn. Eudy said there were what looked like 'X-rays' hanging on the wall of this small room. He was covered with some kind of clear, odorless liquid while this steel ball was hovering over him. He recalled having some kind of conversation — but a non-verbal conversation, like telepathy — with the ringleader of the small beings."

"At some point during his experience, the beings left Eudy. He became panicky, but soon became euphoric again."



HENRY H. MORTON

"They returned, and he was levitated to what he believed was the 'cockpit' of the craft, where he saw control devices and looked out a window onto the earth below. There was some more non-verbal conversation, of a reassuring nature. He was put back down, and he resumed his car trip."

Eudy died in 1988.

More reports to The Daily Journal of UFO sightings:

A man who declined to give his name telephoned the writer of this series on Halloween night last year, shortly after the writer had written a column requesting persons who had sighted UFO's to call him.

"One very cold night in 1980 or 1981," the man said, "I was coming home from work, on a road not far from Prison Camp Road, when I saw what looked like a searchlight shining out of a fogbank near the highway. At first it came over a hill — then it became so big that it just eclipsed the hill. I stopped my car and observed it for about 45 to 60 seconds, and it moved away. It was a bright orange light, shaped like an elongated football, and it moved, I would say, about half a mile away from me — and then it changed color, going to red, blue, and white."

"Then it seemed to go as far away as the stars — and all places at one time. It was like a million space shuttles at once. It's hard to describe. It disoriented me, played a trick on my mind. I stayed disoriented for several days. It messed with my mind. I didn't even tell my family I had seen it until about a month later."

"I could feel the power of the machinery inside that thing. Whatever it was saw me and knew I was looking at it. I think it was something I wasn't supposed to see."

"I work outdoors, and I have never before or since seen such a thing as fog on a cold night like that was. I have a degree in science, and I'm working on my master's degree; I know how to observe. And I know that nothing like this could be that big and not make any noise. And yet I saw it."

"There's an explanation for everything, if you study it — but I can't come close to an explanation of this. I denied seeing it, even to myself, for a long time, and I never have told anybody but my family about it."

"I'll remember it til the day I die."

A Hamlet professional woman and her teen-age daughter told The Daily Journal about a frightening experience they had one Sunday night in late March or early April as they drove toward Richmond County from West End, where they had taken the woman's other daughter to meet a friend for a trip back to college.

"It was pitch dark — about 8 or 8:30 p.m.," the woman said, "We

had just driven past Foxfire Country Club and had almost gotten to the Phillips 66 service station below Foxfire, when we saw a bright white light at about the height of the trees, on the passenger side of the car. It seemed as bright as a bright light bulb, but it didn't hurt our eyes to look at it."

The two disagree as to how far away the light was. The woman said it appeared to be "right next to the road," but her daughter said it was farther away than that. Both, however, described it as "not far away." The woman said the light appeared to be "about the size of a car."

"It started moving toward us," the woman went on, "and it moved along beside us as I drove. I began driving faster, to get away from it. We were both scared to death. It moved along, right beside or behind us, for several miles, even though by this time I was going 80 miles an hour."

"After a few miles, it suddenly moved ahead of us, and then vanished. Then, farther ahead of us, we saw a dimmer light — a red light, this time — just hovering."

"As we got alongside this light, it turned white, and we saw a kind of round formation as we drove past."

The daughter said, "We definitely felt that it was following us. It stayed right over the road."

And the woman said: "Somehow, I got the idea that the occupants of this craft had researched the area, and knew that it was an isolated area and there were no houses around. We were awfully scared. I had always thought that seeing a UFO would be a great adventure — something I would really enjoy. Well, it was an adventure, all right, but I was too frightened to enjoy it."

The object "never made any sound," she said. "We turned off the radio so we could hear it, but we couldn't hear anything."

The daughter said she looked at her watch when she first saw the object and when it disappeared from sight. "It was in sight for 10 minutes," she said. "I forget if it was between 8:23 and 8:33, or between 8:33 and 8:43."

"There was never any doubt in my mind," she said, "that it was not any type of aircraft that I know of."

The two "came straight home," the mother said, "and made a pact that we were not going to tell anybody." But the daughter told one friend at school — who, she said, told her that "his mother had said she thought she had seen something similar, once, on that same road."

The Hamlet woman said that before the two saw the UFO, both on the trip to West End and on the

trip back. "We saw a Highway Patrol vehicle and three other vehicles parked alongside the road on the other side of Foxfire, and people standing outside on the shoulder of the road. We have always wondered if they had seen the UFO." The Daily Journal could not check this report with the Highway Patrol, because the woman and her daughter could not pin down the exact date; but the report has been sent to MUFON, for possible correlation with other sightings in the area.

"I'm here to tell you there are such things as UFO's," a man told The Daily Journal Wednesday.

"I saw one about 5:15 one morning, hovering right above First Baptist Church in Rockingham. It was a huge, round thing, with lights. I guarantee you it wasn't any plane, and it wasn't any helicopter."

He added that another well-known Rockingham man had told him that he had seen the object, too, somewhat later, in another part of town, with no lights showing.

There are other reports, which will have to be omitted for the present because of space limitations — but let the last word in this series be that of another eyewitness to the first recorded UFO in Richmond

County, the Dec. 28, 1949, sighting which has been referred to repeatedly in earlier installments:

"The reports that there was a UFO in the sky that day, and that Phil Gibbons chased it in a plane, were absolutely true," Aimee McGirt of Hamlet told The Daily Journal Thursday. "I know it's true, because I am Phil Gibbons's widow. I was with him when he first saw the UFO, and I was with him in the plane when he chased it."

McGirt said she and Gibbons were in Richmond County for the Christmas holidays at the time. "I don't remember where we were when we first saw the UFO," she said. "But either we were at the airport, or we drove straight to the airport and borrowed a plane from Foy Barwick."

"Some of the reports said we chased the UFO for 12 miles. I'm certain it was farther than that. It might have been 12 minutes, I'm not certain."

"The object we followed was flying roughly toward Charlotte. It was spherical, but it wasn't a weather balloon, as some said; weather balloons don't glow. This thing glowed. It was orange, and looked something like the setting sun looks at times, but it was not as brilliant as the sun."

"We lost it because it flew, from our point of view, directly into the sun."

"A few days later, some people from the government came and interviewed us. It was all very mysterious."

McGirt said: "I consider myself a relatively rational observer. I am not given to flights of fancy. Neither of us were drinking when we saw this thing. And a lot of other people saw it, too."

"If it was any type of aircraft, Phil would have known what it was. If it flew, Phil not only knew what it was, he could fly it. He was an Air Force veteran, that's true; but even before the war, he was a graduate aeronautical engineer, had been a commercial pilot for TWA and Delta, was a flying instructor and had been the chief instruments instructor for TWA, and he had been a test pilot for Lockheed. Before the United States got into World War II, Phil was ferrying planes across the Atlantic for the Royal Air Force; then he flew for both the U.S. Navy Air Force and the Army Air Force. By 1949, Phil had logged 9,000 hours in the air — that's longer than a lot of people have been on the ground."

"Flying was Phil's business — and it was his life. If that UFO had been anything flown by man, Phil would have known about it."

MUFON: Some Details

Some readers of this series may be interested in joining the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), in receiving information about the organization, or in reporting UFO sightings to the organization and possibly being interviewed by its field investigators.

To join MUFON, write for a membership application form and an information brochure to MUFON Inc., 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155-4099, or to George D. Fawcett (address below), enclosing a stamped, self-addressed long envelope. Membership is \$25 a year and includes a subscription to the 20-page monthly magazine MUFON UFO Journal.

To receive George D. Fawcett's listing of 162 "UFO Resources" (books, articles, and organizations), send \$5 and a long, self-addressed envelope with 45 cents postage to Fawcett at 602 Battleground Rd., Lincolnton, N.C. 28092.

A MUFON "UFO sighting questionnaire" is also available from Fawcett at no charge. Reports of UFO sightings are kept strictly confidential by the organization.

Clark Cox of The Daily Journal will also relay reports of UFO sightings to MUFON for those persons who will call him. He would particularly be interested in further confidential interviews with the Richmond County man and woman who reported seeing the UFO about five years ago near Bethel Church.

VARIETY, New York, NY - Aug. 30/Sept. 5, 1989

'Communion' coming out Oct. 20 via New Line

Hollywood New Line Cinema has set an Oct. 20 domestic release for "Communion," film based on Whitley Strieber's alien-themed book.

Pic, which relates Strieber's alleged contacts with aliens in 1985 and 1986, stars Christopher Walken as Strieber and Lindsay Crouse as his writer wife, Anne.

UFOs Not Alien To Lake Norman

By Linda Stuart

Several months ago, a local man, George D. Fawcett of Lincolnton, sent us some information for consideration. It dealt with UFOs and particularly their affinity for large bodies of water, power plants and nuclear facilities. "Yikes! That's where I live!" I said. "Yes, I'll take the assignment."

From our first conversation on the phone until today, when I look at the stack of printed material he gave me, I am impressed with the man. He has over 30 file cabinets filled with data and letters; an attic chock full of memorabilia, scrapbooks, hundreds of books and photographs. Someday he hopes to open a UFO museum.

Forty-five years ago when Fawcett was 14 years old, he started clipping news articles about World War II. One of those clippings involved the sighting of mysterious air ships over Europe. Speculations were that these unidentified crafts were some new project of the Germans. It turned out that the Germans saw them too, but they could not claim the technology or the crafts as their own. Later, when Fawcett was in college, he experienced his first and only sighting of an unidentified flying object. He has been faithfully researching, collecting and passing on this information ever since.

Fawcett explains that the study of UFOs is very multidimensional. For example, there are the photographs, radar trackings, landing marks, encounters and repeat visitations to research. Many books have been written about "the aliens," and more movies on the subject are due out this year.

In a nine-page publication titled "UFOs Continue to Visit Nuclear Energy Sites," Fawcett notes that the link between UFOs and power plants was discussed in an article in *Look* magazine in June 1952. The director of the US Air Force Project Blue Book, Capt. Edward Ruppelt, observed that on a plotted map, 63 mystifying UFO reports showed "an ominous correlation" with various energy installations all over the United States. Reports of sightings at the Savannah River, Hanford, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, McGuire, Cherokee and Indian Point nuclear plants

The appearance was said to be like "one saucer inverted on top of another" with a row of flashing windows through its middle. Its size was about that of a basketball court with a thickness one-half its width.



concern many, including the government, the military, scientists, civilians and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Are UFOs monitoring our atomic and nuclear energy sites and if so, why?

An early sighting occurred on April 17, 1950, at a secret atomic energy project at Los Alamos NM. More than 15 people saw a UFO on the eastern horizon. An observer and scientist watched one of the three objects through a telescope and said that it looked flat, metallic and was roughly circular and about 9

feet in diameter. The UFO appeared to be about 2,000 feet high and moved "faster than any known conventional aircraft." It was observed for about 20 minutes during which time it put on a quiet show.

Closer to home, another sighting was reported in the *Mooreville Tribune* in October 1965. Phillip Parker was on an aerial photography mission with pilot H.T. Mayhew. They were flying at 1,000 feet, circling the lake near Perth Church Road, when they saw three "bright objects" coming toward them. The pilot increased

altitude as the objects, flying in formation, passed 100 feet below them. Unnerved as he was, Parker was still able to take a photograph of the shiny objects. I saw the yellowed clipping and photo in Fawcett's scrapbook. It was an aerial view of the lake and shoreline. The three lights in the photo could have been UFOs.

That's the thing about UFOs. Maybe 80 percent of all sightings that are reported and then investigated are explainable — identified flying objects (IFOs) — but 20 per-

(continued on page 9)

cent cannot be identified as natural or man-made phenomena.

In the late summer of 1968, another incident occurred at Lake Norman. A married couple reported seeing a dome-topped UFO with "windows" and odd-colored lights (yellow, blue-ish, red mixed together) flying near their lake home. They described the UFO to be about two to three car lengths wide and making a soft humming sound. A "metal rod" came from the bottom edge of the UFO as it moved down nearby power lines, almost touching the wires as it followed the power line. The eyewitnesses ran the rest of the way home and were badly frightened by their experience.

In the summer of 1974, Robert P. Sartin, resident of the lake area, saw a UFO after he heard children shouting about an object in the sky. Four other people witnessed the UFO, which was sighted about four miles east of the Marshall Steam Station near Terrell. The appearance was said to be like "one saucer inverted on top of another" with a row of flashing windows through its middle. Its size was about that of a basketball court with a thickness one-half its width. It hovered in the area for about 10 minutes before it flew sideways, then moved up and away at an unbelievable speed, as it disappeared in the sky.

In March of 1978, several people described seeing two "milky white" UFOs flying side by side at treetop level at the McGuire Nuclear Station.

One of the more intriguing UFO sightings was reported at 7:30 am on October 18, 1982. Gary Fortenberry and Jimmy Bumgarner, two employees at McGuire, were driving to work on Hwy 73 at the Catawba River (in Lincoln County) when they encountered an unknown.

They watched a dull silver oval UFO with "four legs" above a nearby fog bank. During the daylight encounter, they first mistook it for a water tank, but later in the day when they returned home from work, the fog had lifted and no water tank was to be seen anywhere in the area. They did notice that high voltage lines from the power plants were in the general area of the earlier sighting. When first seen, the UFO was about 250 feet above the ground. The eyewitnesses had worked at McGuire for six years without expe-

riencing anything unusual. Several months before, when UFOs had visited the same location, the power fluctuated before they left the area. Security guards, when questioned by Fawcett on the phone, said that

In a nine-page publication titled "UFOs Continue to Visit Nuclear Energy Sites," Fawcett notes that the link between UFOs and power plants was discussed in an article in *Look* magazine in June 1952.

such UFO incidents were to be reported directly to NRC headquarters.

In January 1989, Fawcett released a report on UFO sightings in North Carolina in 1988. The best report of the year came from Lincolnton, according to Fawcett, who investigated the case after being contacted by a personal friend who knew the eyewitnesses. This rare daytime encounter on April 8 was low-altitude, long-duration and involved four family members.

Larry E. Wise, his wife and two children claim their fishing trip to Howard's Creek was interrupted by a UFO. It was reportedly shaped like a saucer inverted on top of another and appeared near their jeep, first at treetop level. The object was shiny silver on top and grayish blue on the bottom. The four spotters estimated that the UFO was 60 to 80 feet long and 30 feet wide, and they stopped and watched it for three minutes, then followed in their jeep for seven miles and a total of 15 minutes, as it crossed the Reepsville Highway in a diagonal line and was lost in the northeastern sky.

It makes you wonder. Every day information is given to us to assimilate. A recent Gallup Poll indicated that 49 percent of Americans believe that UFOs are real. How about you, folks? Have you had "a close encounter of the third kind?" Fawcett says that 95 percent of that movie is based on true information. Are you interested in learning more about UFOs? If so, write George Fawcett, 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton NC 28092; or call him at 735-5725. ♦

Sightings And Encounters

By Linda Stuart

Seems more and more people are looking to the sky and seeing a whole other world out there. Summer blesses us with long sun-filled days and warm-outside nights. With the summer solstice, we are reminded of our planet's trip around the sun. Everything is moving through space.

This June 24 marks the 42nd anniversary of the Modern UFO Era, so members of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a worldwide organization, and their guests appropriately gathered in Lincolnton on June 11. With approximately 150 UFO sightings each day, a real need exists for investigating, documenting and disseminating information. George Fawcett, the newly appointed MUFON-NC state director, co-director Robert Hair and field investigator Danny Barger are three of the local people who help with this mammoth effort.

The Sunday afternoon gathering was an informal affair, with about 25 people. Some traveled from Asheville, Eden, Charlotte and Winston-Salem. There were displays, books

ings were great, and one woman revealed that she felt as though she had been abducted. "I don't know" is a phrase one hears often, since we don't know all of the answers, and it protects our sanity, too.

To give an example of how complex a sighting can be, Fawcett reported on one case that he had helped investigate: A Lakeland FL couple was at home watching television one night. Their dog became very vocal and agitated and then crashed through the screen door into the house. At this time, the television, radio and phone went dead. The two went outside to investigate and saw a small craft hovering over a palm tree. Two occupants dressed in white were in the well-lit craft and appeared to be involved in maneuvering it. For 20 minutes, the couple watched; the dog went berserk and ran away. The smell of ammonia was in the air.

Later, they phoned the police, who arrived to interview them. The level of excitement was so great that the two officers turned and drew their pistols at the kitchen curtains when the wind blew them in. The



ILLUS./L. MCADAMS

and videos about UFOs and a map of the state showing reported sightings and encounters. Close encounters (CEs) were rated 1 to 4 — a CE 4 is really close. These events were plotted with pins of 15 different colors and sizes, each depicting various types or combinations of reports. Eight hundred twenty-nine pins represented 50 years of UFOs in North Carolina.

The gathering was also one of people, regular folks who share a common interest and support one another. Firsthand reports of sight-

couple ended up buying weapons to help them to feel secure. Furthermore, two eyewitnesses across town had claimed to see a UFO lift off from a schoolyard and head in that direction.

This case illustrates a number of aspects of UFOs: low-altitude observations for a long duration; occupants; severe animal reaction; electromagnetic disturbances; odors; multiple eyewitnesses; and independent observers.

As for me, I don't know; it's a big world out there. ♦

CENTENNIAL SCRAPBOOK

Air Force experts claim 'saucers' are layers of air

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thirty-seven years ago the possibility of "flying saucers" over the nation's capital was a concern in the United States. Meanwhile, Argentines mourned the death of Eva Peron, whose life would become the basis for a popular Broadway musical.

Greensburg Morning Review
Wednesday, July 30, 1952

Washington, July 29 (AP) — Radar screens showed flying "Whatzits" over the nation's Capital for five hours early Tuesday, but Air Force experts said they appeared to be mere layers of cold air.

Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, director of Air Force Intelligence, discounted any theory that the Washington area is being menaced by unknown aerial vehicles from abroad or from other worlds.

Experienced radar operators at the Civil Aeronautics Administration Traffic Control Center reported scores of unidentified objects flitted about the Capital sky from 1:30 a.m. to 5 a.m. EST.

Third Time

It was the third time in 10 days that radar — an electronic device which tracks only physical objects, not imagination — picked up signs of something unknown packing through pre-dawn skies.

On two earlier occasions, sightings were confirmed by more than

one radar set, and veteran pilots asked to investigate, said they saw mysterious lights zooming hither and yon. All that led to one of the biggest flying saucer mysteries yet.

But Tuesday sightings — little spots on a fluorescent radar screen — were unconfirmed by other radar sets in the area or by visual sky watchers.

And the Air Force threw lots of cold water on any chilling speculation about men or missiles from Mars — or enemy nations.

Natural Causes

Samford and fellow Air Force officers told a news conference, called especially to answer questions about the recent goings-on, that they are personally satisfied there was a natural cause.

Their explanation:

In hot, humid weather — such as Washington and other Eastern areas have been having — layers of cold air are likely to get sandwiched between layers of warm air, in what is called a temperature inversion.

These layers produce strong reactions on radar screens, the officers said.

They didn't add any specific explanation of the reported moving lights, but presumably the cold air layers could reflect searchlights or other lights from the earth below.

400 Unexplained

The Air Force chiefs conceded that of about 2,000 reports on flying saucers, about 400 have not yet been explained satisfactorily. The Air Force is giving these reports an "adequate but not frantic" check, they said.

Samford put it this way:

"We have received many credible reports of incredible things ... but there is nothing to indicate that the things seen or reported to have been seen in the skies are vehicles, material things, missiles or anything else that might comprise a threat to this country."

When a reporter pressed the suggestion of a possible menace from some other country by means of something scientifically new, Samford said there is no such menace "unless somebody has an object which has unlimited power without any mass." His implication was that he was setting up a scientific impossibility.

Denies U.S. Efforts

And he denied flatly at another point that the reported sightings could have resulted from anything that the United States itself is doing.

Samford added the Air Force feels bound to learn more about aerial sightings which have not been explained by either natural phenomena, such as weather, or physical causes such as flights of

planes or even ducks or geese.

He announced the Air Force has ordered 200 cameras equipped with special grids which will tell whether objects sighted produce their own light from burning gas or other fuels, or whether they are mere reflections.

The problem will be to get one of these cameras pointed at what the nation has been calling flying saucers.

To solve that problem, the Air Force is considering buying a special camera with a very wide-angle lens which could maintain continuous photographic coverage of the skies.

UFO group: Is something out there?

By Todd Nilson
TRIBUNE REVIEW

On Jan. 21 of this year, a Pennsylvania caseworker, driving along Route 30 outside Bedford, encountered a brilliant light that dropped down from the sky and hovered over his car. The cigar-like object levitated noiselessly and flashed a beam of light over the road before it streaked back into the skies a moment later.

Who would believe it?
According to Stan Gordon, founder and director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, his organization takes reports about many similar cases each year.

"We're kind of open-minded skeptics," Gordon said of PASU.

Approximately 10,000 cases of low-level unidentified flying object sightings, creature reports, unusual animal killings, unexplained photographs and other anomalies are kept in PASU's files, dating back to the early 1940s.

Formed by Gordon in 1981, the association is affiliated with the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, based in Seguin, Texas.

Anyone can report unusual incidents to PASU without fear of ridicule or publicity, Gordon said. The association was formed to make the public aware that UFO sightings continue to occur and to collect legitimate scientific data about UFOs.

FIELD INVESTIGATORS

The association is comprised of 120 members who specialize in science, chemistry, engineering, technology, the military and medicine, to name a few. The members act as field investigators for its 24-hour Greensburg hotline.

"In general, most UFO sightings reported can be traced to a natural source. Bright stars and planets, meteors, space debris, a passing blimp, lights on aircraft, and even NASA high altitude experiments often provide an explanation," Gordon said.

"But every year, UFO sightings occur for which no easy explanation is apparent, and these are the cases that make us wonder just what is occurring."

Gordon founded and directed the Westmoreland County UFO Study Group in 1970, the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research in 1975. He is internationally recognized as an authority on the subject of UFOs and "Bigfoot," and has been a regular guest on national radio talk shows and television news and special report programs.

PASU investigates reports of Bigfoot, the eastern Mountain Cougar — supposedly extinct since 1890 — and other strange



Stan Gordon, at his well-equipped monitoring post, has been tracking UFO sightings for 30 years

occurrences, but specializes in the study of UFOs.

Gordon is an electronics technician who has studied UFO reports and phenomenon for 30 years. Hearing stories about Bigfoot and UFOs on late night radio shows when he was 10 years old originally got him interested in the paranormal. Gordon noticed that many of the stories he heard were very similar.

He's been reading books on the subject ever since.

Several large, filled bookshelves occupy Gordon's UFO workshop. Radio equipment, Bigfoot casts, maps and collected UFO residues are also prominently displayed.

KECKSBURG INCIDENT

"Then when this thing in Kecksburg happened, that really got me going," said Gordon, referring to a reported UFO crash on Dec. 9, 1965, near Kecksburg, in which the U.S. military arrived and hauled the debris away. PASU is still investigating the incident and looking for witnesses who saw either the military cleanup procedures or wreckage before the military got there.

"The government said it was a large meteor," he said. "At this point, we know for sure that it was not a meteor."

PASU is not the first Pennsylvania group Gordon has organized, but it is the most successful thus far. The organization is not listed in the phone book, but re-

ceives reports from police and various other organizations.

"The only thing we don't do is ghosts and hauntings," Gordon added.

In spite of all his interest in unexplained phenomenon, Gordon says he has never seen a UFO or Bigfoot.

"It keeps you skeptical," he says with a shrug.

Last year was the biggest year for sightings in a long time, Gordon said. While about 90 percent of UFO sightings can be explained, nearly 40 percent of the 1988 sightings could not, he said.

"We had reports from August 1987 steadily through February 1989," he said. In 1988, for the first time, PASU had UFO sightings during every month.

Gordon quickly pointed out that the sightings were "not just lights in the sky," but that close range incidents were more common than usual.

STATE SIGHTINGS

Also, based on sightings from the past five to six years, PASU has discerned some details common to many Pennsylvania sightings. For instance:

— Sightings are sometimes accompanied by localized power failures apparently caused by UFOs flying or hovering near power stations or lines.

— UFOs sighted in Pennsylvania tend to be metallic and cigar-shaped, triangular, rectangular or boomerang-shaped instead of

the more traditionally accepted "flying saucer" description.

— More people have been injured by UFOs in recent years. Often, the encounters are accompanied by partial memory loss. A Harrisburg policeman last year received microwave radiation burns after sighting a UFO.

— Some UFOs can appear and disappear or change their physical appearance.

— Recently, more sightings have taken place in populated, urban areas, between 1 and 5 a.m., when few people are likely to be around. At Greengate Mall, several police officers observed a cigar-shaped object pass over the nearby power station as the power momentarily blinked out.

— Increasing numbers of sightings involve the UFO hovering near to witnesses then taking off at a high rate of speed after using some form of searchlight.

— Most cases involve the testimony of multiple witnesses — some who are trained professionals at observation — not single witnesses, as many skeptics argue.

But just what are UFOs? "We don't know," Gordon answers quickly. The hypothesis that they are extraterrestrials visiting the planet is only one explanation, he said. They could be from underwater or even from another dimension, he offered.

"I believe we're dealing with more than one origin for all of these objects."

Display on UFOs planned

By The Tribune-Review

The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained is sponsoring a UFO display Saturday in Westmoreland Mall to mark the fifth annual National UFO Information Week.

The mall display will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and will include recent and historic government documents and reports concerning UFOs, UFO photographs, alleged residue from UFO landings and free literature.

Casts of Pennsylvania "Bigfoot" tracks and

sighting information about black panthers and the extinct Eastern cougar will also be available for visitors to examine. Stan Gordon, director and founder of PASU, will be present at the display the entire day to answer questions and receive UFO reports.

Gordon hopes the event will make people aware that UFOs are still being reported and that he will receive reports from people who might not normally tell about their close encounters.

"There's a much higher number of cases we never hear about (than those we receive)," Gordon said.

GASTON GAZETTE, Gastonia, NC — Sept. 9, 1989 CR: G. Fawcett

Man claims to have seen UFO in Lincolnton

By Donna Cox
Gazette Staff Reporter

LINCOLNTON — Paul Moore was feeding his dog and smoking a cigarette on a Friday afternoon when he spotted a triangular-shaped object the size of a Stealth bomber heading toward the McGuire Nuclear Plant substation.

"It was the first time I've ever

seen anything like that," said Moore, who lives near Huntersville, one mile south of the plant and a half mile from the substation. "I thought I was seeing things at first."

The large object was reddish-brown in color, he said, and dropped down from an estimated 1,000-foot altitude to 300 feet at a 45-degree angle and headed di-

rectly toward the substation.

It was only one of the more than 829 UFO sightings in North Carolina compiled over the last 50 years by the Lincolnton chapter of the worldwide Mutual UFO Network Inc.

George D. Fawcett, a Mount Airy native and Lincolnton resident, has been a MUFON representative for 18 years and was

appointed in June as MUFON state director.

Moore's sighting was similar to reports collected by field investigators in Pennsylvania recently, Fawcett said.

Moore, a construction security guard retired from McGuire, said there have been several sightings around McGuire in the last 12 to 15 years.

Denver UFO Society better than television

Waiting for the meeting of the Denver UFO Society to start, I flip through some of the literature they hve away. One writer from Aurora is looking for material for an extraterrestrial cookbook and needs people whose close encounters involve eating.



Alan Dumas
Other directions

"Have you witnessed alien nourishment?" asks the item. "Did the aliens give you a recipe?"

Around here that is a perfectly normal question. The UFO Society is filled with people who see spaceships flying around Denver every day, whose friends come from other galaxies, who take rides aboard Venusian star cruisers.

The mysteries of space are compelling, and for those who have found life on Earth to be a big disappointment, the lure of the stars can be overwhelming. These people aren't playing a pretend game or participating in a new-age parable. They really believe their "star brothers" have arrived. They are living a different reality.

Verda says the aliens come to her at night to teach her their ways.

"The people of Venus are very tall with long, blond hair," she confides. "And I know they walk among us. I saw them in a grocery store speaking a language I've never heard on Earth."

Verda says she also has met aliens who kept themselves invisible because their faces resembled those of horses and they didn't want to scare her.

"I was killed by horses in another life," she says.

Elsie says she's been seeing aliens and their craft since she was 5 years old. I ask her what they want on Earth.

"Oh, I can't tell you that!" she says. "Do you want them to disown me?"

Mildred says she joined the UFO Society because it's better than television.

"I've never actually seen a flying saucer," she admits. "But I did see the moon explode."

The Denver UFO Society has been around since 1957, and some people have been members that long. One of them is Lorita, a member of the board of directors.

"Our thing is to stay right in the middle," she says. "We don't ever argue or judge. We say, 'Come here and tell us your story, and we'll listen.' Then we quietly make up our own minds about what to believe."

Lorita says she first became intrigued by UFOs in the '50s and has

learned to spot them easily.

"There's a lot of them out around Morrison," she says. "I think they're checking out Martin Marietta."

Society president Ken opens the meeting by updating the group on recent sightings, including one of his own where a saucer was trying to disguise itself as a cloud near Interstate 25 and East Hampden Avenue.

Then he introduces the evening's main speaker, a guy named Ron who says he's been in contact with someone named Commander Apollo who serves on the Orion Council of Light in another dimension. Commander Apollo has sent some important messages. One of them is that Mikhail Gorbachev is a space seed sent to Earth to bring peace. Personally, I don't trust this Commander Apollo. In his messages he calls us "Earthlings," and I've seen enough movies to know that guys who do that usually end up trying to have you for lunch.

There are a few people attending their very first meeting, and some are bemused by the level of weirdness.

"I guess it's OK that these people believe these things," says Laura, who heard about the group on the radio. "It gives them hope, thinking there are people outside who can rescue us."

Indeed, a common thread in all the stories people tell is that the aliens are more powerful than we are and want to help out. Depending on whom you talk to, they are doing everything from cleaning up Rocky Flats to guiding us into the fourth dimension.

After the regular meeting, a couple of dozen members adjourn to an Azars Big Boy where the competition continues into the night. Here, they form specialized groups. One group of technical types sits separately and discusses UFO propulsion and time travel. Some Boulder new-age types talk about the coming "change," whatever that is.

But most of these people are ordinary Denver folk who do ordinary things like service your car or bag your groceries, as they wait for creatures from across the universe to come and give their lives the meaning and importance they know life deserves.

Maybe they're crazy. But maybe they're the best of us, people with hearts so good that they cannot tolerate the cruelty of life on Earth, and so have turned their eyes to the heavens.

"Look, I don't claim to visit with aliens or anything," says a member named Merle. "But I'll never forget an overcast day in autumn when I looked up to see a light in the sky. They just wanted to let me know that they were really there. That they are really there."

Alan Dumas is a freelance writer and host of the talk show *Dumas After Dark*, which airs on KBX-AM 710 from 8 p.m. to midnight Monday through Friday. His column appears here most Saturdays.

"I think they are but they are not from other planets."

Rose Kingsley
Kelso



"In a sense I do but I would have to see one to believe it."

Les Smith
Silver Creek



"I believe in them but have had no personal experiences with them."

Wes McMahan
Randle



"I am sure there must be."

Karen Grove
Toledo



"Yes there is, because every space man in outer space has seen them and a good friend of mine said he saw one land in Oregon."

Buster Kingsley
Kelso



Do you think there are UFOs?

Object May Have Been Rocket

By TERRY JOYCE
Post-Courier Reporter

That object in the skies that aroused so much interest across the Lowcountry early Sunday may have been Soviet space junk.

Or it may have been a meteor shower. In any case, it still had folks buzzing.

"A Soviet rocket body impacted in the Atlantic (Ocean) east of Georgia around 1:15 a.m.," said Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Eric Bishop, a public affairs officer with the North American Air Defense Command. "That may have been it," he said today.

Bishop, speaking from his office in Colorado Springs, Colo., said a newspaper in Kalamazoo, Mich., also had asked NORAD about any space junk, or used satellite parts, that might have lit up the sky early Sunday. He said people there apparently saw the object beginning to heat up as it re-entered the earth's atmosphere.

Bishop said NORAD didn't have many details about the rocket body, except to say it was a piece of the Soviet 2030 Cosmos series of satellites, launched from somewhere in Russia on July 12. He said he had no information on what the part specifically was used for or whether that

particular Cosmos satellite was manned or unmanned.

He said the piece of space junk apparently was heading from northwest to southeast when it landed somewhere off the coast of Georgia.

Bill Krasean, a reporter with the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Gazette, told The Evening Post today that another reporter with his newspaper saw the object and described it as "resembling a shooting star."

He said that he knew of only a few people in Michigan who had reported seeing the object, which first appeared somewhere over the Great Lakes.

Closer to Charleston, Ernest R. Banz of

Summerville described the sighting as "something like a big 4th of July sky-rocket."

"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 Evening Post they saw something — perhaps a UFO — in the sky between 1:15 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

(continued on page 12)

the Cooper River that night, engaged 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."

Elsewhere, people in North Charleston, west of the Ashley, on a boat at Lake Marion and along the Grand Strand said they saw something in the sky. In Myrtle Beach, a 38-year-old printer said he 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.

"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 10,000-15,000 feet and moving at about 500 mph. "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, Martin said, and 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 said. But when base personnel told him they didn't have any planes in the area that night, he decided to sell it 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 sky.

"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 their boat, heading toward Charleston.

"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."

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."

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 Richard Shenot, meteorologist-in-charge at the Charleston office of the National Weather Service.

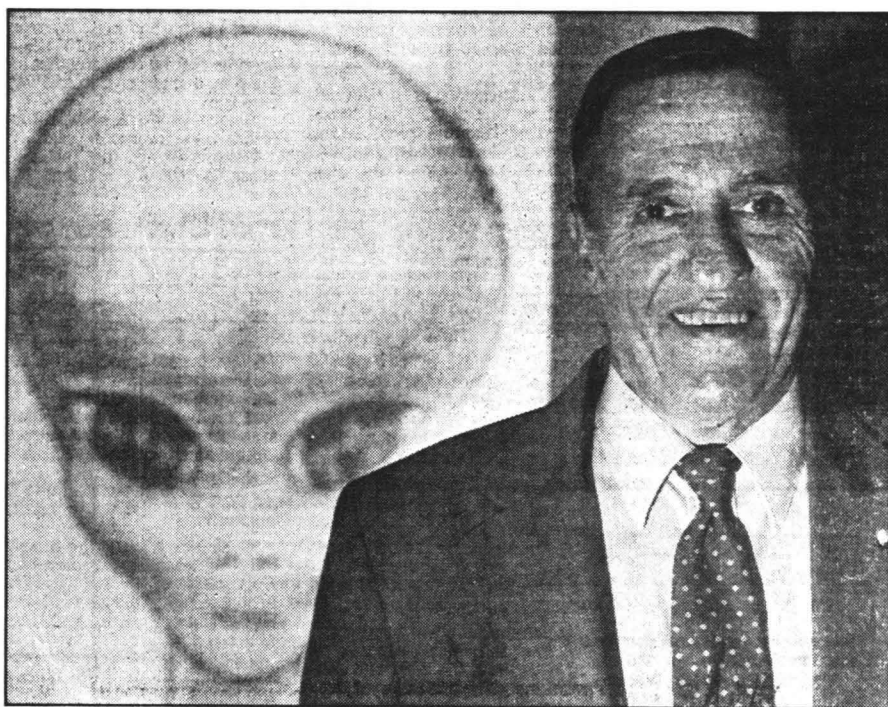
"Besides, we got reports of this thing all the way down to Daufuskie Island," he said. "No inversion could have caused that."

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.-1:45 a.m., but no threatening or unidentifiable objects showed up on Air Force radar screens.

Post-Courier staffers Fred Rigsbee, Bill Steiger and Eric Frazier contributed to this story.

Aliens Among Us?



Durham Morning Herald/Shea Tisdale

George Fawcett shadowed by likeness of garden-variety, extraterrestrial visitor

N.C.'s UFO Expert Warns Tar Heels, There's Something 'Extra' Up There

By WILLIAM M. SMITH
Herald staff writer

Before any New Age manifestations such as channeling and Shirley MacLaine, before spirit guides, before crystal power and pyramid power, there were unidentified flying objects.

UFOs formally entered the modern era in 1947, when a private pilot named Kenneth Arnold reported seeing a flight of nine saucer-shaped objects in the sky over the state of Washington.

But believers point to unusual

aerial phenomena reported years earlier by combat air crews during World War II, and they say ancient literature is a virtual UFO catalog.

The Bible is a good place to find accounts of flying machines from other worlds, according to George Fawcett.

Fawcett, a Mount Airy native who now lives in Lincolnton, is Mr. UFO in North Carolina, having devoted 45 of his 60 years to the study of strange stuff of celestial origin. He is the state director of the Mutual UFO Network Inc. of North Carolina, a clearinghouse that can provide sighting questionnaires, lecture information and other services on request.

Fawcett gave the word—and a slide show—on sightings, landings and abductions to Durham's Triangle Civitan Club Thursday night.

"If you don't believe what I'm talking about tonight, you belong to a minority group in America," he said. It's a sobering statement, but probably a correct one. A recent Gallup poll found that 68 percent of Americans believe in UFOs.

Two former presidents, Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter, have reported seeing "something up there," but it should also be noted that Reagan believed in a balanced budget and Carter in a second term.

UFOs have adorned the sky above North Carolina for a long time, Fawcett said. The Cherokee Indians referred to "sky baskets," "sky people" and "star people," he said, and a sighting was reported in Siler City in 1842.

North Carolina ranks fourth among the states in the number of reported sightings, according to Fawcett, who contends that only one UFO sighting in 10 is reported because witnesses fear repercussions of one sort or another.

Contact isn't limited to the visual, he said: There have been seven cases of North Carolinians' being abducted by UFO crews.

In Fawcett's view, this is cause for concern. "Problem" was the word he frequently used in describing the state of intergalactic relations, and he said that "it's a serious problem. It's one involving human survival and national security."

Some aliens walking among us are the classic models—3 or 4 feet tall, with no hair and huge eyes—but "some of them look like your next-door neighbor," Fawcett said.

The language barrier is often overcome by telepathy, he said, but don't believe every thought that's transferred your way. Some visitors emanate nothing but truth, while others aren't fanatics on the point.

Generally, in the case of abductions, the aliens gather physiological data on the human species. This almost always involves domination, and sometimes pain, but it is not clear why a race that is advanced enough to make space travel routine needs to perform the same tests over and over again. Unless there's some sort of psychosexual force at work here.

While aerial sightings may involve craft of various shapes and configurations, Fawcett said, those that land usually have the same layout, being 30-ton domed discs 30 feet in diameter.

He said the visitors sometimes leave behind "angel hair," a cotton-candyish substance that is often radioactive. The substance tastes salty and leaves those who handle it with green fingertips, Fawcett reported, although once again it is not clear why anyone would want to touch or taste what may amount to UFO exhaust.

Angel hair and abductions notwithstanding, most of the scientific, technical and aeronautical community would like to have a bit more proof before declaring that the age of interstellar commerce is at hand.

That's fine with Fawcett. He told his audience that he hoped to walk the line between "foolish faith" and "blind doubt," but acknowledged: "I'm very biased. I believe I'm speaking the truth."

The truth is a narrow path, though, and sometimes slippery. Fawcett said he thought Betty Hill, whose reported UFO abduction in the early 1960s was the topic of a seminal book on the subject, and Miss MacLaine, the actress who described her New Age shenanigans in another book, had fallen away.

"Betty has gotten an overdose of exposure, and she's playing it for all it's worth," Fawcett said.

"I don't give a hoot for channeling. I'll leave that to Shirley MacLaine," he said.

UFO!

Criswell Road Family Sees Bright Lights, Mushroom-Shaped Object Hovering in Sky

By MARIA KLINE
Eagle Staff Reporter

They're here.

Or, at least, they may have been here.

For some Butler Township residents Thursday night may have seemed like something right out of the movies.

A bright light adorned a mushroom-shaped object that hovered in a field behind the Criswell Road home of Jim and Debbie Hahn between 9 and 10 p.m., Thursday night, Mrs. Hahn said.

As she and a friend sat on the back porch, they also saw two smaller objects with red lights fly from the main object, Mrs. Hahn said. After a short time, all three objects "shot off to the left," she said.

And the Hahns' were not alone in their sighting.

Unexplained lights were also reported seen in Cambria and Westmoreland counties between 9:30 and 10:15 p.m., said Stan Gordon, director of the UFO hotline and the Pennsylvania Association for the Scientifically Unexplained, in Greensburg.

Mrs. Hahn said she doesn't believe what they saw was a helicopter. "It sat there 10 minutes," she said. "We didn't hear anything."

About an hour later, when her husband returned from a trip to the store, he also saw the object, Mrs. Hahn said, but at a slightly different location in the field.

"We get numerous reports all the time but usually

they're misidentifications of natural objects," Gordon said. "But in this case, all reports said they saw a bright illuminated object which moved back and forth and up and down," he said.

Unidentified flying objects are not unusual in Butler County. The last reported incident occurred near Route 422 near Fenelon in December 1986, according to Butler Eagle files, and many other sightings are documented in the paper.

The Hahns also spotted military-type jets circling the area within a half-hour of the sighting, even though the couple had informed no one except a family friend, she said.

"Coincidentally," Gordon said, jets are usually seen after a sighting even when there is no normal military action in the area."

Since 1969, Gordon said the military has not been involved in UFO research on the public level. "But there's no doubt that the government continues to investigate UFOs on a high level of security with specialized units responding," Gordon said.

PASU is a volunteer, state-wide organization made up of research specialists and former military personnel as a scientific clearinghouse for incidents of unexplained phenomena, Gordon said.

Gordon asks that any other people who may have seen the UFOs to contact the PASU so the phenomenon can be further studied. The address is 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg 15601.



FOREIGN NEWS

Mysterious Circles In British Fields Spook the Populace

Locals Blame UFOs, Yanks
And Mad Hedgehogs;
The Queen Is on the Case

By CRAIG FORMAN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
CHEESEFOOT HEAD, England—For 83 years, John Scull's family has grown wheat on the rolling farmlands near here. Now, his wheat fields have holes.

Well, not exactly holes. They are large, near-perfect circles of flattened wheat, swirled to the ground in a precise spiral pattern. They appear overnight in the middle of otherwise ordinary-looking fields. And nobody knows what's causing them.

"It's the most unusual thing to happen on this patch, that's for sure," says the lanky Mr. Scull, tugging reflectively on his short beard.

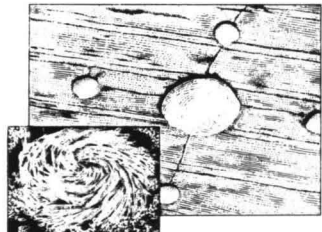
What's happening in Mr. Scull's wheat field is happening in farmlands all over southern England this summer, and it's creating an uproar throughout the country.

Investigators and scientists are slogging through fields, lugging video cameras, fancy infrared scopes and other high-tech detection devices. Curious tourists and reporters from around the globe are descending upon the peaceful villages, sometimes wreaking more havoc than the circles themselves. They trample the ripening wheat. They set up ladders in fields to take pictures. They get into auto accidents. Pastoral Cheesefoot Head (population: six) now has traffic jams.

Questioning Thatcher

"Loads of people are looking for the circles," says a woman selling strawberries at a roadside stand near another circle-prone field. Is her location a good one? "It is now," she says.

British agriculture and defense officials want to know more. So does Queen Elizabeth, who is said to have sharply questioned Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher



Wheat circles, with close-up (inset)

about the circles recently. While those talks are kept secret, a Buckingham Palace spokesman says the Queen took a hurriedly published book about the circles to her summer palace in Scotland this month; as Britain's biggest landowner, she has every reason not to be amused.

The largest circles are about 100 feet in diameter. Sometimes groups of circles seem to resemble giant crucifixes and Celtic crosses stretching across the undulating hills. Inside the circles, the wheat is leveled completely. But the crops are undamaged and continue to grow. Horizontally.

At first, many thought the whole thing a hoax, in the proud tradition of such well-known British oddities as the Loch Ness monster and the Piltdown man. (Indeed, the bones of the Piltdown man were found in the early 1900s in a field only a few dozen miles east of here. For decades he was thought to be prehistoric forebear of man, only to be exposed as a complete fake in 1953.)

But the circles' precision and number—they weren't widespread until recently, with more than 250 recorded this year—have dispelled most talk of hoaxes. Whatever makes the circles leaves no tracks. Many of the circles can't easily be seen unless you are in the middle of a wheat field, which more or less undercuts the point of faking them in the first place.

Nor is it the first time unexplained phenomena have been found around here. One of the greatest concentrations of circles is near the mysterious standing stone formations at Stonehenge and Avebury. No one has fully explained them, either.

Still, farmers and scientists are abuzz with theories. One is that the circles are caused by hedgehogs gone mad, or by buck deer in rut. Another blames mysterious whirlwinds never before encountered here. Other theories include bizarre insect infestations or a new strain of virus. Or over-fertilization. Or under-fertilization.

Then there are high-tech explanations. Some people believe the circles are caused by helicopters. Aviation experts point out, however, that helicopters would have to fly upside down to carve such flawless circles. Others contend the circles are made by a mysterious magnetic force, or by a Star Wars space-defense beam run amok. And, of course, there's the inevitable flying-saucer theory: Alien ships flatten the crops when they touch down to visit Earth. Indeed, a mysterious white substance that laboratories haven't identified has been found near some circles.

"I reckon it's one of them UFOs," says Edley Ware, a weathered farmhand. "You never know what is going on in this world." He pauses for a moment, as a new thought strikes him. "You know, it could be the bloody Yanks. They always have something up their sleeves."

One of the biggest circular formations is near a stone-age burial ground in Silbury Hill. Seven circles stretch across hundreds of feet of prime British farmland, rolling golden fields of wheat gently baking in this summer's unusually warm sun. Near a distant farmhouse, a wisp of smoke rises from burning stubble. A harvester drones at the bottom of the field, methodically scooping up the ripe crop. Wind blows, gently rustling the wheat still standing.

Carved with almost surgical precision, the largest circle in the formation is a 100-foot-wide ring of flattened wheat stalks. The still-growing grain is darker than surrounding crop because it has gotten less sunlight. Outside the circle, the stalks of wheat stand straight, about three feet tall.

At the center of the circle, the wheat has been spun together to form a thatched mound a few inches high. From this point, the stalks are spun out clockwise, as if a giant fist has powerfully, but gently, twisted them into the ground.

Colin Andrews, an electrical engineer who is one of the two authors of "Circular Evidence," the book the Queen is reading, argues that a rotating field of high energy is creating the circles. "It may well be some form of intelligence," he says. Pat Delgado, his co-author, thinks there may be a message in the circles. "It could be a cry for help," he says. "It could mean, 'If you destroy this food, your planet is finished.'"

"That's bunkum," says Terence Meaden, a local meteorologist. "The idea that there is some intelligence operating is pure fantasy." Whirlwinds, he contends, are the only explanation. Cool sea breezes mixing with hot air above the fields are forming spinning wind vortexes that touch down and twist the wheat. Many other scientists and government officials also subscribe to this view.

But not the farmers. "It's a load of rubbish. I don't believe a whirlwind could do that," says Simon Brown, who has had several circles on his farm. They are carved too neatly, he says, and the fields bear no traces of moving winds. One of the formations, a large circle ringed by four smaller ones, could fit the imprint of an alien spaceship with four pods for feet, some say—though Mr. Brown has no truck with the UFO theory, either.

But Mr. Brown believes the appearance of the circles does prove one thing: "It means we have absolutely no bloody idea of what goes on around us. It's one of those eternal mysteries. Long may they continue."

EVENING NEWS, Worcester, England

June 22, 1989 CR: T. Good

Puzzle of 'large green objects'

POLICE in Ross-on-Wye are mystified by reports of "large green objects" falling from the sky over the villages of Weston-under-Penyard and Rudhall on Tuesday.

Officers were sent to investigate the sightings and returned to Ross Police Station empty handed and showing no signs of

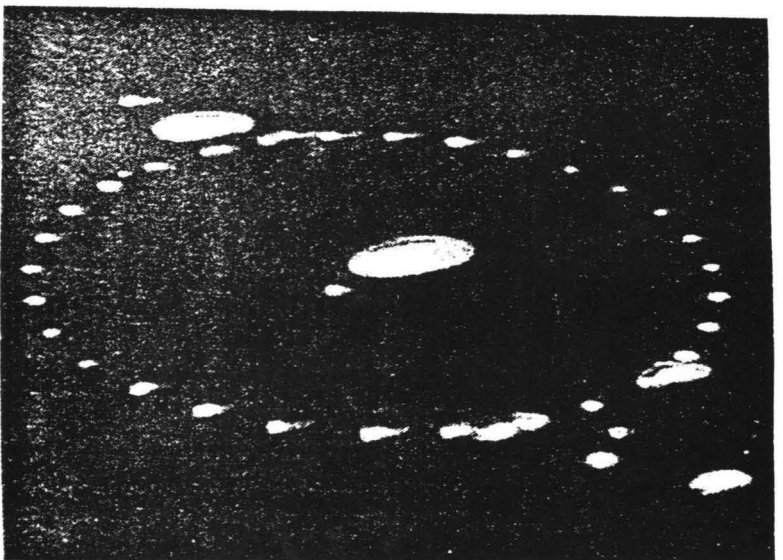
experiencing a "close encounter." "Whatever it was couldn't have stayed very long," said Sgt Terry Nixon.

The objects were first seen from Ross town centre then, later in the day, residents in the area said they had changed colour to "blueish" as they hovered high over fields in clear skies.

SUNDAY TIMES, Perth, W.A., Australia - July 16, 1989 CR: VUFORS

Lake Eyre spaceship

lake photo UFO marks



□ This is the dramatic slide shot 10 years ago and released only this week.

A DRAMATIC photograph of UFO-type markings on the bed of Lake Eyre has been made public — 10 years after it was shot.

The slide was taken around midday on January 2, 1979, by pilot Lewis Brice during a sightseeing flight.

A passenger on the flight, Jeff Findley, recalled the incident and produced the slide last week

after seeing a TV program about similar markings in a British cornfield.

He said the regular clockface-like markings with a central point, photographed from about 30m above the South Australian lake, showed "some phenomenon which has never been explained".

The circle in Lake Eyre had a diameter of about 30m and the indentations were in water

about 30cm deep.

"I think the markings were caused by some terrific pressure of something taking off," he said.

"I don't know what it is but it's something that has the ability to take off and land and has terrific thrust."

Mr Findley said he owned the Outback Motel at Hawker when the photographs were taken. He now lives in Adelaide.

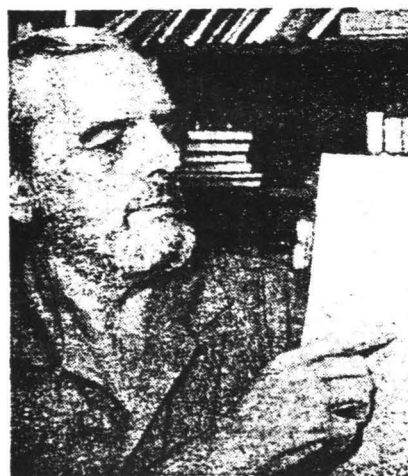
Mr Brice also told of the strange markings and how he photographed them. He said he had made regular flights in the area and had been on a scenic tour over the south-eastern corner of the lake.

"What I saw was a clockface with a central mound and a series of mounds in a circle around it," he said. It looked for all the world like little heaps of sand in pink water.

"Some weeks later I flew over the lake again. I tried to find the area where I'd seen the markings but I didn't ever see them again."

Mr Findley sent the photograph to South Australian conservationist and Lake Eyre expert Mr Warren Bonython, who had made calculations about the size of the markings.

Mr Bonython said he could not decide what the markings were. "However it seemed that the white patches were consistent with the crystallisation of salt in shallow water on objects which were above the water," he said.



□ Jeff Findley... the spot on the map of Lake Eyre where the picture was taken.

CIRCLES RUN RINGS ROUND EXPERTS

THE QUEEN and Mrs. Thatcher are concerned about the mystery flattened circles appearing in alarmingly higher numbers in crops in the south of England.

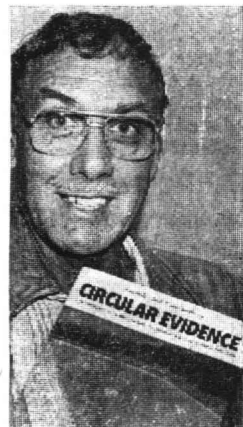
The Ministry of Defence is probing the mystery, as it is believed some of the circles may be in sensitive military areas on Salisbury Plain.

More than 200 of the circles, with the crops flattened in a swirling pattern, have been found already this year—over double the number for the whole of last year.

The circles are described vividly in new, illustrated book by retired design engineer Pat Delgado, and local government officer Colin Andrews.

Despite investigating hundreds of the circles since 1981, they admit to still being baffled about their cause, although UFOs have been spotted at the scene of many.

Said Mr. Delgado: "Circles and rings found depressed in growing crops have puzzled and fascinated large numbers of people in a great many countries.



Mr. Pat Delgado

"The circles are areas in which a crop is laid down to form the swirled flattened floor of a circular shape, like a shallow, straight-sided dish."

The book has shot to eighth position in bestsellers list, highlighting the public interest and bafflement caused by the circles.

"Copies of the book have been presented to the Queen and Mrs. Thatcher, and they have both acknowledged their interest in the studies," added Mr. Delgado.

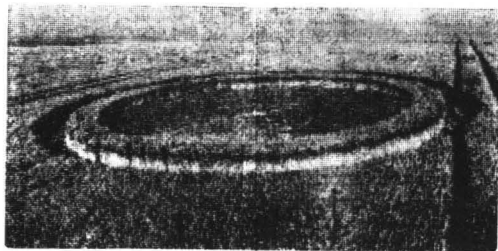
"We would love to investigate the military aspect of the circles on Salisbury Plain. We would dearly love to get into the military sites, but we are refused access.

"Hopefully, the Government will co-operate with us, as investigating the mystery is becoming an enormous proposition.

"Scientists and the governments of Canada, Australia, Japan and France have also shown great interest, and I would like to see an international consortium formed to jointly investigate the circles."

"The Royal Commission for Historical Sites is interested in our findings, and have put planes at our disposal. They are also providing 3½-million aerial photographs, going back 40 years."

He continued: "The circles are puzzling and intriguing. What is the purpose of it all, and why has there been such an enormous leap in their num-



One of the unexplained circles

ber this year? One field alone has 14 circles in it."

Mr. Delgado explained how the crops—even dry cereals and rape—are bent over near ground-level, almost always leaving them undamaged.

"Whatever is causing it all softens up the stems near the roots by some biological means, bends them, then hardens them up again. When we have tried, they snap every time."

He said the latest circle to appear was a "spectacular" one near Polperro, Cornwall, and added: "It is the first time we have had one in that county. The public should be extremely concerned about their spread."

Viruses

The book, "Circular Evidence," puts forward many theories about the cause of the circles, including electro-magnetism, viruses, crop spraying—and UFOs.

One of the investigators was looking into a circle at Goodworth Clatford, Hampshire, and saw a bright blue flash. There have been other reports of bright flashes from circles.

Two pensioners reported a UFO sighting to police four years ago—a huge circular object, standing on end like a funfair wheel. It was stationary and hovering close to the ground.

It had lights round the edge and more on the spokes leading into its centre. The following morning, five circles—a large one with four smaller ones round its edge—were found.

One of the main sites for circles is the Punch Bowl, a natural depression at Cheese-foot Head, and there have been reports of UFOs in the area.

Another report was from Silbury Hill, near Avebury. A woman motorist saw a large, golden disc-shaped object, with a bright beam of light pointing at the ground.

Half a dozen articles in a recessed pocket along the dashboard suddenly rose up and flew backwards into her lap and the passenger seat, as if a surge of energy had passed through the car. Circles were found later.

UFO sightings have come from several other places in the county—and from countries all around the world where circles have appeared.

The book adds: "UFOs are claimed to be capable of producing the most extraordinary behaviour and phenomena. Their control of force-fields unknown to us may result in the rings and circles.

"It may well be within their capability to manipulate a rotary force field, enclosed in a sharp, cut-off electro-magnetic shield.

"It is also possible that some are only visible when they wish to be in our light spectrum, so the forces they may control could be demonstrated without their presence."

Mr. Andrews believes the phenomena could have caused the death in 1987 of a Harrier jet pilot, who fell from his plane mysteriously over Wiltshire—a group of circles were later found nearby.

He said the plane could have crossed an energy beam, which was causing the circles, and added the circle investigation group and the MoD should get together to try to solve the mystery.

Ivan & UFOs

Weird media springs up under glasnost

MOSCOW (AP) — Headless aliens from space invade Russia!

"Huge hairy creature" terrifies villagers in the Volga valley!

Possible UFO lands in Moscow!

Although President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms haven't spawned U.S.-style supermarket tabloids — let alone U.S.-style supermarkets — glasnost has changed the Soviet media, as evidenced by these recent stories.

And a lot of people seem to love it. The change is evident on state-run TV, once a showcase for morally uplifting and dull "Boy Loves Tractor" movies about building communism and news reports lauding factories overfulfilling the Five-Year Plan.

Now, six days a week, as part of the breakfast TV program 120 Minutes, gray-haired mystic Alan Chumak waves his hands on camera to cure viewers from Minsk to Vladivostok of what ails them.

Soviets with heart disease are requested to watch the self-described journalist on Tuesdays. On Fridays, Chumak will help viewers get rid of allergies. People with stomach bugs or bone and muscle aches should tune in on other days.

The inability to watch the program is not a problem. Leave the set on and put a jar of water, juice or massage cream by the TV screen; it supposedly will be "charged" by Chumak's gestures and can be used later for treatment.

Earlier this summer, after about a month on the air, Chumak was pulled off 120 Minutes by broadcast executives, who said they wanted to make sure his treatment brought positive results.

They must have been convinced; the man in his mid-50s was back on TV waving his hands within a week.

Since the days of the wild-eyed monk Rasputin, hypnotist and confidant at the court of the last czar, Russians have been intrigued by the occult and fantastic; stories about UFOs, vanished planets and ESP have always had an eager audience.

With glasnost, or greater openness, such topics are getting more exposure in the once stuffy official Soviet media, and despite the firmly materialistic and rationalist ideology of the ruling Communist Party.

In fact, the unlikely organ in the forefront of the weirdness campaign belongs to the party itself. The 1 million-circula-

tion daily newspaper *Socialist Industry*, an organ of the party's Central Committee, has a mandate to report on the Soviet economy but often makes space for news items that have nothing to do with either socialism or industry.

On Tuesday, there was this intriguing account of invaders from space landing in Central Russia's Perm region: Milkmaid Lyubov Medvedev told the newspaper, "At about 4:30 in the morning, I was going to the farm when I saw a dark figure seemingly riding a motorcycle. ... But when I looked closely at the figure, I noticed there was no motorcycle, but just something resembling a man, but taller than average with short legs."

The creature had "only a small knob instead of a head," Medvedev said. "I was frightened to death ... then it became fluorescent and disappeared."

Beekeeper G. Sharoglavov saw two egg-shaped "fluorescent objects" as big as aircraft hovering at a height of 600-1,000 feet. Others in mid-July also saw aliens with no heads, the paper said.

It quoted V. Kopylov, Communist Party boss in the Chernushinsky region, as acknowledging that "something unusual is going on in the territory of our two collective farms."

It was *Socialist Industry* as well that informed Soviets yesterday of the huge, fleet-footed hairy creature that terrified residents of the Kirovo settlement in the Volga basin.

"I saw the creature pretty well," said resident R. Saitov. "It was about 2 meters [6½ feet] tall, its body covered with dark brown hair and it had shoulder-length hair. ... Being a veterinary surgeon, I can say the creature was neither a man nor an ape."

Saitov and a friend tried to approach the creature after spotting it on the other bank of a pond, but it bounded away at astonishing speed when they pursued it in a car. The newspaper noted disapprovingly that Saratov University biologists weren't taking reports of the sighting seriously or even deigning to talk to witnesses.

The very official Soviet news agency Tass later picked up the newspaper's story for national and worldwide distribution, headlining it: "Huge Creature Sighted in Volga Region; Men Give Chase."

Earlier this week, however, Tass deflated another *Socialist Industry* report about a UFO landing.

Last month, the paper reported in great detail on a 26-foot-wide patch of burned ground near a southern Moscow highway.

It quoted UFO specialist A. Kuzovkin as saying the grass had likely been blasted by powerful radiation, which he called probable evidence of the landing of an Unidentified Flying Object.

Not so, Tass reported. Firefighters think a haystack simply caught fire and scorched the ground. ■

FARMING NEWS, London, England
Aug. 11, 1989 CR: T. Good

Landowner shoots down circle myth

THE silly season story about the lines of mysterious circles found in the heather of a Welsh hillside (FN, 4 August) has been well and truly demolished by the landowner concerned.

Theories about extra-terrestrial visitations coinciding with the sites of ancient ley-lines have had to be dropped following the down-to-earth explanation of the owner Sir Andrew Duff-Gordon that

the circles had been cut by a tractor and mower.

The reason for cutting out the neat series of circles was to improve the prospects for shooting by creating a better habitat for young grouse.

Prior to the explanation, the director of the Sussex University's Circle Phenomenon Research Unit had described the circles as "the most significant development in seven years".

COUNTY PRESS, Newport, Isle of Wight
Aug. 4, 1989 CR: T. Good

Woman sees mystery object in night sky

A WOOTTON woman looked out of her bedroom window on Sunday night and saw what she believes to be a UFO.

Mrs. Dorrie Smith, of St. Edmund's Walk, said, "It was 11.55 pm and when I looked out of the window I saw a brilliant white object in the sky."

"It was completely round and

a mass of lights. It went right over the house.

"At first I thought it was a star but it definitely was not, and it was not an aircraft," said Mrs. Smith.

Island police said they had received no reports from other people in the area of strange objects in the sky.

AIRE VALLEY TARGET, Bingley, England
Aug. 24, 1989 CR: T. Good

Mystery object in sky

AT least 15 people have come forward to say that they saw something unusual in the sky over the Aire Valley last month — but the object remains a mystery.

The UFO Independent Network asked Aire Valley Target readers to get in touch after an official working at Yeadon Airport saw a "brilliant body" the size of a moon in the sky moving over Bradford on July 15.

And now Mr David Barclay, from Network, says at least 15 people seem to have seen it, including an amateur astronomer living near Bingley.

He says reports seem to indicate that something has been going on in the sky since April and Network is investigating the phenomena.

GAZETTE, Montreal, Quebec, Canada - Aug. 3, 1989

UFO rumors fly in Moscow

MOSCOW (CP) — Rumors are flying in Moscow that a UFO landed in the southeastern part of the city a few days ago, leaving a large burned spot eight metres in diameter.

But some people suggested it might have been caused by lightning, or even a burning hay stack.

The incident was reported yesterday by the official news agency Tass, quoting the trade union newspaper *Trud*.

Trud brought in Alexander Kuzovkin, who specializes in unknown phenomena and is associated with the magazine *Around the World*. Kuzovkin told *Trud*: "A man, who took samples of the soil, soon felt burning in his finger-tips, which turned red. The unpleasant feeling lasted for several hours."

"Another man suddenly fell ill on returning home and his temperature rose to 38 degrees."

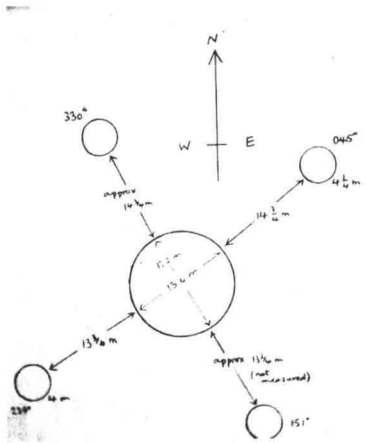
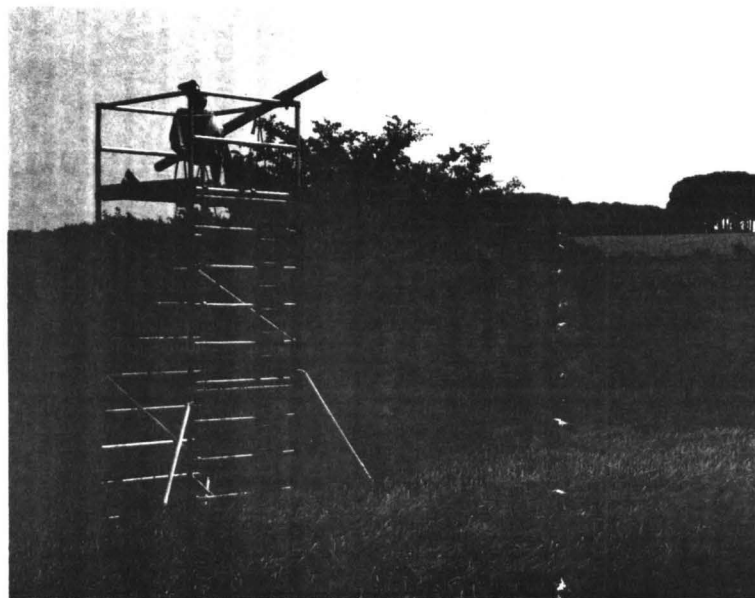
Trud reported that "run-down batteries from a dictating machine, left in the burned area, mysteriously recharged and the machine began to work again."

There was an electrical storm just before the spot appeared and it is possible, Kuzovkin said, that the whole thing is the result of a lightning strike.

One thing that doesn't quite fit in with the lightning theory, however, was that "the grass was not totally burned and remained green inside the spot," Kuzovkin was quoted as saying.

CROP REVOLUTION 10 YEARS ON

by RALPH NOYES



(Top) 1—The White Crow tower, from which a week-long watch over a disturbed cornfield near Winchester was mounted last month. (Above left) 2—A doublet that appeared near the White Horse at Westbury in Wiltshire in 1987. (Above right) A measured drawing of a quintuplet

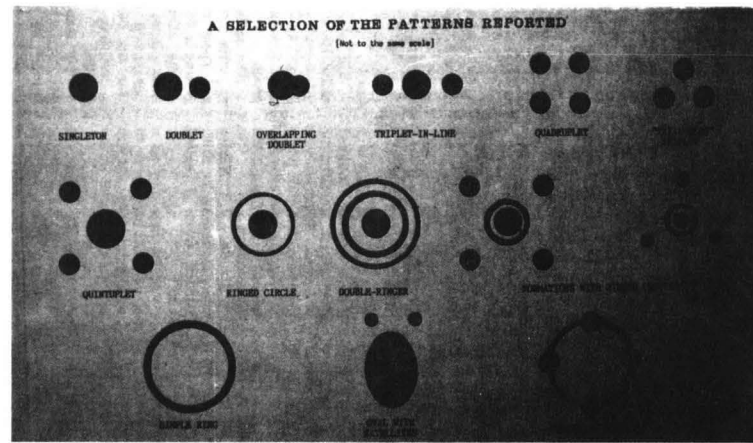
SINCE "Going Round in Circles" appeared in COUNTRY LIFE (February 2, 1989) there has been what one of the principal researchers, Mr Colin Andrews, rightly calls "an explosive development" in these strange events. In the six weeks following mid-May, when the first of this year's circles was reported from Avebury Trusloe, more than 130 had been observed in Hampshire and Wiltshire (although not elsewhere). Further reports—all from the Wessex area—are said to be coming in at the rate of about 10 a day. We

have already had more occurrences in this short period than in the whole of any previous year. The total number of circles reported since 1980, when the subject first came under serious study, is now approaching 600. Many have been found in complex groups or patterns which the experts believe have, in most cases, formed simultaneously in a single "event". The diagram (Fig 5) shows a number of these "events", ranging from the simple singleton (a circle on its own), through

several different kinds of array, to the remarkable ringed circles and the "Celtic Cross". So the total of nearly 600 circles represents a smaller number of "events"; probably between 150 and 200 during the 10 years of serious study. The circles are not the kind of ragged damage (sadly familiar to farmers) caused by birds, animals, wind, rain, summer whirlwinds or thoughtless visitors. They are remarkably precise and geometrical, with a sharp cut-off between areas of disturbance and surrounding crops. The disturbance takes the form of a flattening of the crop, laid down in a distinctive clockwise or anti-clockwise swirl. The crop itself (usually grain) remains surprisingly undamaged in most cases: the stems are firmly bent near ground level but not broken; and the fruiting heads (usually ears of corn) are left intact and continue to grow and ripen until harvested. Only rarely does the crop make any effort to stand up again. In some cases the disturbances are "rings" rather than "circles". The subject bristles with puzzling questions. Who or what is making these things? How are they (or it) doing it? Why are most of the reports coming from Wessex? What can possibly account for the extraordinary variety of patterns? Is it really the case—as the sequence of reports suggests—that we are witnessing something which is growing in numbers from year to year and steadily increasing the elaboration of its patterns? If this is so, are the patterns signs of an intelligent purpose rather than merely a blind force? In this 10th year of sustained observations we now have at least as many intriguing guesses as bewildering questions. Some were printed in the correspondence columns of COUNTRY LIFE (March 2 and 9, 1989). (I particularly enjoyed the claim of the—alleged—Fun Balloon Experimental Company to be causing these events during balloon sorties by its members; I only regret that attempts to trace this company or to observe it at work have so far failed.) To the many kind people who wrote to me in response to "Going Round in Circles" (often with helpful information) I sent a listing of the main articles which have appeared since 1980 in outlets as varied in their background and interests as the *Journal of Meteorology*, *Flying Saucer Review*, the publications of BUFORA (the British UFO Research Association), *New Scientist*, and the journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, the national and local press, and several magazines which devote themselves to "green" issues, "New Age" concerns and the "paranormal". All this material remains of great interest to anybody searching for clues and who wants to trace the history of the subject; and it indicates the great range of speculation which the circles have attracted. But there are now three publications which bring us some way further forward (to be reviewed in COUNTRY

LIFE on July 20) and an interesting scientific operation has recently been mounted near Winchester which has produced worthwhile results. A start in the direction of co-operative research—even though funded privately—was made during June. Mr Andrews and his colleagues in Circles Phenomenon Research set up a 24-hour watch, lasting from Saturday, June 10 until Sunday, June 18, overlooking a field in the Cheesefoot Head formation near Winchester, which has suffered cropfield circles in every year bar one since 1981. The hope was to catch one of these mysterious events in the act of forming. The farmer concerned would not allow the researchers onto his own property but the Longwood Estate helpfully made land available, just across the A272 road and overlooking the field in question. A watchtower was set up, carrying a television camera and a sophisticated night camera, generously lent by Photonic Science, a company which makes advanced optical equipment. Two caravans contained monitoring and recording apparatus. More than 50 of us took part during this exciting week, mounting three eight-hour watches a day. We were carefully briefed in advance by Mr Andrews, Professor Roy of Glasgow University, Dr Terence Meaden and Dr Adrian Lyons of Photonic Science. The operation was called "White Crow" after an old joke which scientists sometimes make. "All crows are black" is what most of us would say; but good scientists always test such statements by looking for counter-instances. It only needs one white crow to upset our confident generalisation. And it would only have needed the observation of one circle in the process of forming to disprove (or prove) some of the current theories—for example, that they are all hoaxes. Nothing turned up in that much haunted bit of Cheesefoot Head. But we were far from disappointed. . . . In the small hours of Sunday morning, June 18, just as the last watchers were about to begin dismantling the equipment, remarkable events took place. In a field some distance to the south of the White Crow site, and in quite a different direction from the one in which we had been looking, powerful and inexplicable sounds were heard (and captured on tape). When the sun came up a ringed circle was found nearby, possessing new characteristics. Dr Meaden, among others, made careful observations of it. It was certainly not a hoax. As I write this article, further details are awaited. So where do we now stand? Hoax can be ruled out in most cases for good reasons which readers will be able to examine for themselves in the three books just published. Other guesses abound—but are hotly debated. All we can be certain of is that an extraordinary sequence of events has taken place since at least 1980; and that there is a strong appearance of increasing

Following our article in February about the mysterious circles appearing in cornfields there has been a dramatic increase in their number and complexity. Last month, a 24-hour, week-long watch on a field prone to disturbance was mounted—with exciting results.



(Top) 4—A double ringer, still visible after harvesting, which appeared in 1988 in the field watched from White Crow this year. (Above) 5—Diagram of patterns observed since 1980. They tend to haunt certain areas but never appear twice in the same place

frequency and increasing elaboration. One of the intriguing matters on which readers of this article may be able to help the researchers is in the apparent concentration of the circles in Hampshire and Wiltshire. From the large postbag I received in response to "Going Round in Circles" only one "event" was reported that we did not already know about (and it, too, lay very near to "haunted" Wessex). Are there others elsewhere in Britain? COUNTRY LIFE readers may know about "events" in other localities.

Any information would be most gratefully received. Letters will be answered, and material passed to the research groups. But please read this article carefully before concluding that you have information about a circle. Photographs or measured drawings would be greatly preferable to unsupported anecdotes. Information should be addressed to the author, c/o COUNTRY LIFE, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Photographs: 1, 4, 5, the author; 2, Army Air Corps; 3, Christopher Wood.

Tales out of this world

By LES WILSON
Reporting from Earth

A BEWILDERING trip to another galaxy; an eerie landing on a Hauraki Gulf island; two weird tenants in a Christchurch home; a terse note from SIUPI.

These are just some of the extraordinary stories we've received from readers with UFO experiences.

From Ostend, on Waiheke Island, Mr W. B. Lord even drew us a diagram of the craft he swears hovered while he was staking out a local dump being used to poach game ducks.

Mr Lord was a volunteer ranger and had been instructed by the local police to watch the area.

"It was about 3am. I noted a very bright glow in the vicinity of Onetangi. I thought at the time it was Venus rising, but the glow was too bright.

"Suddenly this thing came up over the hill. It was nearly as big as a half moon with a purple funnel hanging down from the canopy. It moved at a terrific rate, then it would hover and go again.

"It went in bursts and thrusts with gas streaming from the funnel. I could still see it as a small star when the sun came up.

"I know some people

will poo-poo this story, but I'll maintain to my last breath this is what I saw."

● An extraordinary tale came from Christchurch where a husband and wife believe they may have two female aliens for neighbours.

"One of them has odour symptoms similar to the aliens you wrote about from a recent UFO book.

"They came to the district 18 years ago and claim their families live out of town. But there has never been any contact and when school



holidays come round they go off. Could they be going back to their base for instructions?

"They came to the district separately and claim not to have known each other before, yet we've overheard them talking about things they've done together before they came here."

● Also from Christchurch we got a brief note from Mr H. E.

Kiwis share UFO sightings

Wright who says he is a South Island Unusual Phenomena Investigator who wants desperately to get in contact with Riley Crabb, the investigator who lives in Orewa north of Auckland.

● Author V. C. Haines was painting his Te Kuiti kitchen when I called him.

At 78, he's spry as a 60-year-old and wants to write more about his trip to Petra, a planet in another galaxy.

Under the name of William Henshaw, writer Haines penned a book called *Our World After A Nuclear War*.

It was based on a "dream" he had eight years ago in which he was transported from London to another solar system by spacemen he describes in fine detail.

He was visiting relations in Walthamstow Central when he met the spacemen who had landed in a craft similar to the American moonlander.

He says one visitor had a huge forehead, ears, eyes and nose similar to ours, "but his mouth gave the impression he'd been sucking a baby's dummy all his

life."

The spaceman was called Renco and he was the second pilot. He had learned English when he was sent on an earth probe.

The author agreed to go with the spacemen and spent three months getting to Petra.

The aliens told him their planet was almost destroyed by nuclear war, but there had been a few left to start rebuilding.

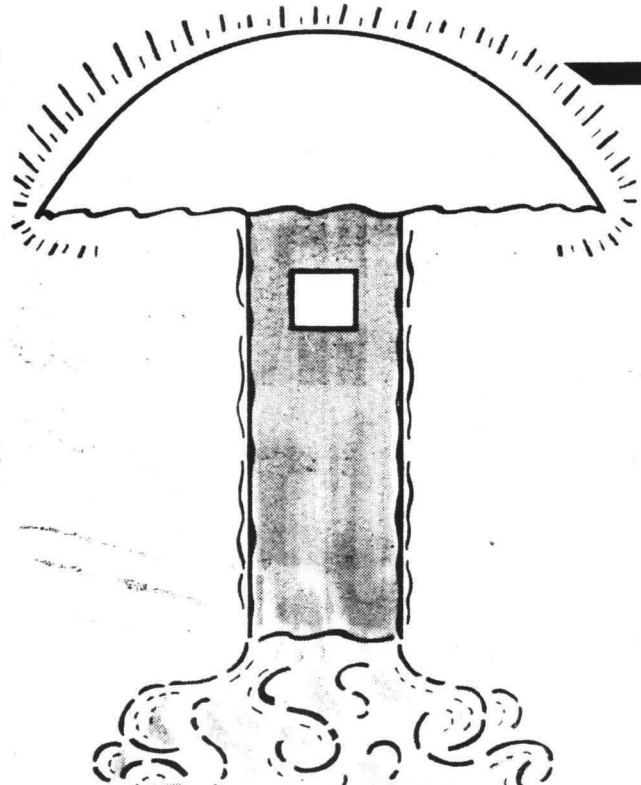
"My main reason for writing the book is that I believe we are heading for nuclear disaster," Mr Haines said.

He had the book printed and then toured New Zealand promoting it. It's a good read.

"Until I went to London I'd never believed in UFOs. I've been a down-to-earth sort of person all my life. I've been a builder and I stood three times for Parliament. I was the Mayor of Te Kuiti and a councillor for years," Mr Haines says proudly.

How does he explain the "dream?"

"It was completely clear to me and I knew I had to write about it. I think people should make



up their own minds about UFOs, but at least you people are giving them a chance to talk about the subject.

● Which brings in John Morgan, FRAS, of West Coast Rd., Renwick, who writes that for



many years he worked on a programme replottting meteor radiants.

And he kept records of UFOs he saw.

"North of Renwick, 5

degrees above hills, straight path at first, turned suddenly at 130 degrees, flickered and went out. SSW of Renwick, low, went below hills, in sight eight seconds; South of Renwick, two side by side, disappeared into cloud; North of Renwick (thought it was a plane with landing lights on) but it was a light craft with a fuzzy yellow object about 500 metres behind. Control tower at Woodbourne received a report of it from a woman caller, but staff didn't notice it

At Mosgiel a large craft came in from the northeast on a steady course, went into a cloud patch and disappeared.

Probably the most electrifying of his experiences happened south of Renwick when two UFOs came in one above the other, faded and disappeared. They were reported to the US Embassy and Patterson Air Force Base in Colorado took over the report.

● If you have any UFO experiences write to Sunday News

Experts probe circles mystery

A team of French scientists and corn circle enthusiasts have visited Silbury Hill on the Marlborough Downs to carry out further research into mysterious corn field circles.

Colin Andrews, who heads the Andover-based Circles Investigation Group, reported that four more circles had appeared in a field north of the monument on Monday. Last week there were 28.

"It seems to be where the major activity is. And there have been a number of reports of orange lights being seen that seem to be going into the ground, but we don't know what that's all about," he said.

Scientists are working on the theory that the circles are formed through imbalances in the world's geo-magnetic field, brought on by the ozone layer crisis.

"We've eliminated so many possibilities, but there are still so many questions," said Mr Andrews.

Another strange development in the mystery is the sudden appearance of circles

with tadpole-type tails. The first was found south of Winchester two weeks ago and 12 more have been found in heather on two neighbouring Welsh mountainsides.

But the most peculiar find to date, an infectious jelly-like substance found in 1985 within one of the Hampshire circles, will be returned to this country from Spain where it has been in deep freeze.

Baffled scientists are still trying to discover what the substance is. At first it was thought to be some kind of confectioner's sugar, but further exhaustive tests have failed to identify it.

The white blob, about the size of a bar of chocolate, has been slowly melting and vaporising since it was discovered.

Those who first came into contact with it experienced severe breathing problems within hours of sniffing it, but later recovered.

One man thought his dog was going to die after sniffing it - for several hours the animal lay listlessly on its back, hardly moving and suffering respiratory problems,

There are 28 in a field north of Silbury Hill on the Marlborough Downs near Avebury and last year they also appeared in the same area.

Ken Rogers, chairman of the British Unexplained Society, has been investigating the phenomenon.

He worked on the TV documentary *Secret Circles*, which will be screened on BBC 2 at 8 pm and features scientist and broadcaster Prof Heinz Wölff.

CR: T. Good

Jelly adds to the circles mystery

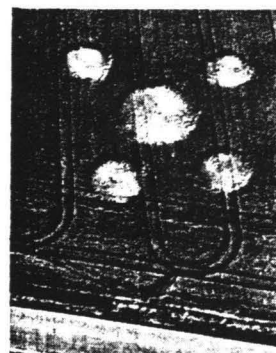
Mystery surrounding a series of circles flattening crops in fields across southern England has deepened, with investigators claiming they could be the work of an "unexplained intelligence."

A further 11 of the almost perfectly symmetrical shapes were reported in Wiltshire and Hampshire at the weekend, adding to a total believed to be around 170 so far this year.

Ministry of Defence chiefs are also reported to be investigating the phenomena after an infectious jelly was found inside one of the rings.

Nine people are said to have suffered severe chest colds within hours of coming into contact with the white substance.

Investigators Colin Andrews, a local government official, and retired NASA radar expert Pat Delgado believe the circles could be linked to the death of a Harrier



Mystery circles. These were seen last year at Firs Farm near Devizes.

jump jet pilot in 1987, whose body was found near a group of Wiltshire circles after falling from his plane.

Mr Andrews said the pilot could have crossed a high energy beam which may have caused the shapes.

"There must be some force field manipulated by some unexplained intelligence," said Mr Delgado.

The Ministry of Agriculture believes the shapes could be caused by small whirlwinds of fertilisers, and Mr Delgado has warned that cereal crops within the rings should not be used for human consumption.

Mr Andrews also believes further tests on the white substance, which he is reported to have collected from a ring in a field near Marlborough, could hold clues to the mystery.

It is said that tests have failed to identify it so far, but scientists at the University of Surrey and at Guildford are expected to re-examine it shortly.

SOLENT REPORTER, Southampton, England - Aug. 11, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFOs and fortune tellers - look to the Reporter for the future

Riddle of flying saucers spotted over Solent

SIGHTINGS of UFOs were made this week over the Solent.

Inexplicable orbital activity was witnessed by retired serviceman, Drew Dickson, who watched aghast with his wife and grandson as two mystery objects hared into view above his house.

The grandad observed the UFO's for 25 minutes from the roof of his Royal British Legion Home and caught the mystic moment on film. They hovered over the western side of Southampton and eventually vanished towards the Solent.

The photographs clearly show the existence of a pair of curious craft fleeing across the sky.

Mr Dickson, 61, checked with Southampton airport and the city weather centre and was assured that the alien apparitions

were not aircraft or weather balloons... and that they could not be traced on radar.

"I often watch high flying airliners pass over head, and these were definitely not planes," Mr Dickson said. "There was no engine noise at all - it was uncanny. I just don't know what they were."

"I'm not saying it was something from space, but as they didn't show up on radar they must have been very, very strange objects indeed."

Along with the sudden appearance of mystery circles in fields, this is the latest tale in a long line of happenings which cannot be explained.

The Solent area has been long famous for its close encounters but have YOU ever seen a UFO? Write in and tell us about your extraterrestrial experiences.

Circles in TV study

Strange circles which have mysteriously appeared in corn fields are the subject of a television documentary tonight.

A decade ago ten circles were found across the country, but this year there have been more than 100 in southern Britain, most of them in Wiltshire.



GIANT BEAST SEEN

News Services

ALTURAS, Calif. — Ken Sam says he saw a giant hairy creature outside a house he was guarding last week on the Fort Bidwell Paiute Indian Reservation.

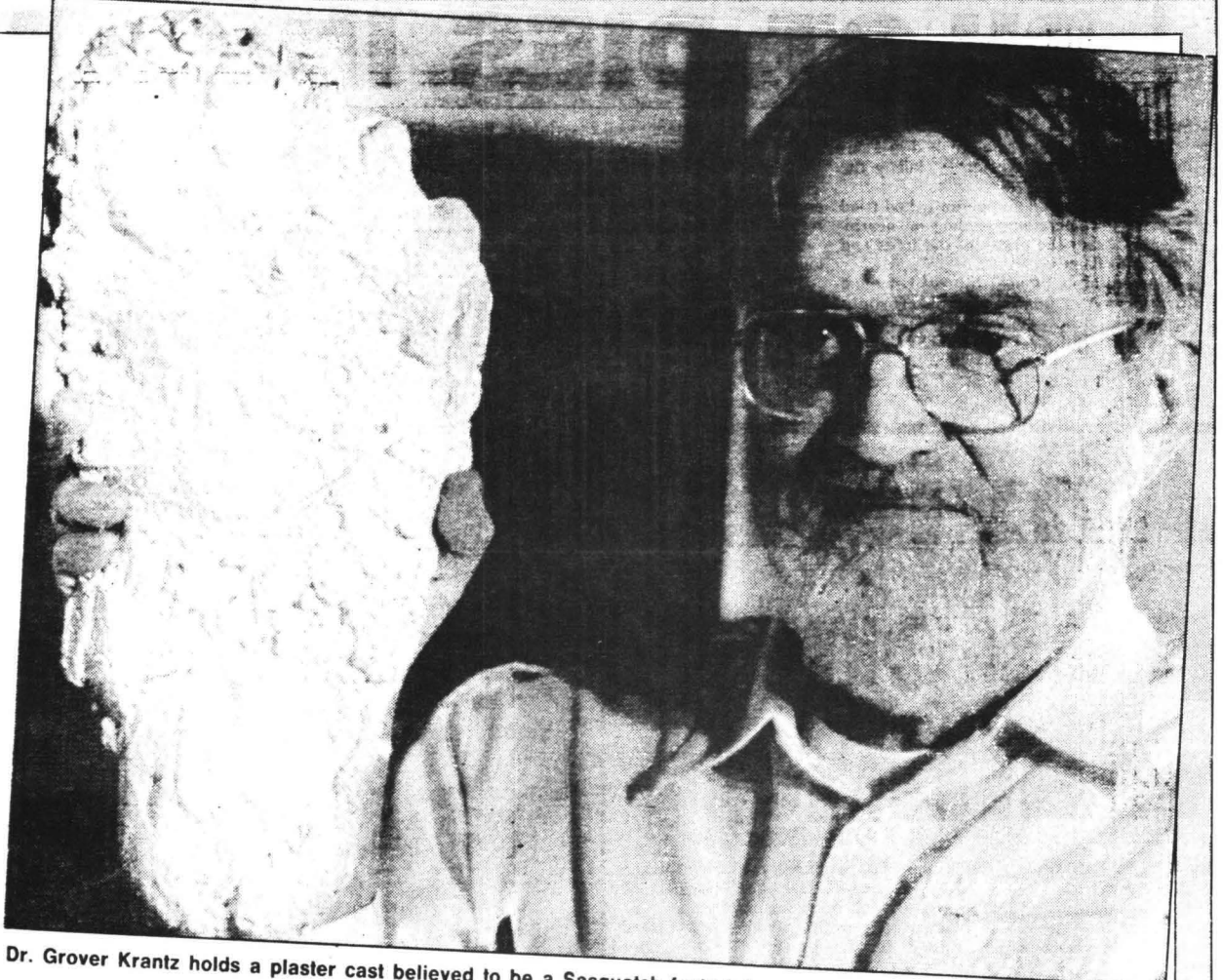
The man-like creature was walking on two feet, said Sam, who shined a spotlight on it from 35 metres away. It ran toward him, then fled.

"It was big, dark and hairy-looking," said Sam, 25. "It's got silver eyes and it moves pretty fast. It seems like it just glides."

Sam's cousin, Neasha Comanche, last week found footprints of what she believes is a baby Bigfoot on the reservation near the California-Oregon border.

The Modoc County sheriff's department called a Bigfoot expert at the Crypto Zoology Museum in Malibu to investigate.

But sheriff Bruce Mix said he doubts that any Bigfeet are roaming around his county. "There may be such a thing as Bigfoot — but I don't think he's up at Fort Bidwell."



Dr. Grover Krantz holds a plaster cast believed to be a Sasquatch footprint — and proof the huge beast exists. File photo

BETTING ON A BIGFOOT

By SCOTT BURROWS
Staff Reporter

PULLMAN, Wash. — "He's extremely large, covered in hair and smells like he needs a bath."

And it's only a matter of time until the world comes face to face with the elusive Sasquatch, says Grover Krantz.

The burly, bearded anthropologist is no apologist for the creature he's spent 20 years studying but has never met.

Krantz is known around the Pullman campus of Washington State University as "Mr. Bigfoot." And his fellow cryptozoologists gathered here this weekend call him the leading "squatchology" expert in North America.

Krantz's university lab is filled with 85 plaster casts of giant footprints found all over the Pacific Northwest.

What left those footprints is the subject of a two-day symposium of the International Cryptozoological Society.

Close to 100 members — from as far away as the Soviet Union and Switzerland — are here to study reports and scientific papers on the creature known alternately as Bigfoot and Sasquatch.

Among them is John Green of Harrison Hot Springs, the author of five books on squatchology who has documented more than 1,300 Sasquatch sightings and 700 footprints.

"There is a school of thought that believes Sasquatch sightings are something we have made up to fulfil the human need to believe in mythological creatures," Green concedes.

"But I would ask them why the sightings dry up in areas where the annual

rainfall is less than 20 inches. There's a definite pattern to where the sightings occur."

Cryptozoology is the study of "hidden animals" — creatures whose existence has been reported but never proven.

The Sasquatch, however, has come out of hiding often enough that Krantz has produced a profile.

"The male stands around eight feet tall, probably weighs over 800 pounds and has feet 17 inches long."

"The female is somewhat smaller, probably weighing 500 pounds and standing seven feet tall. Her feet are a dainty 11 inches long."

The creature, he says, is a primate with no speech, tools or social activities — other than scaring the daylight out of the occasional hiker and camper.

But Krantz has yet to make believers of the North American Skeptics Society.

"I would say the hiker who says he saw a Bigfoot is as confused, mistaken or insane as the lady from Michigan who said a Sasquatch landed a spaceship in her backyard and took her for a ride," says Bob Porter, a Skeptic who's here for the symposium.

Milwaukee squatchologist Terry Cullen admits "there are some certifiable kooks who discredit the real research."

Krantz says he's "100 per cent scientist — I don't watch sitcoms or videos and don't often go to the movies."

But he admits to having seen Harry and the Hendersons, the film about a family which adopts a Bigfoot.

"It was a riot," says Krantz.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 5, 1989

Faulkner County sheriff's office suspects pigs' deaths act of cult

By Tyler Treadway
GAZETTE CONWAY BUREAU

CONWAY — Faulkner County authorities are calling the deaths of 12 pigs at a farm just west of Conway bizarre and think the killings may be the work of a satanic cult.

The pigs were killed late July 29 or early the next morning at a farm owned by Artis Davis on state Highway 286.

Davis said the pigs "apparently were hacked to death but we don't know with what, a machete or a large knife. Anyway, they were

mutilated."

Davis said that of the 67 pigs he had put in his pens, 32 remain. In addition to the ones killed, several "were cut so bad they died later and some others just disappeared." He said the pigs, all of them about 4 months old, weighed from 85 to 135 pounds and were worth about \$50 each.

Deputy Ken Kelso of the Faulkner County Sheriff's Department said blood was apparently drained from the pigs' bodies. "We don't know that for sure," he said, "but there wasn't the massive amounts of blood you'd expect to find."

Kelso called a satanic killing "a possibility. It was real bizarre. But the investigation is continuing and all leads are being considered."

Davis said he had never heard of satanism until sheriff's deputies mentioned it to him. "But I believe that's the way they [the deputies] want to say it went," he said.

Davis said some of the pigs had their legs cut off and some had puncture marks around their necks. He agreed that there was not much blood at the site. "There was a lot of killing," he said, "but there wasn't no blood."

SUNDAY POST, Dundee, Scotland - June 4, 1989

Nessie's Back In Business —Again!

A GROUP of English tourists on a pleasure cruiser claim they saw the Loch Ness Monster yesterday—300 feet down in the murky depths of Scotland's deepest loch.

A sonar trace on the pleasure boat, Caledonian Queen, beamed up a giant shape from the bed of the loch at 2.45 yesterday afternoon.

The astonished English tourists, making their first visit to Loch Ness, snapped away with their cameras when the ominous shape loomed up on the screen.

Yesterday's sighting is the first of this year and it happened as the boat made its way past Johnny's Point.

Owner of the Caledonian Queen, Norman McKenzie, from Fort Augustus, said the boat had recently been fitted with a new colour sonar machine so there was no mistake.

Nessie showed up as a 40 foot long blue blob slumbering in the depths.

CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

No one stays overnight in ruined city, islanders say

The Associated Press

NAN MAHDOL, Micronesia — Islanders say there is a curse on this mysterious 700 year-old ruined city they know as the Reef of Heaven.

The curse is so strong, they say, that no one will stay overnight.

"No way. The last person

who stayed there was a German governor about 100 years ago," said Bermin F. Wellbacher, director of tourism and natural resources for Pohnpei, site of the city and one of the three island states that make up the Federated States of Micronesia. "He was found mysteriously dead the

next morning. You wouldn't catch me there, no way."

But Wellbacher is more than happy for tourists to come in daytime to see a stone megalith that is one of the wonders of the Pacific.

It is the prime tourist attraction of this impoverished, remote island 2,485 miles west of

Honolulu.

Few people know about Nan Mahdol. No one has fully explained how it was built or who built it.

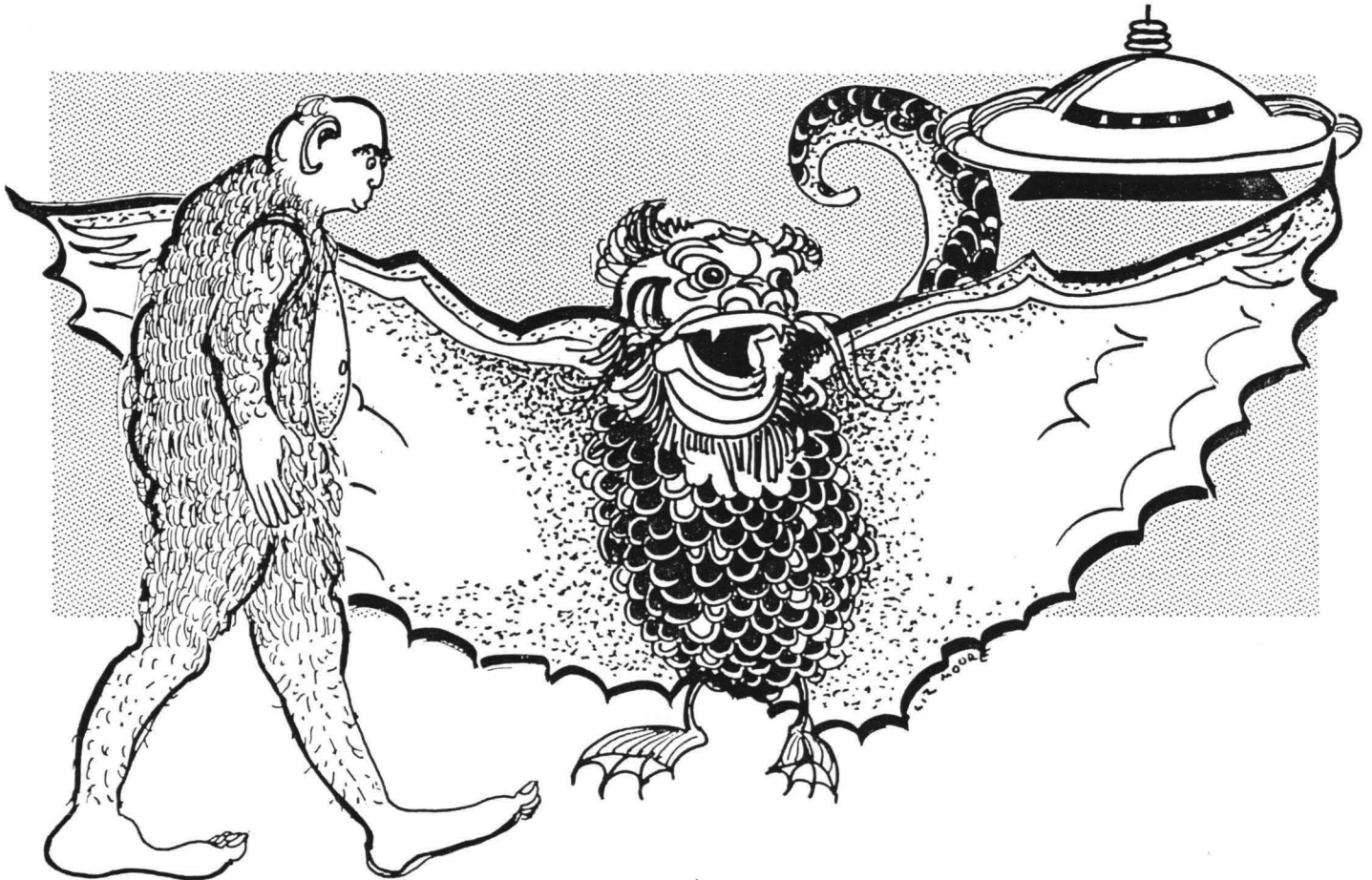
Most Pacific islands never had a Stone age, but at Nan Mahdol the walls are made of stone blocks that weight up to 50 tons. Archaeologists believe

the stones came from another island and were brought to the site on rafts. But how laborers were able to lift them remains a mystery.

Nan Mahdol is a canal city built on 92 artificial islands 15 miles from Kolonia, the capital of Pohnpei.

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Palmdale, CA - July 16, 1989 CR: B. Hamilton

Mysteries abound in Antelope Valley



BIZARRE CREATURES, ghosts, and UFOs have been seen lurking about the Antelope Valley. One

legend, concerning the bat-like Lake Elizabeth monster, first surfaced two centuries ago. The monster's

plight is among the many strange and unusual tales that are a part of Valley history.

LIZ MOORE/valley press

Strange phenomena afoot and aflight

By JIM SKEEN
and DAVID FOY
Staff Writers

Stephen King could find fodder for his books in the Antelope Valley.

The history of the Valley is rich in the macabre and the strange. In the past two centuries residents have reportedly witnessed:

- a monster created by the devil
- numerous sightings of Bigfoot
- visits by UFOs
- ghosts in peculiar places

Devil's work

Perhaps the most bizarre tale in Valley history is that of an enormous monster that supposedly lurked in Lake Elizabeth. According to folklore, the lake was created by Satan and was inhabited by a huge monster until the great creature flew away in 1886 and was shot by ranchers in Arizona.

The story of the origins of the beast can be found in the book "On the Old West Coast" written by Horace Bell and published in 1930.

Bell relates the tale told by a Los Angeles resident, Don Guillermo Embustero y Mentiroso, a descendant of a Spanish explorer who passed on the story of the creation of the lake.

In October 1780 a Spanish lieutenant named Pico was leading a search party through Soledad Pass looking for Father Junipero Serra and other missionaries who were stranded somewhere in the desert.

Pico searched for three days without success. Out of frustration Pico said he

would sell his soul to the devil in exchange for a road leading to Father Serra.

The devil appeared and his demons built a road leading to Serra's party. As the search party approached Serra, Pico tried to go back on the deal and stabbed at the devil. When that didn't work he displayed a crucifix, and the devil turned and ran.

But in the distance Pico could see the devil and his demons in the light of flames rising from a hole in the ground. The hole was turned into a lake of fire and smoke. When Serra's party returned the next morning, there was a lake of water.

The lake was first dubbed La Laguna del Diablo (The Devil's Lake).

Odd things were reported happening near the lake. In the 1830s a ranch burned down, and the owner blamed the disaster on the devil. American squatters claimed the land in 1855, but left, saying the region was haunted.

Guillermo said he saw the monster in 1883 while visiting a man named Chico Lopez who had bought land near the lake. Guillermo said he and Lopez saw the monster rising from the lake.

"A great whistling, hissing, screaming roar issued . . . so near to us that we could smell the nauseating, fetid breath of the monster emitting the sound," Guillermo said.

The monster was sighted regularly from the 1860s to the 1890s. One observer described the beast's watery home this way:

"It is a mouth of hell . . . Frightful and

unearthly noises have emanated from those depths. Screams, shrieks, groans as though Hell itself might live (there)."

Bell's book says that a man named El Basquo Grande chased the monster out of the lake. A Tombstone, Ariz. newspaper, The Epitaph, supposedly ran a story saying two ranchers shot the beast to death.

The monster may have been dead, but it was not forgotten. The monster has been featured in parades in Lake Hughes. In the '50s and '60s replicas of the beast were constructed and displayed just like Chinese dragons.

Two fishermen reported seeing the monster last April. They gave the traditional description: bigger than a whale, has wings like a bat, a head like a bulldog — and it stinks.

Bigfoot roams the desert

There have been several sightings of Sasquatch in the Valley, so many in fact that then Palmdale resident Louis R. Grumley created the California Bigfoot Organization, or CBFO.

The year 1973 was a big one for Bigfoot. There were at least seven reported sightings of the creature.

On March 14 of that year, just after midnight, three Marines told sheriff's deputies that a huge hairy thing in the shape of a man suddenly jumped in front of their car as they were driving on Avenue J, a quarter-mile east of 110th Street East. The creature then ran off into the desert.

Just 10 days later a 19-year-old woman reported that she saw an ape-like

creature near her home on 115th Street East after 2 a.m.

"Suddenly from the rustling grass a huge figure rose as if awakened from sleep and stood straight up like a man," a March 30, 1973 Ledger-Gazette report of the incident read.

"She described it as being about seven feet tall, almost as high as the trailer in which she lives, which is eight feet tall. The girl said that the huge hairy monster stood straight up and was completely covered with hair — except for the face — and ran away on two legs . . . but not at a high rate of speed," the Ledger-Gazette reported.

Other reports that year included one from an ex-Marine who said he saw the creature at about 4:15 a.m. near a telephone. He said the creature sneezed like a person. The beast smelled foul, like rotten apples, he said.

Close encounters

The Valley is home to a wide variety of high-tech aerospace creations, such as the B-2 bomber, but many residents have claimed to have seen aerospace creations of another kind. There have been several reports of UFOs over the skies of the Valley.

William F. Hamilton III, a resident of Gorman, has investigated several UFO sightings for an organization called UFO Research Center For E.T. Studies.

(continued on page 19)

(continued from page 18 - ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS,

Palmdale, CA - July 16, 1989)

Hamilton said a green disc-shaped object was seen in April of this year at about 8:30 p.m. by at least two people. The object was seen heading south over Pearblossom, Hamilton said. One of the UFO spotters was on 60th Street West near the California Aqueduct, and the other was at a ball field in Palmdale when the object was sighted.

Hamilton said one of the most substantial reports of a UFO sighting came in October of last year when a woman saw a large V-shaped object near 230th Street West and Avenue D.

The woman, identifying herself only as Katy, told the Valley Press the sighting occurred between 8:35 and 8:45 p.m. The object, she said, was traveling very low and at slow speed. The object was followed by 10 to 20 smaller objects in formation with the larger craft. The last one in the formation had a light that alternately flashed yellow and then red.

No other sightings were reported to the L.A. County Sheriff's Department or to the Air Force. A Plant 42 spokesman said there were no flights in that area.

However, Katy's description was similar to reports made by several residents of the Fresno area who also saw a UFO that same night. Some had speculated that it was the stealth bomber, but an Air Force spokesman said that notion was unfounded.

"Some UFO sightings are just conventional objects seen under unusual circumstances. But that sighting (Katy's) of a wing-shaped object is highly inexplicable. It was not a conventional object at all," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said he is most interested in missing time reports - reports in which the observer is unable to account for a period of time after seeing the UFO.

One such report came last summer, Hamilton said, when a

man in Tehachapi spotted lights moving around in the mountains, and then wasn't able to account for a period of two to three hours.

Reports of UFOs in the Valley go back many years. Donald Keyhoe's book "Flying Saucers From Outer Space" tells of a report of UFOs spotted over what was then Muroc Air Force Base, the predecessor to Edwards AFB, on July 8, 1947.

'Suddenly from the rustling grass a huge figure rose as if awakened from sleep and stood straight up like a man.'

According to that report, two silver-colored discs were reported over the base circling tightly at about 8,000 feet. The discs had reached speeds an Air Force officer estimated at being between 300 mph and 400 mph.

Keyhoe said when project investigators confessed they were stumped, the Air Material Command tersely explained the report: The sightings were the result of misinterpretation of real stimuli, probably research balloons.

Things that go bump in the night

Ghost stories are common for any region, but stories of Valley ghosts involve a couple of unusual haunts: the county jail and the Palmdale Cultural Center.

One of the ghosts that reportedly haunts Mira Loma County Jail is the spectre of a British pi-

lot. The ghost story's roots are based in fact. A pilot was killed in 1942 during an accident with an airplane propeller while the grounds were home to an air base called War Eagle Field.

The pilot's ghost has been reported roaming the halls of the men's compound. Deputies at the facility are unwilling to admit to seeing the fiend, said one lieutenant. As for the inmates, "they see things all the time," the officer said.

The unusual happenings at the Palmdale Cultural Center aren't as well defined as the Mira Loma ghost story. Over the years employees have told tales of inexplicable things, like hearing the sounds of children running around the stage. When employees investigate, they find nothing.

Another time a worker said he felt something tugging on the end of a dust rag while cleaning a piano. When he looked up there was nothing there.

Employees have also reported the elevator going up and down with no one in it, and of feeling hot flashes in one side of a room where plants languish.

The center was built about nine years ago. Before that there was a low porticoed building on the site that stood since before 1910. The building supposedly covered the southern end of a tunnel that allegedly provided a clandestine underground escape route from the Palmdale Inn, located at the northeast corner of Sierra Highway and Palmdale Boulevard.

The explanations varied as to the purpose of the tunnel. Some said it was for prostitutes to escape in the event of a raid, although there is doubt as to whether there were prostitutes or raids. Another account said it was used by bootleggers. Another story says it was a getaway route for Chinese illegal aliens.

HERALD, Monterey, CA - May 25, 1989

Bigfoot remains real to ex-Big Sur woman

By Walt Wiley

McClatchy News Service

PARADISE — Virginia Swanson is 87 years old, but she is far from retired.

For one thing, she doesn't want to retire. For another, she couldn't retire even if she wanted to.

"In the Bigfoot business, once you get started, you don't stop. You can't," said Ms. Swanson the other day as she held forth in her tiny, cluttered apartment in this Butte County mountain town where she has lived since 1983.

"I moved here to get away from that Southern California society, but I sure didn't get away from Bigfoot," she said.

Ms. Swanson, tiny (4-foot-11, 90 pounds) with her hair in a tidy, grandmotherly bun, said Bigfoot, the legendary, mythical man-beast, has been a part of her life since she lived in the Big Sur country in the 1950s.

These days she walks with a cane and does not see as well as she once did, so she stays home, confining her Bigfoot activity to corresponding with other Bigfoot devotees, selling occasional copies of her two self-published Bigfoot books.

"I sure don't like to pursue something so far-out and freakish," she said in her tiny, breathless voice, laughing. "I guess it's just that I'm far-out and freakish myself, and

Bigfoot's pursuing me."

It all started, Ms. Swanson said, when she was a test chemist for the Pet Milk Co. at its plant in Salinas during World War II and after. She had been raised on a homestead in Washington state and migrated to Los Angeles, where she had tried a variety of careers from waitress to model to bit parts in films.

Lured to the Salinas job by good wartime wages, she took long weekend drives along the back roads in the Big Sur country and eventually wound up buying a mining claim, then several, in the Los Burros district of Monterey County.

Newspapers did stories on the "lady miner." Photographs in the yellowing clippings show a curvy, sturdy, attractive woman in tight blue jeans, her blond hair piled neatly atop her head, standing beside an ore car at the entrance to a mine.

It turned out that Ms. Swanson had the talent and gumption to make a living from the mining but, she said, it also turned out that the mining was to bring her together with Bigfoot.

"I'll never forget those sounds, those smells," she said of nights she spent on her claim with Bigfoot lurking about.

As she recalls it, the first time she met the beast she was sleeping on a cot outdoors and was awakened by a powerful stench. Then something lifted her cot off the ground. She screamed and the cot was set down. The visitors left.

"I tried to get a look at it, but I'd left my flashlight on and the batteries were dead," she said. "I wonder if I'd even be alive today if I could have shone a light on that thing."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 11, 1989 CR: G. Conway

Ogopogo shot on film, car salesman claims

Canadian Press

KELOWNA — Car salesman Ken Chaplin says his candid camera has scooped up the fact behind the fiction of Ogopogo — the serpent-like creature said to inhabit Okanagan Lake.

The Salmon Arm resident showed video footage Thursday of a five- to six-metre-long creature he filmed after his 77-year-old father, Clem, said he spotted the creature last month.

The video, edited to keep the location secret, shows a black or dark brown head swimming through the water with a long half-submerged body behind.

In one sequence it turns toward the camera, moves closer, then dives. During the dive, a pointed tail stands straight up, then two hind

'It looks like a big overgrown water snake.'

— Ken Chaplin

feet or flippers follow it into the water.

Chaplin said the shots were taken about 25 metres away, but he has seen the creature nine times from as close as 10 metres and his father saw it from as close as five metres.

"It looks like a big overgrown water snake," said Chaplin.

"What Ken's got is almost a Rembrandt compared to any other kind of pictures shot on that lake," said Arlene Gaal, the city's Ogopogo expert.

"It's in closer than anyone else and we have actual movement and actions. There is no doubt in my mind we're looking at an animal that hasn't been classified yet."

Mayor Jim Stuart, who said before the video presentation that Ogopogo "is a myth that's been perpetrated for years," was impressed by the video and still photos of the creature.

"There are sufficient photographs in different positions to indicate there is a creature there that a person who is not familiar with marine biology would have a hard time to identify," said Stuart.

The mayor likened the image in some photos to that of a crocodile.

Chaplin says he suspects the creature could be a baby Ogopogo.

SOVIET NEWS, Moscow, USSR - June 1, 1989

Messages from space?

THE hereditary controllers of living matter on Earth, DNA and RNA, may contain coded messages from some form of extra-terrestrial life, it is suggested by Vladimir Shcherbak of Moscow University's laboratory of mathematical modelling.

Shcherbak has established that the groups of the amino acids which make up genetic templates follow an order which is the same as that of the number of protons and neutrons in the nuclei of their atoms.

Such an arrangement, he believes, cannot be the result of random variation but might be a numerical code carrying information from intelligent life elsewhere in the Universe.

Although he thinks that the symmetry he has found originated in an original spark of life which came to Earth from space, he has so far been unable to decipher the code.

Academician Vitali Dolganski believes that the new-found symmetry is important for future understanding of the origin of life, but sees no reason to believe that it indicates an extra-terrestrial origin.

CR: R. Collyns

DAILY NEWS, Pullman, WA - July 8, 1989

Bigfoot hunter still spewing about being jailed

By TONY SEMERAD
Staff Writer

COLFAX — A Bigfoot hunter arrested in Pullman last month for allegedly writing death threats to a fellow devotee of the mysterious beast vowed Friday to fight the charges against him.

Jon Erik Beckjord, a leading theorist on the Sasquatch's extra-terrestrial origins, said Friday he will plead innocent on all counts when the matter comes to trial in a Whitman County court at Colfax — even if the legal battle means delaying his latest expedition to Loch Ness, Scotland.

"I'm outraged," Beckjord spewed in a telephone interview from his Malibu, Calif., home.

"And I'm going to fight this thing out to the end. When I was jailed, they usurped my basic rights to free speech and freedom to assemble."

Beckjord said he will demand a jury trial if it comes to that, and claims he will fly in experts to prove evidence in the case is false.

No hearing date has been set on the charges. Beckjord is being represented by Dolores Cooper, a Colfax attorney.

Beckjord was jailed at Colfax on coercion and harassment charges June 23 — the day before a conference of the International Society of Cryptozoology (ISC) at Washington State University be-

gan.

The charges were filed against him by Mark Francis, a 25-year-old Twinsburg, Ohio, resident who also is searching for the Bigfoot monster.

Francis, a part-time rock group member, could not be reached Friday.

While visiting for the ISC conference, Francis convinced Whitman County District Court Judge David Frazier that Beckjord had written him a series of threatening letters, which Beckjord insists were forged.

The Malibu man claims to have an unrelated signed letter from Francis in his possession that was typed on the same typewriter

used for the death threats. He'll hire a graphologist to prove it, he says.

Until then, a planned journey to search for the Loch Ness monster is on hold, Beckjord said. "I'm not glad about that at all," he said.

And if exonerated, Beckjord will pursue counter charges of perjury and forgery against Francis, he maintained.

Beckjord was arrested at the Pullman Police Department after he went there to check out a rumor that Francis had filed the charges.

"What kind of person writes death threats on his own stationary, and then walks into the po-

lice station to ask what is up?" Beckjord asked.

Meanwhile, Beckjord said Friday he has contacted producers of the Geraldo Rivera Show in hopes the television talk show host will tell the tale of the feuding Bigfoot hunters.

"There seems to be some interest there," Beckjord said.

Special status on tap for Ogopogo?

KELOWNA (CP) — Ogopogo has been hiding in Okanagan Lake for eons, but it's having no trouble finding its way on to news pages.

Now, city council will ask for provincial and federal government help in protecting the Okanagan's fabled lake monster Ogopogo.

Council will ask authorities in other levels of government to safeguard the legendary animal known as Ogopogo as they would an endangered species.

"Council is concerned that some person or persons would do something that would endanger this particular phenomenon in our lake by some senseless act," said

Mayor Jim Stuart.

The mayor says he won't feel silly asking senior levels of government for help in protecting a creature usually lumped together with the Loch Ness Monster.

The council discussion came on the same day as a representative of *National Geographic* magazine was here to view a

videotape purporting to show the fabled monster.

Discussion over the lake monster — local legend since well before Europeans settled the Okanagan Valley — has taken on new life in recent weeks with the unveiling of a video said to contain clear pictures of an unknown water-born creature.

Debate over the lake monster took on the air of a comedy act at times as aldermen discussed the proper wording for their request to government.

The original wording of the motion referred only to a water creature, but Ald. Walter Gray wanted council to make sure people knew they were talking about Ogopogo.

Other council members suggested references to a single Ogopogo would be too specific, noting recent sightings indicate more than one such animal exists.

"That would be Ogopogi," said Gray.

High-tech robotic device to search for Ogopogo

By MOIRA FARROW

Ogopogo will be tracked to his underwater home next week by an expedition equipped with the latest in robotic technology.

"There's no question any more that Ogopogo exists — we've seen it twice in three days — and the whole thing is tremendously exciting," said John Kirk, vice-president of the B.C. Cryptology Club, which was formed earlier this year to study the science of "hidden animals" such as the Okanagan's fabled lake monster.

He said in an interview that members of his club have seen what they believe is Ogopogo twice recently and he showed a video of one of the sightings.

As a result of the experience, the club plans a joint expedition next week with Robotic Systems International of Sidney on Vancouver Island.

Group had high hopes

Kirk said he and several other club members and Chris Roper of Robotic Systems use a boat and a remotely operated robotic device called Seamor, which is equipped with an underwater camera and spotlight.

"We might get absolutely nothing but we're determined to give it a try because the camera can work 200 feet (61 metres) from the mother vessel and it has visibility of up to 50 feet (15 metres) underwater," said Kirk, 34, a Vancouver restaurant owner.

'We're vehemently opposed to anyone trying to capture this creature. And we're afraid of some lunatic going to the Okanagan to try to shoot it or net it.'

— John Kirk

He said he and his club are not interested in competing with car salesman Ken Chaplin, whose video of a creature in Lake Okanagan, filmed in July, is now being studied by the National Geographic Society.

"We're just interested in research," said Kirk. "We're vehemently opposed to anyone trying to capture this creature. And we're afraid of some lunatic going to the Okanagan to try to shoot it or net it."

Kirk said the sightings claimed by his club were on July 30 and Aug. 1 and he was present on both occasions.

He said the first sighting was from Peach Orchard Beach in Summerland and those present were himself, his nine-year-old son, John, club secretary-treasurer Jim Clark and Clark's wife, Barbara.

Kirk said the creature had five or six humps, was about 10.6 metres long, black and shiny, and swam in a series of dipping undulations, against the wind and waves, for

more than a minute. It dived when two power boats approached from different directions, reappeared for several seconds, and then was lost from sight.

"There was spray being thrown up against its humps or ridges," said Clark, 29. "It was about 200 yards (183 metres) away from us and a young couple sunbathing about 100 yards (91 metres) behind us also saw it and came charging up to us. I was so excited and happy I had a lump in my throat."

Clark, a freelance writer, was not present at the Aug. 1 sighting when Kirk, his son, radio reporter Blaine Pudwell and Ontario resident Angie Yielding were out in a boat at Green Bay off Westbank.

"We were eight to 10 miles (13 to 16 kilometres) from the previous sighting but it was about the same time of day, between 3 and 4 p.m.," said Kirk. "We spent about three hours watching wave forms and we were on our way home when we saw it swimming at a speed of about 15 miles per hour (24 km/h) against wind and waves."

Film lacks close-up

He estimated the creature to be about 18 metres long with four humps and, possibly, a second smaller creature near by.

"It jutted out of the water to a height of three feet (one metre) but the head and tail remained under the water for the major duration of the sighting," he said.

Geographic Society to view Ogopogo tape

By DAVID STONE

A car salesman's claim to have videotaped the serpent-like Ogopogo of Okanagan Lake has stirred the interest of the National Geographic Society, which today will have a representative check out Ken Chaplin's tape in person.

Paul Gasek, a producer for the society's Explorer series, said he would view Chaplin's video this morning in Kelowna. If it appears the Ogopogo actually exists, he said, National Geographic likely would attempt an in-depth documentary of the creature.

"I'm trying to keep my mind open," Gasek said. "Until it's proven that it doesn't exist, I'd like to run on the assumption that it just might."

Gasek noted that, until a fisherman caught the first recorded living coelacanth in 1938, the prehistoric fish was thought to have died out 60 million years ago. At one time, tales of giant squid were considered preposterous.

Gasek termed Chaplin's claim "rare" in its potential for authenticity.

"I think the thing that got us was the utter reasonableness of it," Gasek said. "Chaplin called us up, he didn't rant and rave, he made this assertion and said he was hoping we'd somehow become involved."

Ontario residents report Sasquatch

Canadian Press

WEBEQUIE, Ont. — Residents of this remote Indian village have claimed to have seen a sasquatch — a hairy, eight-foot (2.4-metre) tall animal-man that leaves giant footprints wherever it goes, provincial police said Monday. Bobby Wabasse told band police he saw a sasquatch — also known as Bigfoot — while canoeing July 25, said Const. Jeff Simpkins of provincial police. Tracks measuring 35 centimetres from heel to toe made by giant bare feet were found in the muskeg later that day, he said.

Kelowna resident Arlene Gaal, who has written two books on the creature, said she's elated at the discovery. "For all these years we've had all these skeptics... wondering why I was wasting my time on this subject. It's just verification of the fact that the truth was there."

Chaplin says he's been "running on adrenalin" since making his tape from July 18 to 22. He knows what authentication of his claim would mean.

"There's a lot of value to this as far as all the different ways of making money," he said. "There's going to be lots of spin-off for the community, I would think. I've never been involved in anything like this."

'Hairy' hunt on again

By GRAEME KENNEDY

Australian cryptozoologist Rex Gilroy is planning a third expedition to New Zealand in search of the elusive Great Hairy Moehau.

The 45-year-old from Katoomba, in the Blue Mountains outside Sydney, believes the big-footed man-ape could have existed beyond Maori mythology and still live in shy groups somewhere down in rugged Fiordland or the National Park.

Mr Gilroy, a self-taught naturalist with the biggest collection of natural history in Australia, says a cryptozoologist researches animal species thought long extinct but which might still survive, or species still unknown to science.

He first came to New Zealand to track down the mystery in 1983 but, although he found plenty of legend, he went home short on facts.

Then, on his last trip here three years ago, a tramp described seeing one of the beasts near Mt Ngauruhoe about 1980, encouraging Mr Gilroy to organise another search for the Kiwi-Yeti.

"I want to visit areas where they are supposed to have been seen," he said, "and talk to people who have had sightings of them."

"They are herbivorous and do not seem to be dangerous but rather shy, gentle and retreating. It is not impossible for groups of them to be still living away from contact with man in some of your wild and rugged country that has never been fully explored."

"Scientists have regarded animals like the Moehau as a myth and therefore not worth considering — but I believe they did exist and may still survive today."

He said the Moehau has cousins throughout the Pacific and Asia and many of those might still live in rugged misty mountains, giving only occasional glimpses of themselves to man.

Relatives include the Great Hairy Man of New Guinea — the Kibornee — and the Yowie, the animal of Aboriginal mythology, whose sightings have been recorded regularly since the 1800s to the 1980s.

"The Yowie is similar to the Moehau, covered in long hair and walking upright with its head sunk into its shoulders. The males are very muscular while the females are more slender, with less hair and long pendulous breasts."

"The descriptions suggest a link between the Yowie, the Himalayan Yeti, the New Guinea Kibornee and the New Zealand Moehau, which is probably from a very ancient Melanesian race which went to New Zealand in canoes long before the Maori," he said.

Cryptozoology is Mr Gilroy's full-time job and interest while visitors to his natural history museum finance expeditions in search of creatures long thought to be either extinct or myths, such as the Tasmanian Tiger — and the New Zealand Great Hairy Man.

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada — Aug. 11, 1989

Hairy beast scares villagers

MOSCOW (UPI) — A huge hairy creature with long arms and small feet "scared the daylight" out of residents of a small Volga village, a Soviet newspaper reported yesterday.

Veterinarian R. Saitov, of the Russian settlement of Kirovo, told a newspaper he, his children and a friend spotted the creature near a pond.

"It was making huge jumps — not at all like a human being," Saitov said. "I saw the creature pretty well," he said, adding it was about 6-foot-6, "its

body covered with dark brown hair and it had shoulder-length hair. We pursued the creature for about 1,000 meters until it hid in some bushes in a ravine... the creature was neither human nor an anthropoid ape."

The paper quoted "a local hunter," who said "the width of its pace was no less than 2 metres (2½ feet). The hunter believes that no man could have run at such a pace, 3 or 4 km (about 3 miles) across a plowed field."

Biologists dismiss the report.