

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 13, 1989

## Eerie UFO lights puzzling residents of four-state area

The Associated Press reported five strange objects hovering Tuesday night over two Northeast Oklahoma towns, Miami and Commerce, not far from the Arkansas border. Democrat Fayetteville Bureau Chief Bill Bowden was sent Wednesday night to see what he could find.

BY BILL BOWDEN  
Democrat Fayetteville Bureau

BAXTER SPRINGS, Kan. — Standing in line at the local Fastrip food store Wednesday night with half a dozen other slow-moving patrons, Carl Hitt asked the question they'd been dying to hear.

"Have any of ya'll seen any UFOs?"

"I saw three of them just tonight," said Bruce Weaver, perking up. "They were red and hovering over the ground." "I saw two," another man said. "They looked like stars. They came in from north to south, hesitated and flew off in different directions. These things started showing up about two weeks ago."

"Drive down any road where it's dark," said the woman behind the cash register. "You'll see them."

Everybody in the store, it

seemed, had recently seen something strange in the nighttime sky.

The area of Northeast Oklahoma, Southeast Kansas, Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas has been inundated this week with reported sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Those who have seen the lights include policemen and Miami Police Chief Bob Baine.

Hitt, a Fayetteville photographer, and I left Baxter Springs and headed to Miami, 15 miles to the south.

When we got to Miami, three youths were getting out of a pickup truck at another convenience store.

"Have ya'll seen any UFOs?" Hitt asked.

"We saw some just tonight up near Commerce," said Joleta Ingersol. "Two of them came together. They were red and made a funny noise when they flew over my house. It sounded kind of like an airplane but quieter."

Ingersol suggested we go to the Ottawa County sheriff's office, which was keeping track of the sightings. Unable to find the office, we drove for about half an hour until we decided

to follow a police car. Surely, it was heading toward the sheriff's office, we thought.

We were wrong. The officers drove into a bank parking lot. When we turned into the lot, too, they sped off. The policemen, trapped in traffic, were stopped at a light when we pulled alongside to ask directions.

The officer then slammed the car in reverse, squealing his tires to get away from us.

"These are the most unfriendly cops I've ever seen," Hitt said.

Three patrol cars then converged on us downtown. Apparently there had been several recent armed robberies and the police were a bit nervous.

The patrol car we had been following was heading to a bank to make a deposit for a local business, the officers said.

After we explained our business, a Miami police officer escorted us to the sheriff's office.

"We've had eight or 10 sightings tonight," said Ron Meador, deputy jailer. "They've just been spotted all over the place."

Meador led us to the parking lot and pointed out two pulsating lights in the eastern sky.

"There are two now," he said.

### Examined lights

We examined the lights through binoculars. They appeared somewhat brighter than the stars in the sky and had a yellowish cast. As they pulsed, they changed from white to red to a greenish-

blue. The changes could be detected with the naked eye, but were more visible with binoculars.

"Somebody knows what it is," said Meador, who believes the lights to be satellites or part of a secret military experiment. Meador said Wednesday was only the second night the lights had been seen in Miami.

"We've had people say they move in and go back out," said Meador. "About 8:30 p.m. is when it usually starts. One deputy called and said he saw one as big as a softball."

"Ya'll see any spaceships?" said Jason Goodman, a teenager walking through the parking lot. "I saw three of them stacked on top of each other. That was one of them right there."

### 'Spook light'

Goodman was pointing at one of the two lights now stationary in the sky.

"They're not moving tonight," he said. "It must be because they're away from the moon."

Larry Ruthi, a National Weather Service forecaster in Norman, Okla., said a check of reporting stations indicated no unusual atmospheric conditions that might explain the sightings.

Miami's proximity to Seneca, Mo., home of the "Joplin spook light," prompted us to look for that object before starting on our UFO hunt.

The spook light, which often pulsates with the same colors as those from the UFOs, has been seen in the Seneca area for more than 100 years.

Seneca is about 12 miles from Miami, as the crow flies.

### Indian legend

The spook light has been appearing since 1881 and was first documented in a newspaper in 1901, according to Dale Kaczmarek of Chicago, an expert on the psychic and paranormal.

The Quapaw Indians, who have a reservation nearby, claim it dates before that. One Indian legend says the light is a lantern being carried by the ghost of an Indian maiden looking for her husband who went hunting and never returned.

Because the spook light wasn't visible early Wednesday evening, Hitt and I headed down the backroads for Miami. That's probably how we ended up in Kansas.

As we left Miami to get back to Fayetteville, the lights continued to pulsate in the eastern sky, but never left their stationary positions.

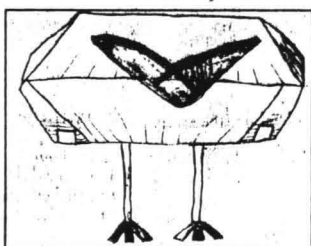
### 'Logical explanation'

As the earth rotated and the lights appeared to rise in the sky with the stars, the pulsating colors became less pronounced, although the effect was still visible in Fayetteville late Wednesday night.

Bill Pitts, a UFO expert and investigator for the U.S. Air Force in Fort Smith, said he usually figures such sightings are stars unless the lights are seen to move.

A local television station showed the object moving on its Tuesday night broadcast, Pitts said.

NEWS, Detroit, MI - Aug. 30, 1989 CR: T. Sullivan



Leilani Brissette-Dearing's sketch of the space ship she boarded in 1987.

## UFOs

### Space aliens are coming, but don't serve chocolate

By Hugh McCann  
News Staff Writer

They have pointed noses, long hair, huge black eyes and don't like chocolate.

They live 500 million light years from Earth.

And they're coming here.

Well, maybe not exactly here to Metro Detroit.

But to our planet, says Leilani Brissette-Dearing, Ph.D., who claims to be in regular, telepathic communications with the aliens, whom she calls the Pleiadians.

And she's coming to Wayne State

University tonight to tell Metro Detroiters about them.

Brissette-Dearing is a 33-year-old singing psychologist who claims that the aliens took her and her musician husband aboard their space ship. She says the folk from another world are preparing earthlings for a major-league visit in three years.

In fact, she says they are an advanced race whose space ships already have visited Earth regularly — accounting for all the UFO sightings — on their mission to promote peace.

"These 'unidentified flying objects' come with important messages and implications for our society," she said.

"What the Pleiadians are saying is that (UFO) sightings are going to increase, and that in 1992 there will be some kind of very wonderful mass landing, or some kind of technical assistance given to Earth."

Brissette-Dearing and her husband, Dan, 37, live in Nashville. Since they opened their Southeast Regional UFO Communications Center two months ago, they have talked about their experiences on radio and television programs. Currently, they are on a 17-city national tour to promote the Pleiadians.

The couple will discuss their telepathic and physical contacts with them at Wayne at 7 p.m. tonight in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Brissette-Dearing also will sing "live" telepathic messages as they are being transmitted to her, accompanied by her husband and other musicians.

She said the Pleiadians come from a group of planets in the constellation Taurus, known as the Pleiades. It is 500 million light years from Earth.

"I just woke up one morning, in August of '87, and got out of bed and started singing these songs. I hear the words and I sing."

BRISSETTE-DEARING, who got her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in Nashville in 1987, is a former director of psychological services for Summer Memorial Hospital in Gallatin, Tenn. She said that her contacts with the Pleiadians began in 1986.

As she spoke the words of the telepathic messages, her husband began tape-recording them. The theme of the messages, she said, is that "we humans should focus more on joy than on the idea of struggle."

The Pleiadians, she said, asked her to change her diet and go to Hawaii, where she was born. She gave up chocolate and meat, began eating more salads, and moved to Hawaii in 1987. On May 14 that year, she said, she and her husband went aboard a Pleiadian space ship.

She said that the space ship was silver with rust-metallic doors and the aliens were "very beautiful." They averaged 5 feet, 7 inches in height, had golden-hued skin, large black eyes, dark, shoulder-length hair and wore sheer clothes.

"The nose was different from a human's nose," she said. "It was very pointed and tilted at the end."

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Oct. 12, 1989

## Local builder wins Aurora Award

Edward Walters was selected as Merit Award winner by the 1989 Southeast Builders Conference. Bobby Branning, and Keith Swilley congratulated Ed during the general membership meeting of the Home Builders Association of West Florida. Gulf Power sponsors the award for superior design of the Most Energy-Efficient Homes.

Ed is the builder of many of the homes in Gulf Breeze and is responsible for turning Williamsburg Estates into the finished family neighborhood that so proudly suits Gulf Breeze. He is a two term member of the City Planning Board

and actively donates his time to many civic and youth activities.

Of further interest to many of us, will be a book that Ed and his wife Frances have written to document the UFO sightings experiences over the past two years in the Gulf Breeze area. The book is scheduled for release on March 19, 1990. Ed said, "Even though I am fascinated by the many unusual aerial sightings, some of which I photographed, my first priority is my building business. Gulf Breeze has been good to me and my family."



CR: E. Walters

# 'Unsolved Mysteries' plays up enigmas of life

By DAVID J. JEFFERSON  
The Wall Street Journal

ROSWELL, N.M. — Most people hereabout have forgotten this banner headline from the Roswell Daily Record of July 8, 1947: "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region."

But a group of local men with fresh crew cuts has agreed to help NBC-TV's "Unsolved Mysteries" jog a few memories. On a blistering day in this desert town, they dress up as members of the Roswell Army Air Force and stand around an abandoned hangar in exchange for \$50, a free lunch and the chance to be a part of history as only television can tell it.

A dry-ice fog hangs thick inside the hangar, enshrouding a cluster of actors who, posing as MPs, guard the saucer wreckage. At the building's far end, two men in white lab coats unload four stretchers from an Army ambulance. The victims, clad in silver Lycra jumpsuits, are a sight: Their flesh is orange. Their oversized heads are bald and shaped like eggplants. Their long, bony hands have only four digits.

The story "has to be true," says Carol Renee Modrall, who runs the Granny's Opera House theater at nearby Carlsbad Caverns and who was hired by the show's producers to assist with everything from costuming to catering. "If you think about it, we had several atomic blasts around that time. If I were an alien, I'd want to come here and see what was going on."

## 'Docutainment' popular

NBC is hoping that more segments like this will exert a similar pull on earthlings. In the show's first full season last year, "Unsolved Mysteries" captured 16th place in the prime-time ratings with its special brand of "docutainment" — re-enactments of puzzling crimes and other unexplained events, all somberly narrated by Robert Stack.

Although the show did air segments on Bigfoot and on people who have revived after dying, more typical was the story of Rose Hoffman, a San Jose, Calif., mother who went undercover as a biker seeking information about her teenage son, missing since his abduction by motorcycle roughnecks in 1977.

"These are stories that could happen to my family or your family," says Rick Ludwin, NBC's vice president of specials and variety programs.

Critics, however, have attacked "Unsolved Mysteries" and other "reality" programs, such as Fox's "America's Most Wanted," arguing that they exploit victims and their families. Questions also have been raised about the legal implications of some re-enactments.

In part because of such concerns, "Unsolved Mysteries" has decided to give added attention this season to the wiggier stories — reality TV's answer to Fox's "Alien Nation" and ABC's wacky "Free Spirit," both new this year.

Ludwin says NBC has asked the executive producers of "Unsolved Mysteries," John Cosgrove and Terry Dunn Meurer, for more "high-profile" pieces like the one about

Roswell, which ran on the season premiere Wednesday.

"It's taken TV a long time to realize that a lot of people read tabloid newspapers in the U.S.," says David Gritten, television critic for the Los Angeles Herald Examiner.

## Subjects re-enact stories

The segments are filmed where the original events occurred, using either local actors or the actual people involved. Since the show doesn't pay subjects to appear in re-enactments of their own stories, the latter approach saves money. It also heightens believability. Cosgrove and Meurer contend.

Consider the case of the blinking statue. For a future show, "Unsolved Mysteries" asked some 300 parishioners of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Ambridge, Pa., to help re-create a much-publicized event: Earlier this year, they had seen a life-size figure of Jesus on a crucifix blink its eyes during the church's Good Friday service.

As the segment was being filmed, a state trooper appearing in the re-enactment began shouting that the eyes were moving. It was no act. "The entire congregation started having this full-on religious experience in front of us," recalls David Rajter, who produced the segment. "They were praying. They were crying. They were falling on the floor."

A videotape of the crucifix doesn't show any eye movement, Rajter says, and a Church inquiry concluded that no miracle occurred at Holy Trinity either time. Still, the trooper, Christopher Joseph Marion, stands by his story. "With God as my judge, these eyes were opening in front of me," he says.

For his part, the Rev. Ronald P. Lengwin, a spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, worries that the show's pilgrimage to the parish will stir up unwanted interest in the crucifix again. "I can't believe this story won't go away," he says. "The story got a life of its own because of the media."

## Public service

NBC maintains that the sleuthing done on "Unsolved Mysteries" is a public service. Each week, operators at a telemarketing center in Los Angeles field several thousand calls from viewers who claim to know something about the incidents dramatized. Of the 128 "solvable" cases featured so far, the network says, 34 have been explained. And of the 43 fugitives profiled, 29 have been apprehended. Among them was Geraldine Elizabeth Carmichael, a Los Angeles resident who disappeared in 1980 after being convicted of bilking investors out of \$3 million with a scheme to build a gas-saving car. A viewer recognized Ms. Carmichael — who is in fact a man undergoing treatments pending a sex-change operation — as a flower vendor in Texas.

Obviously, leads about such things as Bigfoot are even more elusive than clues to a kidnapping or killing. But viewers feel compelled to offer their advice nonetheless. "Some of the calls are just hilarious," says Greg Churpek, a college student who

works as an "Unsolved Mysteries" operator. Recently, Churpek had to listen patiently as a self-professed psychic rambled on about his knowledge of "intimate phenomena" and his telepathic ability to find missing persons.

As for what drives people to participate in the show, the desire for an answer is usually foremost. And with real crimes, the process is often cathartic. "They break down, and they thank you later," says Dan Gomez, who directed a segment about a former California policeman named Doyle Wheeler. Wheeler supervised a wrenching re-enactment of an attack last year at his home in Spokane, Wash., during which he says two men broke in, tied him up, beat and tortured him, and then shot him and left him for dead.

"Talk about group therapy," Gomez adds. "This is sharing emotions with 20 million people."

## Some bizarre stories

With the more bizarre stories, the possibility of swaying a wider audience is also a big draw. Marion, the state trooper, says he chose to participate in the episode about the statue because he believes the day of judgment is near. "That's why God picked me for this," he explains. "He's trying to warn us that these are the end times."

Walter G. Haut, public-relations officer at the Roswell Army Air Force base at the time of the UFO incident, says he went on the show because he thinks it's time Americans know the truth. "I could see covering this up in 1947," he concedes. "You would have had panic. . . . But the population in the U.S. is intelligent enough to handle this now." (When the wreckage was

found, Haut wrote a press release informing the local media that a flying saucer was in their midst, but it was superseded by a second official announcement saying that a weather balloon had crashed.)

Haut says he hopes his interview with "Unsolved Mysteries" will prod the government to come clean about the alien encounter. His only concern, he adds, is that the editing process could make him and the others "appear like a bunch of absolute idiots."

## Skeptics abound

Sappho Henderson says she doesn't care much whether viewers believe her story about how her late husband, Capt. Oliver Wendell Henderson, flew the saucer wreckage in an Air Force plane to another base in Dayton, Ohio. "When 'Unsolved Mysteries' first contacted me, I hadn't thought I'd participate," says Mrs. Henderson, who now lives in West Hills, Calif. "But then I thought, Why not? It's been all this time. Even though there may be doubters, I'm too old to worry about that."

Of course, skeptics abound, even here in Roswell. Ruth May, an administrative assistant in City Hall who moved here in 1948, laughs when asked about television's interest in the alien landing. "It rears its head every so often," she says of the story.

But who's to rule out strange doings here after learning that "Unsolved Mysteries" couldn't film in the hangar it wanted because the Central Intelligence Agency was using it that day? "Funny, they wouldn't tell us what they were doing," jokes cameraman Bob Wise. "But we suspect it has something to do with aliens."



Staff Photo/Casey Simpson

A crew from the NBC television show "Unsolved Mysteries" films Kathy and Gary Nixon of AuSable Forks for a segment, aired last season and re-run over the summer, on the June 22, 1987 disappearance of their daughter, Kari Lynn Nixon. The segment resulted in hundreds of phone calls, and state police are still investigating them.

## UFO sightings real, author says

By Troy Moon  
News Journal

UFO sightings over the skies of Gulf Breeze are authentic, according to an author of a recently released book about UFO cover-ups.

"The Gulf Breeze sightings are interesting because so many people were witnesses," said Timothy Good, the English author of "Above Top Secret — The Worldwide UFO Cover-Up."

"The description that all the witnesses in the Gulf Breeze sightings gave matched remarkably, he said. 'I've visited many of the places where the sightings took place and talked to many of the people who were involved. I'm convinced of their validity.'"

Good was at the New Age Shop

in Gulf Breeze on Wednesday to autograph copies of his book.

Good, who has been interested in UFOs since 1955, first published his book in 1987 in Britain. He obtained information for his book in part by conducting his own investigation into UFO reports and obtaining government information through the Freedom of Information Act.

In "Above Top Secret" Good charges that the CIA, the National Security Agency, NASA, and other government agencies have been involved in a UFO cover-up since an incident in 1947 called the Roswell Incident.

At that time, there were allegations that a UFO crashed near Roswell, N.M. and that government officials recovered alien bodies.

Later that year, Good said President Harry Truman formed a highly secret panel with the code-name "Majestic 12" to investigate UFOs.

The Majestic 12 document was prepared for President-elect Dwight Eisenhower in 1952 and stated that "the remains of four alien bodies were recovered two miles from the Roswell wreckage site."

"There are so many instances where the government has made studies of UFOs," Good said. "The government always denies it."

Information released through the Freedom of Information act, however, confirms these governmental studies were conducted, he said. Unfortunately the public hasn't been made aware."

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL — Oct. 12, 1989 CR: E. Walters

NEWS-TIMES, Danbury, CT — Sept. 1, 1989

## 'UFO' flyby reported

DANBURY — Area residents looked up in the sky and saw not birds, not planes but what many thought were UFOs.

The News-Times last night received numerous calls from people in Danbury and Bethel, reporting sit-

ings of erratically flying lights in the sky.

In recent years, low-flying ultralight aircraft moving in formation have buzzed the area in late summer, sparking similar calls. A Bethel police spokesman said that authorities there believe the ultralights were at it again last night. He also said the department had "five or six," calls.

Danbury police would not confirm any reports.



# U F :

## Truth or myth?

photo by  
Mark Zelmer

Ed Scofield, founder of the International Space Dwellers Society, has an extensive library based in religion and science.



## Unidentified Flying Objects in our own backyard?

MARK ZELMER/Staff writer

This summer, news about the mountain-town of Anza, east of Temecula, has centered on last week's flash flood, disputes over whether to allow a dam and cement plant, and possible forms of growth control; however, local media have shunned at least one provocative story concerning Anza — numerous reported sightings of "UFOs".

All the local media except one, that is. The hometown "Anza Valley Outlook" jumped into the Unidentified Flying Objects issue that other newspapers have traditionally ignored.

"We are a people-paper," commented AVO editor Carl Long. "We feel people need an avenue to express what happens in their lives. It all started when we printed the report of one sighting

in the 'Strange Happenings' column, and then a half-dozen others came forward."

Long devoted most of one Outlook issue to the subject, and said readers' UFO sightings also have generated "a jillion calls."

"Many want to know the identities of those who wrote in," he said. "We won't give out the names, although we do know who they are. We simply do not want to promote any intrusion into their privacy."

Long indicated — as have more than 20 million Americans (according to a recent poll) — that he has seen a UFO. "An extremely bright light in the sky that I couldn't explain," he noted.

Most locals interviewed by the Californian admitted to wondering about UFOs at least one time during their lives. General public wonderment was also possibly

heightened by last weekend's meteor shower.

"About 15 years ago, a group of six of us saw a strange glow of light while we were in Laughlin, Nev.," recounted Murrieta Chamber of Commerce President Ron Jones. "We watched it hover and leave with acceleration that was incomprehensible. And we were sober."

Neither Jones nor Temecula Chamber General Manager Perry Peters knew of any sightings by residents of Temecula/Murrieta. Neither did the the secretary at the Julian town Chamber, public affairs officers at March Air Force Base and the Federal Aviation Authority, "Nikki" at the Pala Tribal Council, and the manager of Palomar Mountain General Store.

The Palomar store manager also had not heard of George

Adamsky, a Palomar resident who gained international attention in the 1950s with his reports of visitors from outer space who brought their flying saucers to his home.

As for Anza, a fire department spokesman and community leader, Jim Seabourne, said they'd never seen a UFO. "Louise" at Anza Acres Realty admitted seeing "a speeding light" over Terwilliger Valley about two years ago, and added that "We're not all nuts up here."

The UFO sightings reported in the Anza newspaper occurred mainly in late June/early July. Common threads among the reports seem to be the shape of the lights seen (triangular), and the general area of the sightings (Terwilliger Valley/Vail Lake).

The sightings included:

- A writer who said his first of seven UFO sightings was over Palomar Mountain four years ago. "I watched them fly into a massive hole in the side of Palomar Mountain," he wrote, adding, "In April of 1987 I watched a giant white circular UFO come down ... at 3:30 a.m. above Rancho California and hover over the Pala reservation.

"You may think I'm crazy..." he concluded, "but whatever you print, don't use my name."

- June 28, 1989, a teen-ager in the Bradford Road area seeing six lights "speed by" her bedroom window at 10 p.m. The last "object" became engulfed in flames in the vicinity of Vail Lake.

- A separate but similarly-described sighting on the same night from a woman, 32, in the Vail Lake area. According to AVO writer Debbie Steinberg, the woman also "observed a saucer-shaped craft" in the same area on two successive nights the following week.

- June 29, a 36-year-old woman on Bradford Road observing "bright amber-colored lights in

what she thought to be the Vail Lake area."

- June 29, three people on Table Mountain south of Anza reporting "a large lighted object over Cahuilla Mountain."

- July 3, two of three Bradford Road residents outside at 11:30 p.m. in hope of viewing Saturn seeing "an enormous craft ... speed toward Vail Lake."

- July 9, a Terwilliger couple reporting "a brilliant light moving from behind a rocky hill quite unlikely for any vehicle to be traveling across."

Ironically, the founder of the "International Space Dwellers Society," Ed Scofield, has resided in Anza for several years.

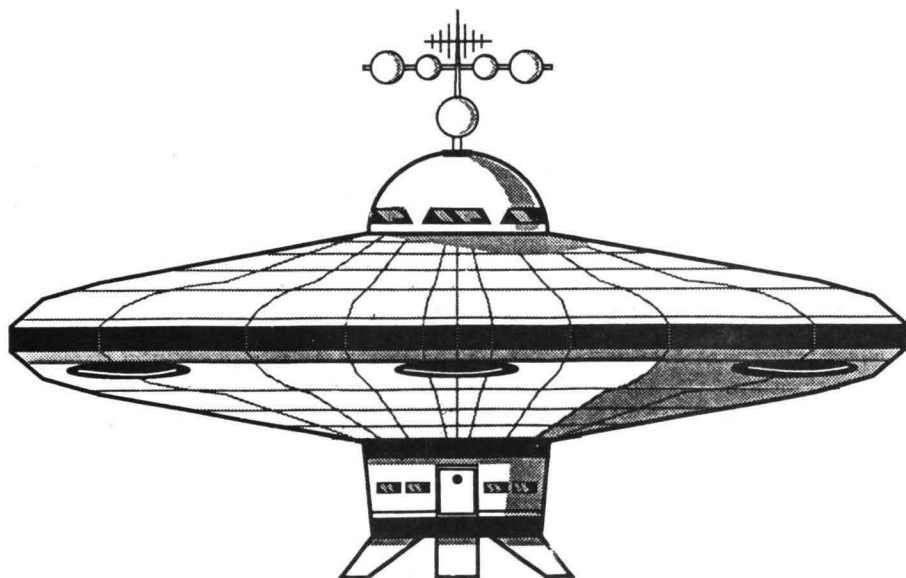
Scofield, 72, doesn't appear to fit the "crackpot" description assigned to many who believe in things like flying saucers. He has a Ph.D. in psychology; passed the California bar exam in 1957; is an author ("Why Worlds Don't Collide"); is former publicist of MGM studios; and was head of public relations for Lear Aircraft Company before forming his five-member society.

It was during his time with Lear that Scofield became convinced that flying saucers from outer space have visited earth.

"Company-founder Bill Lear's son, John Lear, exposed the federal UFO cover-up in 1988 in Perspectives magazine," noted Scofield. "Keep in mind John Lear's credibility - he'd flown more than 160 different aircraft in 50 countries, had flown missions for the CIA, and had communications with people in the military who are experts on the subject of UFOs."

In his article, Lear contended that President Truman "turned the screws so tight that the general public still thinks that flying saucers are a joke" after initial

(continued on page 4)



Edward Scofield believes a flying saucer's revolving outer wings would allow the craft to cut through the air like a Frisbee.

United States' communications with extra-terrestrials "who were more advanced than us by perhaps a billion years."

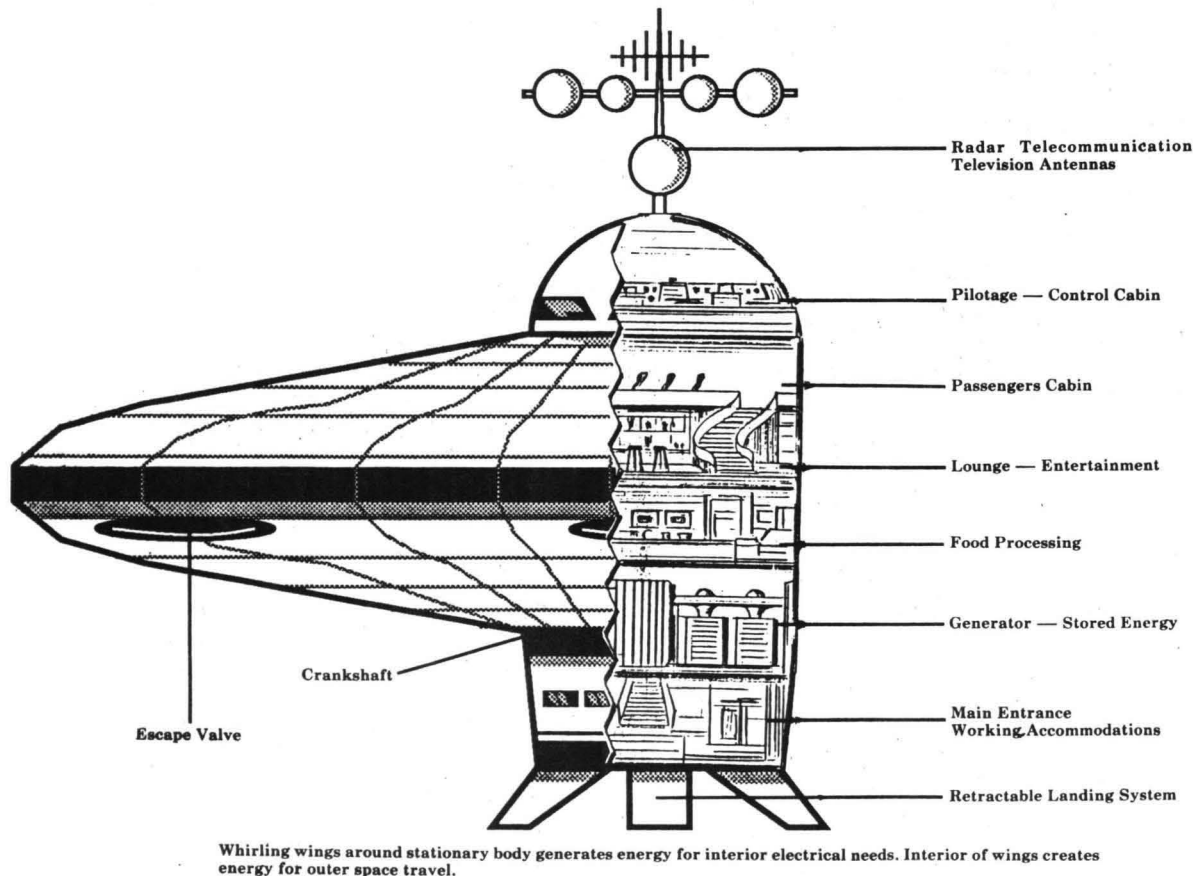
Lear also charged that the cover-up stemmed from American leaders who had witnessed the panic aroused by Orson Welles' radio broadcast "The War of the Worlds" in 1939. "Imagine Americans' shock," added Lear, "if they'd seen these strange saucers ... with no part even remotely familiar."

Scofield said he's seen UFOs twice himself - the first one 20 years ago above Borrego.

"My report is similar to most others," he said. "Flying saucers appear as balls of fire, which is easy to understand when you realize the intense heat created by the friction of the whirling wings as they pierce the atmosphere."

When asked "Why Anza?" for so many UFO sightings, Scofield said he couldn't speculate. But a letter-writer to the Anza Valley Outlook last week may have indicated a new trend as far as the newspaper's readership is concerned.

"Less UFOs and more local news," was the simple message.



Anza resident Edward Scofield, a former public relations executive for Lear Aircraft Company, says this is a rudimentary

example of what a flying saucer's interior might look like, from the control cabin to an entertainment lounge.

EVENING POST, Charleston, SC - July 17, 1989

## Numerous Reports Of UFO Received, Authorities Say

By ERIC FRAZIER  
Post-Courier Reporter

Bessie Dixon, her husband and five others were standing in the parking lot of the Burnside Dodge dealership near Rivers Avenue and Remount Road about 1:30 a.m. Sunday when a plane with a neon banner trailing it flew by.

Or at least that's what they thought it was.

It was a dark, shapeless object 300-500 feet long, and fiery white and yellow sparks were shooting out of what seemed to be its tail end. Its front end appeared to be glowing.

It didn't have any other lights or windows. It was about 1,500 feet in the air, moving slowly, and had just passed soundlessly above them from north to south.

"What the hell was that?" asked Mrs. Dixon. No one could answer her question.

Warren Richey, a retired Navy chief quartermaster who works as a security guard at the car lot, rushed to a phone and called North Charleston police, the Air Force Base and the control tower at the Charleston International Airport.

To his surprise, no one he talked to had seen or heard about this thing they had just seen.

About 1½ hours later, he called the control tower back, and this time the air traffic controller on duty said some pilots on a plane traveling about 20,000 feet above Columbia had reported seeing the enormous, dark object break into three pieces just above them. One of the pieces, they said, headed toward Charleston.

"It was a monstrous looking thing," said Mrs. Dixon late Sunday. "We just froze. It was coming right down the railroad tracks" which run parallel to Rivers Avenue, she said.

"What it is ... what it was, you make up your mind about it," said Richey. "The more we got to talking about it the more questions we had."

James P. Pierce, the Federal Aviation Administration supervisor at the Charleston airport tower, said that, although the controller on duty early Sunday didn't see anything, he did receive numerous reports of UFO sightings about 1:30 a.m., some of which came from as far away as Tybee Island near Savannah.

Officials at the Columbia airport and North Charleston Police Department said they didn't receive any reports of unidentified objects at that time, but an officer at the Tybee Island Police Department confirmed that a fellow officer saw something as he was driving to their police station about 2 a.m. Sunday.

According to Officer Charles Lanier, Sgt. Clyde Alley saw something that "looked like a shooting star. He said he'd never seen anything like it before ... it wasn't traveling fast, and it looked like things were falling off of it."

Alley wasn't available for comment Sunday night.

**'What it is ... what it was, you make up your mind about it. The more we got to talking about it the more questions we had.'**

**WARREN RICHEY,**  
security guard

Neither was the air traffic controller on night duty or the others who stood in the North Area parking lot with Mrs. Dixon and her husband.

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

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

Some people guessed that it could've been a banner plane out of Myrtle Beach trailing an advertising sign. But a check with banner company officials along the Grand Strand found that none had their planes in the air early Sunday.

In addition, the planes and banners are not equipped with lights, the owners said.

Meanwhile, other authorities today said that they couldn't tell The Evening Post 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 from 1:35 a.m. to 1:45 a.m., but no threatening or unidentifiable objects showed up on their radar systems.

And, she said, a master sergeant stationed at the base reported that he had "seen something" early Sunday. At press time, the sergeant could not be reached.

In Atlanta, FAA spokesman Roger Myers said his agency no longer tracks UFO sightings.

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

Meanwhile, Mrs. Dixon's question remains unanswered, but she seemed to come up with the most plausible response herself.

"I've seen all kinds of planes and helicopters out here," she said of her Midland Park neighborhood, which is near the Air Force Base's runways. "We were joking about it later, and I said it must have been that stealth bomber."

Post-Courier Reporters Terry Joyce and Bill Steiger contributed to this story.

SUN NEWS, Myrtle Beach, SC - July 18, 1989

## Strange object in MB sky believed Soviet rocket part

By Lesia J. Shannon  
and Sammy Fretwell  
THE SUN NEWS

A fiery object that lit up skies along the Grand Strand early Sunday is believed to be part of a Soviet rocket launched last week.

The object was seen from the Grand Strand to Savannah, and witnesses said the object made little or no noise, was flying low and produced bright red and white light.

Officials at the U.S. Space Command center in Colorado Springs, Colo., said the object was probably part of a Soviet rocket launched July 12. What was visible from the Grand Strand was apparently the second of several parts of a rocket that separated from the main rocket after it was launched, a Space Command spokesman said. Portions of the rocket ignite and separate after they lose fuel before the rocket goes into orbit, he said.

The portion of the rocket seen along the Grand Strand was not a threat to anyone's safety, the spokesman said. The portion that separates burns up before it can reach the ground.

Myrtle Beach resident Leo Martin said he filmed the object as he and his wife were leaving the Myrtle Beach Speedway about 1:20 a.m. Martin, who usually films races at the speedway, had stayed late to talk with friends and was walking through the parking lot when he first noticed the object.

"My wife said, 'Lee, what's that?' I looked, and it was just awesome," he said. "It was coming from the Florence direction, west to east. There were many pieces of metal coming from the flame area; it had a very long tail on it."

The Space Command spokesman said any rockets or satellites that are launched usually will pass over the United States at some time, just as anything sent in space by Americans will eventually pass over Soviet skies. The Space Command is

responsible for knowing about all man-made objects in space and knew the Soviets launched this rocket.

Lloyd Tilmon, a spokesman for the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, said he received numerous calls Monday from people who saw the object. He said the base was not aware of any unusual aircraft in the area over the weekend.

Martin offered to show his film of the object to the Myrtle Beach base, but Tilmon said the Air Force stopped investigating unidentified flying objects about 20 years ago.

A NASA spokesman in Maryland said NASA had not launched any aircraft in the Myrtle Beach area over the weekend.

Robert Gribble of the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle said his office received one call from a person in Charleston who had seen the object. He said his office would have to receive several calls before it would investigate. The UFO Reporting Center is a private organization.

People who saw the glowing object speculated it could be anything from a meteorite to a space shuttle.

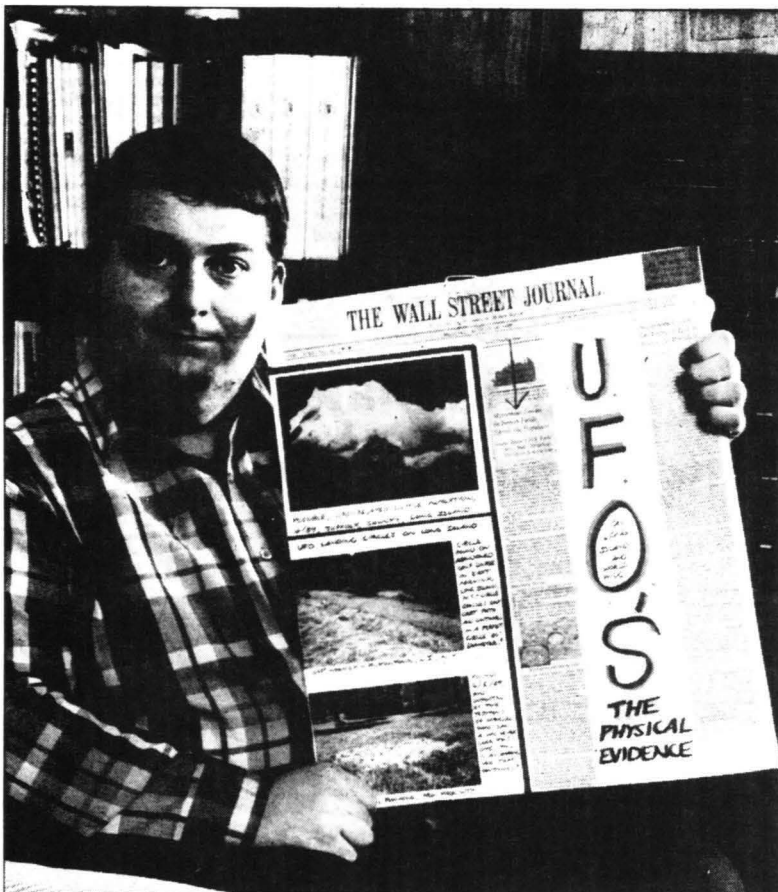
Martin said he doesn't believe it was a meteor because the object was moving on a level plane and appeared to be accompanied by two smaller objects, which appeared to be aircraft.

Surfside Beach resident Tony Culbertson said he was working as a security officer at Grand Strand Amusement Park when he and several others saw the object.

"It was real big," he said. "It had a bunch of lights going down the middle of it. The thing that got us was there was no noise from it. As low as it was flying, it wasn't worried about being seen whatever it was."

Kim Hardee was at the Myrtle Beach Speedway, along with about 150 other people, when she saw the object. She said it could be seen for about a minute and a half.





'Ufologist' Bill Knell with a display, including a Wall Street Journal story, on UFOs.

# UFOs Scope Out The Suburbs

By David Behrens

**N**OW, HERE are some mysteries of the universe:

Why, after spanning thousands of light years, would an alien spacecraft take an interest in a quiet park in Queens or a county fair in Smithtown?

Why would *something* travel so far, only to leave the mere imprint of a landing circle on an abandoned golf course in East Norwich?

And why would any self-respecting saucer position itself over Bill Knell's house on 77th Road in Queens, hovering for a full five minutes last December while its owner snapped a photograph?

Knell doesn't know the answers. But he's been chasing the mysteries of the UFO since he was 9 years old and read Frank Edwards' book "Flying Saucers: Serious Business." Now 33, Knell believes more than ever that strange things are really happening.

Take this year. There have been hundreds of UFO sightings between Brooklyn and Montauk Point since mid-1988, Knell says, and about 70 of them are "probably legitimate," what amateur investigators call "incidents of 'high strangeness,' almost impossible to explain in a natural or man-made way."

Knell broke the news this week at a gathering of local space aficionados at the Pomonok branch library in Queens. His lecture, "UFOs Take Amityville," attracted a number of people who say they too saw flying saucers and

other UFOs not so long ago.

Most of the witnesses seemed quite normal, though the credibility of one intense young man with a beard might have been questioned after he claimed to have invented nuclear, fusion 12 years ago.

The others raised fewer doubts. Paulette Rey, a young musician from Manhattan, told Knell she wrote a tune called "The UFO Song" a year or so ago and saw her first UFO soon afterward.

Knell was not at all surprised. Frank Padilla of Babylon shared his experience of spotting a UFO in the shape of a flying wing, around Christmastime in 1965, near the Throgs Neck Bridge. And an older woman, who spotted a saucer in the New Mexico desert, said she wouldn't tell anyone for years "for fear they'd think I was a real nut."

Knell, a security consultant, wants to hear from these people. Three months ago, he set up a UFO hot line (718) 380-8644 for local sightings. And he has created Island Skywatch, a nonprofit organization designed to recruit people who want to investigate the world of UFOs in the Greater New York area themselves.

For a fee of \$25 a year, members receive a videotape on the history of the UFO controversy, admission to two seminars, four quarterly journals and a monthly newsletter on astral doings. So far, 20 people have signed up, and up to 20 sightings a week are

turning up on the hot line.

Knell, no newcomer in the world of sky-watching, is also the assistant state director of the New York MUFON, acronym for Mutual UFO Network, the oldest and largest group of its kind in the world. After presenting a brief history of UFOs, Knell outlined these details about recent events:

- On June 5, around 9 p.m., the passengers of Bus No. 65 in Queens saw a strange array of lights ("cabin lights," they are called) hovering above a meadow in Kissena Park. Investigators found a 30-foot-wide "landing ring" of dead earth in which nothing will grow, Knell says, "as if all the nutrients were drawn away and sunlight was kept out by an invisible film or shield."
- Last October, a small disk was spotted on the horizon by an amateur photographer who took two quick snapshots. When he rushed to get more film, the disk was gone but a line of dark, mysterious helicopters appeared in the sky. "Dark helicopters often seem to show up after a sighting. . . . We can only assume this is another case of governmental involvement or intervention, for no clear reason," Knell said.
- Many sightings have been reported in the Mount Misery Road area north of the Long Island Expressway on the Nassau-Suffolk border. The American Institute of Physics is near the site. Knell says that his informants believe a UFO project is located in a subterranean area below the building. But, Knell said, "the institute says it's doing no work for the government." He does not believe it.
- Strange sights seem to recur around Shoreham, Rocky Point, Speonk and along the southern shore of Long Island, "the epicenter of sightings."

The "modern era of UFO history" began in 1947, Knell said, when a civilian pilot named Kenneth Arnold sighted five V-shaped objects flying near Mount Rainier in Washington state. Arnold radioed that they looked like inverted saucers, and the phrase was born.

Knell doesn't exactly see conspiracies everywhere, but he's willing to consider the possibility. "We've had government coverups, abduction of witnesses, strange helicopters showing up . . . all pointing to a real phenomenon. I don't think we have a bunch of nuts dreaming up things for forty years. I continue to believe it's true."

Knell's lecture was relegated to a second-floor room off the children's library. After two hours of conspiratorial theorizing, many participants surely were ready to agree that the assignment of a tiny room was no accident — one more conspiratorial move, no doubt, to thwart the study of "ufo-logy," as Knell calls it. //

The Bangor Airport control tower confirms that Rhodes called the next day to report a UFO. A controller told Rhodes that there were no military or commercial planes in the area at the time of the sighting. The controller also said that Bangor had experienced power surges and outages that afternoon.

But a Bangor Hydro Electric official contacted Tuesday said the outages on July 22 and 23 were due to fallen trees on power lines.

Robert Gribble, director of the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center, which receives an average of about six sighting reports daily, said about 90 percent of the reports turn out to be something else.

"But there's that 8 to 10 percent that aren't identified," he said.

Reiff and Rhodes' encounter with the flying object began at about 3 p.m., Saturday afternoon as the men were in the air headed from Trenton toward Rockland. The sun was out and there were no clouds in sight as the two flew over Blue Hill Bay, Rhodes said. The plane was climbing from 4,500 feet when Rhodes noticed something out of the corner of his eye.

"It looked like a spot on the windshield. At first I thought it was a reflection," he said.

But when he looked around for another plane or something on the ground that might be reflecting light, he could find nothing. Since there were no clouds in the sky and nothing but sea below, it was hard to gauge the distance to the object, Rhodes said. But he guessed it to be about 25 miles off which would have placed it over Bass Harbor or Swans Island. The object appeared to be about 10,000 feet up and was flying directly to the left of the plane, Rhodes said.

"On the intercom system, I calmly asked Bill to look out the window without saying why. He looked and said, 'What is it?'"

After about 15 seconds to 30 seconds, Rhodes said, the object moved very quickly from what he described as a 9 o'clock position in relation to the plane, to 11 o'clock and stopped in midair.

"Bill kept on saying, 'What is it?' I said, 'If I was going to venture a guess, I'd say it's a UFO,'" Rhodes explained.

The object then moved again directly in front of the plane, and began to turn a dull red color, he said.

"It got really small and just disappeared," Rhodes said.

The whole encounter lasted about two and a half minutes, he said.

Later when the two men were leaving the Trenton airport, they heard on the radio that just about the same time they had seen the object, the Bangor area had experienced unexplained power surges.

"It wasn't like one of those things you constantly talk about," said Rhodes. "We were both sort of in shock."

Reiff, whose sister is a space physicist at Rice University, says he doesn't really believe in UFOs.

"We spend too much time looking for life on other planets to miss it over Swans Island," he said.

Still he can't explain what he saw from his plane.

"I'm the last guy in the world to have ever noticed anything like this," he said. "But I don't exactly know what this was. I'm generally familiar with what planes look like and this was not one."

Rhodes said this is not the first time he has seen what appears to be a UFO. He told of seeing similar objects once before over Somersville and over Bangor during a night flight. Since his experience last week, he said he has talked with area fishermen who described similar sightings.

"I do not think we are the only creatures in the cosmos," he said.

Rhodes hopes that anyone else who has seen similar objects will call the UFO reporting center at (206) 722-3000.

## Pilots report UFO sighting

by Polly Saltonstall

**SWANS ISLAND** — Two pilots flying over Blue Hill Bay last week say they saw what appeared to be an unidentified flying object somewhere over Swans Island or Bass Harbor.

"I've got 4,500 hours flying time as a commercial pilot and I've never seen anything like this during the day," said Randy Rhodes of Bass Harbor who was flying with Somersville lawyer Bill Reiff when the two sighted the object Saturday afternoon, July 22.

"I've gone over 1,000 times in my mind what this could be and I came up with a blank," Rhodes said.

Rhodes and Reiff described the object as a metallic, oblong-shaped disk. Rhodes was able to observe it more closely than Reiff who was flying the four-seat Beechcraft. He said the most unusual aspect of the thing was that it would move extremely quickly in one direction, stop, then move again.

TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, VA - Oct. 9, 1989

## Were those UFOs or aircraft?

**WYTHEVILLE (UPI)** — Many residents say some of the 3,000 unidentified flying objects seen over Wythe County since 1987 were probably military aircraft, but some people at a UFO conference held in Wytheville over the weekend think they may have been something else.

The conference was called to try to determine what has been seen over this rural, mountainous county of 26,000 about 75 miles southwest of Roanoke.

The 3,000 sightings have made Wythe County the UFO capital of the world, said conference organizer Danny Gordon, who said he has seen unidentified flying objects 43 times, including one that paced his car at 25 mph.

The sightings began in October 1987 and during the next few weeks dozens more were reported.

The mystery appeared to be solved when a technical sergeant with the Tennessee Air National Guard said the people in Wytheville had been seeing in-air refueling of planes on training flights.

But a skeptical Gordon said that when he called a base commander to confirm that report, the officer told him the planes do not refuel below 18,000 feet and that what people saw could not have been his planes.

Gordon does not doubt that some of the UFOs were military planes refueling, but that doesn't answer all

the questions, he said at the conference Saturday.

Another participant said he saw a UFO in October 1988.

"We watched this flying object coming toward us," said Roger Hall, 50, who makes parts for sawmill equipment. "It was a large, silent thing. We stood there and watched it fly by. It was less than 1,000 feet off the ground and maybe 1,500 feet out, and it wasn't making any noise."

Hall, who is a pilot and a friend of Gordon, said it was unlike anything he had ever seen before.

The conference, which was held at Wytheville Community College and attended by about 100 people, is the last Gordon will hold "unless we have a landing or something," he said.

# Witnesses doubt UFO explanation

By GREG BARRETT  
Staff Writer

A 34-year-old security supervisor was sitting alone in his living room around 1:30 a.m. Sunday when he saw a large, very bright, object flying slow across Hilton Head's sky.

What he at first thought was a commercial airliner in trouble was actually an unidentified flying object.

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Department received several calls

'I've seen many meteor showers, and what I saw wasn't any kind of meteor shower.'

## Witness

early Sunday morning concerning the mysterious objects sailing through the sky. Some people have dismissed the UFO sighting as a meteor shower that broke up and burned.

That explanation didn't fly with everyone.

"As a teenager I studied a lot of astronomy," the security supervisor, who wished to remain anonymous, said. "I've seen many meteor showers, and what I saw wasn't any kind of meteor shower."

He described it as being the length of a football field, oblong shaped and fully illuminated with one large window on one side. He said it had a grayish metallic back end and was moving at about 20

mph.

"The most amazing thing to me was that there was no engine noise," he said. "It floated along like a kite or a feather."

At first, he said, he dismissed the phenomenon as a blimp or a commercial aircraft in distress, but as it got closer he said he knew it was no kind of aircraft he had ever seen.

As the object moved from Gumtree Road towards Highway 278, the supervisor said he got a good view of it for nearly five minutes before it picked up speed and disappeared into a streak of light.

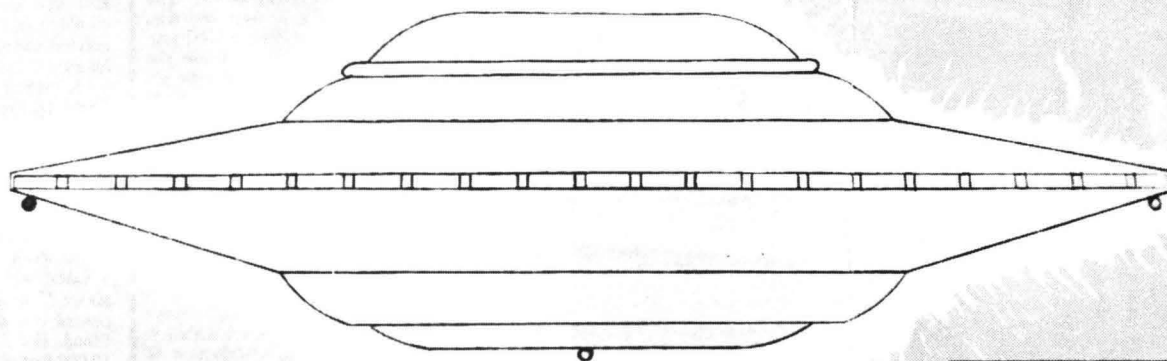
He woke up his wife, who saw the object make its exit, and then called

the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department.

"I don't care if anyone believes me or not," the supervisor said. "I just think it's fascinating that something so big could move along so quietly. I don't doubt that it can somehow be explained by government testing or something, but one thing's for sure; it wasn't a meteor shower."

HILTON HEAD NEWS,  
Hilton Head Island, SC  
July 20, 1989

# East County U.F.O.s



## Encounters close to home highlighted at group's meetings

by ROBIN FRANZEN  
of The Outlook staff

Michael Patterson, a 33-year-old Wood Village artist and musician, had no reason to believe that aliens from outer space were visiting East Multnomah County until he and two companions had a dramatic close encounter with a UFO late last year.

The incident, which turned Patterson's previous views upside down, took place on Oct. 20 around 7:35 p.m. About that time, Patterson, who had been inside the house playing his synthesizer, went outside to greet his girlfriend Theresa and her daughter after hearing their car pull into the driveway.

Patterson acknowledges that what he and his companions claim to have seen next could shock some people. He says they saw an ominous-looking, aluminum-colored disk that was about 30 feet in diameter and was hovering roughly 20 feet over the Wood Village house.

"At first it was totally dark. But then red and green lights came on," Patterson says, recalling how they flashed in a counter-clockwise direction.

Neither Patterson, Theresa nor her daughter doubted for a moment that what they were witnessing was unearthly. Right after their sighting, they went inside to confer about what they saw, leading Michael to paint a picture depicting the bewildering craft.

"I'm not exactly saying that they were extraterrestrials," Patterson says. "But it couldn't have been one of our craft."

The craft, Patterson says, was "technologically humbling" and never moved at more than 3 mph. Nor did it offer any views of the beings presumed inside.

"Psychically, it told us not to be afraid," Patterson says. "It told us we were seeing a UFO and that we weren't going to be hurt. They loved us."

Not too long after the incident, Patterson heard about the Portland UFO Group (called PUFUG) and decided to attend a meeting.

Patterson says that while his intent was to listen — "I thought, of course, everyone is going to think I'm crazy if I talk about this stuff" — he eventually ended up telling his unusual tale and learning that several other people in the area also claimed to have seen the same UFO.

"I think while the stigma of insanity may keep some people from talking," Patterson says, "at every meeting someone comes for-

ward with something new."

The group, which started out last April with nine people meeting in a Gresham bank, grew quickly.

Jennifer Brown-Jacobs, 42, the founder, says because of the great amount of interest, the group was forced to move to a larger location, Ashley's restaurant in Gresham, and then to a rented space at Mt. Hood Community College.

Most of the meetings have dealt with varied aspects of the UFO phenomena, ranging from mere sightings to strangely bloodless animal mutilations, human abduction by aliens and missing time. Recently, the group also has looked into what members believe may be related issues, including life-after-death experiences.

"I've always taken it for granted that we aren't the only beings in the universe," Brown-Jacobs, a Portlander, says of the subject, noting that her belief in UFOs stems from a belief in a supreme being.

One of PUFUG's most recent meetings attracted nearly 200 guests, Brown-Jacobs says, including businessmen, engineers,

scientists and homemakers — many people who say they have had either direct or indirect contact with beings from other worlds.

The goal of the meetings, Brown-Jacobs says, is to simply present information about UFOs that might not otherwise get to the public, not to try to strong-arm people into new beliefs.

"There are a lot of people who come because they are curious," Brown-Jacobs says. "And the other people, I don't have to convince."

What started it all for Brown-Jacobs, a former advertising businesswoman and mother, occurred in 1981. She says that while near White Sands, N.M., she saw what appeared to be a large transport plane hovering over the highway.

"But then I realized that there was no sound," she says. Realizing that such a feat was impossible — at least in terms of Earth technology — Brown-Jacobs recalls: "All I wanted to know was what in the heck I saw."

Ardath Miller, 64, a semi-retired real



Top: Michael Patterson drew from memory a picture of a UFO he and his girlfriend and her daughter sighted. Above: Many people have reported seeing alien beings resembling this drawing.

estate agent from Gresham who is involved with PUFUG, says she has studied UFOs and other supernatural phenomena intently since 1976. That was the year she says she was contacted at her home in California by "higher beings" while in a half-dream, half-awakened state and told to travel to a distant city and help an elderly woman in trouble.

Although her husband sleeping beside her appeared unaware, Miller, a religious woman who often refers to the book "The Bible and Flying Saucers," says a bright light flooded her bedroom and she heard what she describes as a "host of heavenly angels."

Despite the objections of her husband, Miller carried out the mission as instructed by the "voices." She traveled to Landers, Calif., and saved the elderly woman from intruders who were holding her hostage in an attempt to get her to sign over a piece of desert property to them.

It turned out, Miller says, that the property was the site of the "Integrator," an alleged rejuvenation machine that she believes was built by humans under the guidance of aliens. Miller and others believe the Integrator is a time-travel machine.

Although group members who reclined and chatted about UFOs on Brown-Jacobs' circular velvet couch disagreed on certain aspects of the phenomena, some members believe that aliens could belong to organized federations charged with exploring and/or exploiting the universe, could have stations



Jennifer Brown-Jacobs, left, and Ardath Miller are active members of the UFO Group that meets at Mt. Hood Community College.

Staff photo by Steve Gibbons

(continued on page 7)



located within our solar system and could operate from beneath the Earth's surface.

Like humans, there are both "good" and "bad" aliens, who can alter their appearances at will, group members say. Another theory is that the star of Bethlehem was a really a UFO and that many other tales in the Bible refer, albeit indirectly, to alien encounters.

Brown-Jacobs, Patterson and Miller, who as a group appear to be sure of their convictions, are all convinced that the U.S. government has perpetrated a widescale coverup to discount the possibility of alien contact.

"That is my only gripe," Patterson says. "It's obvious that there has been a coverup. The government can't admit that there are UFOs because it would also have to admit

that it has no way to control them. But this is part of our national history."

Although authorities claim that no hard evidence exists to support the notion that alien beings are visiting Earth — despite PUFOP's contention that as many as 200 UFO sightings are reported every day worldwide — Miller says the government is only trying to protect national security.

"If anyone has sent them any hard evidence as verification," she says, "they never see it again."

For PUFOP members, UFOs fall more in the realm of certainty than uncertainty. Concludes Brown-Jacobs: "That there are people on other planets is a logical, realistic way to look at life. Why are we so egotistical to believe that we are the only ones in the universe?"

## Woman makes use of 'advanced intuition'

Ardath Miller's strange UFO experience of 1976 was just another incident in a long string of unusual happenings that have taken place around her since she was a child.

Most people would call Miller a "psychic," but she prefers to refer to her power as "advanced intuition." Whatever you call it, as a child growing up in rural Nebraska, her uncanny abilities allowed her to predict the future, and in some cases, she says, even influence it.

"As early as the first grade in school, I knew what the teacher was going to tell us to do before she told us," Miller, a 64-year-old Gresham resident and semi-retired real estate agent, says. "... And, if I wanted something really bad, like my grandma to come and visit, I would just think about it and it would happen. I just thought I was wishing."

Today her unusual powers have led to her participation in searches for missing persons and murder victims. Although Miller says she has worked with such authorities as the Sacramento attorney general to solve cases, so far, she says the Gresham Police Department has not taken advantage of her offer of aid.

Although Miller willingly admits that not everyone

believes in the supernatural, she spoke of her bent toward the unknown candidly. "What I do is go inside myself — into either a sleep or a trance — and ask for information that could help us," says Miller, who wears a crystal necklace that she believes is a conduit to a higher power. "It is really simple, but it doesn't seem simple."

Other facets of her psychic nature, she says, include being able to twist silverware with her mind power, to lead seances and to guide clients on time-lapse regressions through their own past lives. She also is a believer in numerology, and astrology.

A publication entitled The National Spiritualist describes a case in 1982 when Miller contacted the spirit of a woman who had died in California's LeBaron Hotel of a fatal mixture of alcohol and drugs. According to the publication, Miller was able to learn from the spirit that the death was not an intentional suicide, easing the mind of her grieving parents.

Miller, who holds numerous volunteer positions in Gresham, never charges for her spiritual services and believes that her abilities are divine in nature, given to her as a gift from a supreme being.

"If I didn't believe that it came from a power of good, I wouldn't do it at all," she says.



Ardath Miller of Gresham has been aware of her special abilities since she was a child. Staff photo by Steve Gibbons

## TV show host toasts five years

By Jennifer Burry  
Staff writer

Dr. Franklin Ruehle intends to put Glendale on the map.

Celebrating his fifth anniversary Thursday on cable television, the host, producer, creator, writer, director, researcher and financier of "Mysteries Beyond the Other Dimension," said he intends to have a weekly viewing audience of one billion by 2015.

"I hope my show, if nothing else, is intriguing and fast paced," said Ruehle, refusing to divulge his age, saying, "That's top secret information."

However, he readily makes known his marital status, saying, "I'm single, looking for an intelligent alien."

With a bachelor of science, master's and doctorate in physics from the University of California at Los Angeles, Ruehle, contends there is scientific evidence for extraterrestrial life.

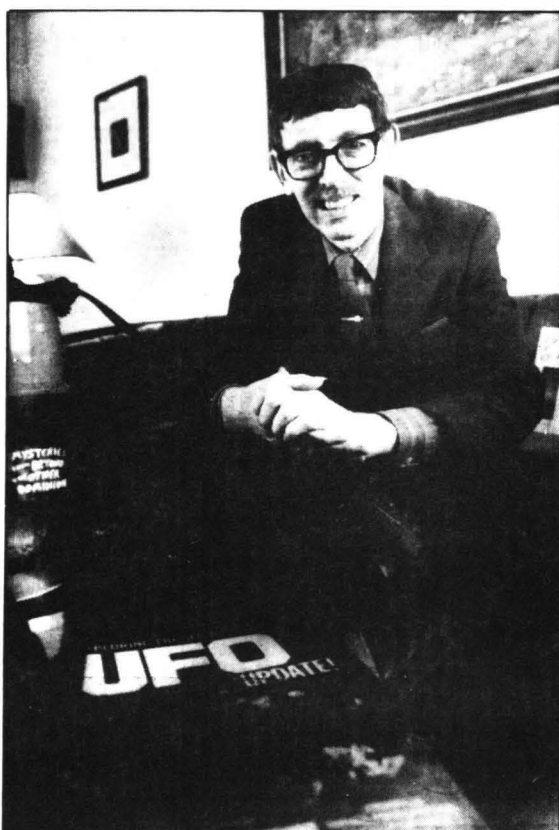
"There are too many quacks in the field saying the aliens are coming here to save us," Ruehle said.

One of Ruehle's biggest arguments for other life forms in the universe is the enormity of it. He said there are at least 400 septillion, or a billion-trillion, planets in our island universe alone and possibly 200 septillion moons that could harbor life.

"How can anyone say we are alone in the universe in the face of those numbers," said Ruehle who is making his third appearance on the Pat Sajak show Wednesday (today).

Additionally, he said, there are life forms on earth that have adapted to normally unlivable environments, supporting his theory that there may be life forms on other planets.

These include the five-foot long red headed worms that exist in 600 degree fahrenheit



Roger Wilson, staff photographer

Dr. Franklin Ruehle with a few models and articles he wrote.

temperatures, feeding off hydrosulfide. There are also dollar-size orange clams in Santa Monica Bay that feast on inorganic cyanide.

Ruehle also said the U.S. Air Force project Blue Book, which documented UFO reports from 1952 to 1969, released conservative figures of the number of UFO sightings. He said there are more than 80,000 legitimate documented cases of UFO sightings and probably 20 percent more that go unreported.

He said he hears about many of these unreported sightings firsthand when he lectures to scientists at aerospace firms like Lockheed and McDonnell

Douglas.

"Scientists will come up to me and tell me about UFO sightings they have had," he said, adding that when he asks them document their stories, they never comply.

However, the UFO isn't Ruehle's only area of interest and isn't the only thing talked about on his 30 minute cable show, which broadcasts on Valley Cable's channel 65 at 9 p.m. Saturday, United Cable's channel 45 at 5 p.m. Thursday and King Cable's channel 14 at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

In fact, one of the topics Ruehle will cover in his fifth anniversary show is the truth about Robin Hood, who

NORTHWESTERN, Oshkosh, WI - Aug. 10, 1989

## UFO scares fishermen

By DOUG ZELLMER  
of the Northwestern

Karen Sazama's tale is no fish story as far as the Milwaukee resident is concerned.

Sazama got the scare of her life this morning, and it wasn't something she found on the end of her fishing hook.

At 3:30 a.m. on waters near Omro, Sazama saw what she believes was an unidentified flying object.

Sazama said she told her companion, Gary Michael Frye, something funny was going on after the pair saw a light in the sky.

"It was a glowing light, an orangish-reddish light," said Sazama, who was fishing with Frye in a boat. "I really got scared out there. I was looking for a place to hide in the boat."

Sazama said the light stayed in the sky from 20 to 25 minutes before it disappeared.

"The fish weren't even biting," Sazama said. "We got nothing for fish, not even a bite. I told Mike 'I think the lights had something to do with it.'"

Frye said the couple rented a boat from George's Bait Shop near Omro at 7 p.m. Wednesday for a night of fishing.

He said the pair could see the stars under a clear and calm night.

Frye said they fished "all over the place," but when the odd looking light appeared he is sure it was a UFO.

"Yes, I would say it was a UFO. It was something I had never saw before. I do believe in UFOs," Frye said. "(Light) was bigger than a star. It was falling, but not very fast."

The couple reported their sighting to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department at about 8 o'clock this morning. A deputy came out and took a report.

Sazama felt the sighting should be reported so others know what to expect.

George Wilz, owner of George's Bait Shop, said this is the first time anyone ever reported an unusual sighting to him.

"I know (Sazama) was all shook up," Wilz said. "To me it's kind of serious."

But did the lights scare off the pair so they will never return to Winnebago County to fish again?

"I don't think this will prevent us from coming back again," Sazama said. "I just hope we don't see any more lights like that again."

CR: R. Heiden/COUD-I

# 35 witnesses spot UFO Over Pensacola

On Tuesday, September 12, at 7:55 p.m., 35 people, including 12 MUFON investigators, while at a meeting at the Unity Church on 9th Avenue, sighted a red glowing object in the sky.

At first the object moved from east to west toward the church. At that time the red glow was at its closest and in range of the 110 camera used to take two photos. The red glow was elliptical, hovered for several minutes in a boiling motion with no noise, then began to ascend toward the east.

The first to see the object, Ed Walters called Gary Watson out of the meeting to see then went back for Don Ware, Mufon Eastern Regional Director. Don sent for all 35 people attending the monthly meeting to witness the red object that continued its ascent as the witnesses looked on. The object entered the cloud cover but could still be seen as the clouds moved. Seven minutes into the sighting the red object could no longer be seen, however, a white object was then seen ten degrees farther to the west and moved swiftly toward the west and out of sight in the cloud cover.

The two photos have been turned over to the nationally known

Optical expert, Dr. Bruce MacCabe, and Walter Andrus, international MUFON Director.

"Something was there and we all saw it," said Gary Watson, who saw the object for the entire seven minutes. Gary continued, "It was bright and hovered very still before it began to move up. Most of the other witnesses saw it before, and as it began to enter the cloud cover. I am an experienced MUFON investigator, in fact, I instruct the training course and test the Field Investigator applicants. I saw a true UFO along with the other witnesses and those photos show what I saw."

One thing that is kind of embarrassing is that, out of all those witnesses and 12 investigators, nobody had a 35mm camera. "I normally carry one in my trunk but because of this summer heat I took it out and put it in my office," said Gary Watson. Ed Walters was the only one of the witnesses to have a camera. It was an instamatic with 200 ASA film so the range was pretty limited but that also shows how bright and close the UFO was. "I can now say that I have finally seen a UFO," concluded Watson.

An investigation was begun immediately with a sighting re-

(Above) Blowup of color photo of UFO seen over Pensacola. (Below) After alerting the MUFON members about the UFO, Ed shot these photos of the group watching it ascend out of view.

and Charles Flannigan, Florida State Section MUFON Director.

MUFON investigators research a great many UFO sightings that turn out to be IFOs (Identified Flying Objects) but according to the witnesses, this was the real thing and the photos show that something was there in the skies over Pensacola.

For further information or to report a sighting, call the UFO Hot Line, 477-7777.



Shortly after the lecture started at the Pensacola MUFON meeting on September 12th, I saw Ed Walters come in and excitedly motion for me to come outside. I went to the parking lot and saw a reddish light about 45 degrees above the horizon at an azimuth of about 45 degrees. It appeared stationary and about as bright as the brightest planet. It then began to dim and brighten as if the thin cloud layers were passing in front of it. The clouds were reported to be thin scattered cirrus at 25,000 feet. Five or six minutes later I saw a brighter white light at about 55 degrees above the horizon moving from the direction of the reddish one toward the west northwest. It too was then apparently obscured by clouds. Both lights were not seen simultaneously.

The light in the two photos taken by Ed just before he came in looks to me like the reddish veil with yellowish inner area below the vehicle previously identified by Dr. Bruce MacCabe as type two. A type two vehicle was photographed in Gulf Breeze on January 16 and 26, 1988.

Donald M. Ware  
MUFON State Director

## GF airman sees UFO

By Brett Benson  
Herald Staff Writer

A member of the Grand Forks Air Force Base reported he saw an unidentified flying object early Friday.

Airman 1st Class Kirk Carlson said he was walking to get breakfast about 5:40 a.m. when he spotted three amber lights in the northern sky.

The lights quickly moved to the southeast, Carlson said. "They went right over where I was standing."

The lights moved individually, crisscrossing twice and regrouping before flying out of sight, he said.

"It looked like a meteorite. But it was moving slower than a meteorite, and it lasted way longer than a meteorite," Carlson said the lights stayed in view for about 15 seconds — "just enough to actually get a bearing on what they were."

Carlson also said he discounted a satellite or aircraft as possible explanations. "They crisscrossed too much to be aircraft, for one thing. Plus you would have heard (aircraft)."

Sgt. Annette Snyder of the public information office said the base had no planes in the air at the time.

Grand Forks County Sheriff John Schroeder said his office has received no reports of UFOs recently.

Carlson admitted UFOs are the stuff of debate. "You always read about this in the Enquirer, and you're always kind of wondering if it's true," he said.

But he's certain of what he saw. "I would say they were UFOs. I think that hits it right on the head."

The last reported sighting of a UFO in the area was in August 1984, when several people reported seeing a green and white object that zipped back and forth in the sky near Thief River Falls.

HERALD, Grand Forks, ND - Sept. 9, 1989

## 'Squarish' UFO Buzzes Hills?

A large, strangely-shaped metallic object was hovering over Round Valley Mountain early yesterday morning, claim two employees of A.M. Best in Oldwick.

Teresa Drexler of Bangor, Pa., and Lisa Housel of Phillipsburg reported seeing the unidentified flying object while driving to work, between 7:45 and 8 a.m.

Ms. Drexler was heading east on Route 78 when she sighted the object.

"I could see it from five miles away," she said. "At first I thought it was a hot air balloon."

As she drew closer she realized it was not a balloon, but something more bizarre. "It was definitely metal, because the sun was reflecting off it," she said. "It was almost square, but not quite. It was a very different geometrical shape."

It was difficult to estimate how big the object was, she said, but "it looked bigger than an airplane would in the sky."

"I almost wanted to drive to it, to get closer to see what it was," Ms. Drexler said. But she resisted the temptation and continued on to work, where she discovered Ms. Housel had had a similar close encounter on her way to the office.

Ms. Housel was driving on Route 22 in the Jugtown Mountain area when she saw something strange in the sky.

"I thought it was a hot air balloon at first. Then I got closer and it didn't look like one. Then it disappeared," she reported.

She described the hovering object as square-ish, dark and odd-looking.

Clinton Township Police yesterday said they had not had any reports of unidentified flying objects.

"It's like an unsolved mystery," said Ms. Housel. "It gets you thinking."

HUNTERDON CO. DEMOCRAT, Flemington, NJ - Sept. 14, 1989

## Strange lights seen in NE Oklahoma sky

By The Associated Press

Police and residents in northeast Oklahoma say they have no clue to the origin of five strange, colored lights that were spotted hovering over Commerce and Miami late Tuesday.

"I couldn't see any kind of a shape to them at all," Commerce resident Fran Willmert said Tuesday. "But I was looking at them with my eye. I noticed they were changing color and went from red to white to blue."

Ms. Willmert said she saw the lights from her yard and "had never seen anything like that before."

Commerce Police Chief Bob Baine,

who looked at the lights through binoculars and a high-powered telescope, said "they were nothing that looked like an aircraft."

"We don't know what they are. We had received a call about 8:30 p.m. of a UFO around the Brunswick plant and we thought it was a joke," Baine said. "But when officers arrived on the scene they saw what looked what lights that seemed to move in different directions."

Baine said the five lights were in a group of four, with the fifth a short distance from the others.

"Just a few minutes ago I went out

and took a scope and could see them sitting in kind of a pattern," Baine said. "There was nothing that I could specify as any shape. They were like spots or something."

Larry Ruthi, a National Weather Service forecaster at Norman, said a check of area reporting stations indicated no unusual atmospheric conditions that might explain the sightings.

Ruthi said he contacted a weather office in Tulsa and the Central Weather Service Unit in Fort Worth, Texas, and both reported nothing unusual happening in that part of Oklahoma.

"An auroral display should have been visible over a larger area than just Miami," Ruthi said. "Frankly, I'm at a loss as to what they're seeing."

A dispatcher with the Ottawa County sheriff's office in Miami, also said county officers in the field reported seeing "strange lights."

"We thought it was just a hoax but apparently it is real because I've got at

least three, maybe four city units and one of my county units that have seen the lights."

The dispatcher, who asked not to be identified, said the lights were first reported in Miami and then moved north in the county to between Commerce and Cardin, near the Kansas border.

The dispatcher said county officers also described the lights as turning different colors.





SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England

Sept. 25, 1989 CR: T. Good

## 'Diamond' UFOs alert

UFO researchers were flooded with calls after the latest in a series of unexplained sightings baffled South East Essex stargazers.

East Anglian UFO Society chairman Ray West said everything went potty on Friday night as sky-watchers reported a series of red, white and green objects circling the night sky. Calls came in from Laindon, Basildon and surrounding areas after the strange objects were seen.

People stopping their cars, gazing for more than half an hour at the diamond-shaped objects.

One Basildon eye witness took a video of the objects and will hand over the tape to the UFO society.

Another Laindon family reported one of the objects flying low. It was diamond-shaped with flashing lights.

Mr West urges anyone who saw strange objects on Friday night to contact Basildon 286079.

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - Oct. 11, 1989

## Today's Soviet report: 3-eyed alien

UFO sightings aren't new to the Soviet Union, but they're getting in the media under *glasnost*, experts say.

The Communist Party newspaper *Sovetskaya Kultura* Tuesday added to the Tass news agency's Monday report of a close encounter in Voronezh. *Kultura* said a three-eyed alien with a robot sidekick landed by UFO and made a boy vanish by zapping him with a pistol.

Tass reporter Vladimir Lebedev told United Press International he did not see the close encounter but interviewed "about 10" youngsters for his report. He said he heard of three landings in September, the last on Sept. 27.

Princeton University Soviet expert Stephen Cohen said the reports resemble 1950s UFO sightings in the USA.

Cohen said, "They're several decades behind us in cultural life and now they're catching up under *glasnost*," Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of openness.

New York University media specialist Edwin Diamond said the reports reflect longtime interests of the Soviets, noting, "There's a certain peasant strain of belief in the supernatural."

— Vincent Willmore

TIMES & WORLD NEWS, Roanoke, VA - Oct. 10, 1989

## UFO saucer is Soviet cup of tea

Associated Press

MOSCOW — It was a close encounter of the communist kind.

Towering, tiny-headed humanoids from outer space landed their UFO in the Russian city of Voronezh and emerged for a promenade around the park, spreading fear among residents.

At least that's what the official Tass news agency said Monday.

Tass, contributing to a string of weird tales that have crept into the formerly stuffy state-controlled media in recent months, said in a straight-faced report that Soviet scientists vouched for the UFO's landing.

"Scientists have confirmed that an unidentified flying object recently landed in a park in the Russian city of Voronezh," Tass said. "They have also identified the landing site and found traces of aliens who made a short promenade about the park."

A Tass duty officer, contacted Monday evening by telephone, refused to identify the reporter who sent the dispatch from Voronezh, but stood by the story. "It is not April Fool's today," he said.

The Soviet media, unleashed by the Kremlin's policy of *glasnost* — greater openness — feel free now to hype incredible stories that seem more at home in the supermarket tabloids of the West. Recent examples have included other accounts of UFOs, sightings of abominable snowman-type creatures and a tale about a young mystic who goes into

a trance and flies about the cosmos. A rash of mystics and ESP-artists also have invaded state TV.

In Buffalo, N.Y., Paul Kurtz, chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, commented: "We're extremely skeptical of this claim. It's not the first one [in the Soviet media]. There's many. There seems to be a rash of reports, largely uncorroborated."

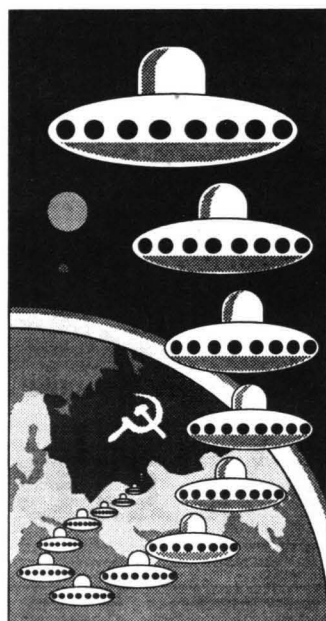
According to Monday's Tass report, a large shining ball or disk was seen hovering over the park by Voronezh residents. They saw the UFO land and up to three creatures similar to humans emerge, accompanied by a small robot, Tass said.

"The aliens were three or even four meters tall [almost 10 feet to slightly more than 13 feet], but with very small heads," the news agency quoted witnesses as saying. "They walked near the ball or disc and then disappeared inside."

The report resembled a story last summer in the daily newspaper *Socialist Industry*, which carried an alleged "close encounter" between a milkmaid and an alien in central Russia's Perm region.

In that report, milkmaid Lyubov Medvedev was quoted as saying she encountered an alien creature "resembling a man, but taller than average with short legs." The creature, she said, had "only a small knob instead of a head."

The Tass report, which did not give the date of the purported "landing" in



KEVIN KRENECK/Staff

Voronezh, said onlookers were "overwhelmed with a fear that lasted for several days."

Genrikh Silanov, head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, told Tass that scientists investigating the UFO report found a 20-yard depression with four deep dents, as well as two pieces of unidentified rocks.

"At first glance, they looked like sandstone of a deep-red color. However, mineralogical analysis has shown that the substance cannot be found on Earth," Tass quoted Silanov as saying. "However, additional tests are needed to reach a more definite conclusion," he said.

Silanov said the landing site and path taken by the aliens was confirmed using the "biolocation" method of tracking. The agency did not explain what that was.

Further confirmation came from witnesses in Voronezh, 300 miles southeast of Moscow, who were not told of the experiments and whose accounts coincided precisely with the scientific findings, Tass said.

In July, Tass deflated a report in *Socialist Industry* quoting a UFO specialist, A. Kuzovkin, as saying a 26-foot-wide patch of burned ground near southern Moscow probably was caused by the landing of a UFO.

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

Russians have long been fascinated by the weird and the occult, but formerly they could glean their information only from rumors and underground copies of everything from palmistry guides to books on Eastern mysticism.

The Kremlin's economic reforms, with their emphasis on each enterprise paying its own way, have also given the official press more incentive to cater to readers' tastes in order to increase circulation.

Kurtz's committee has a UFO subcommittee and has been investigating the claim made by Tass.

He said the account "has all the characteristics of science fiction."

Kurtz noted that scientist Silanov says the landing was confirmed by biolocation — "As far as we can tell it's a kind of dowsing. We're very questioning of that. It's hardly a scientific method of testing whether anything's landed or not."

"If this were true," Kurtz remarked, "I think chairman [Mikhail] Gorbachev would call a news conference and proudly announce that, with everybody attempting to get out of the Soviet Union, at long last here are some extraterrestrials in that Union."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 11, 1989

## Soviet UFO reports continue

### Three-eyed alien wields 'pistol,' zaps Soviet teen-ager

BY JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG  
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — A three-eyed alien with a robot sidekick landed by UFO and made a boy vanish by zapping him with a pistol, a Soviet newspaper reported Tuesday, in a second day of strange tales in the state-run media.

But as the bizarre saga of the space invasion of the city of Voronezh unfolded for a second day, a scientist whose words were used to buttress the first published report voiced doubts, and said he was in part misquoted.

"Don't believe all you hear from Tass," Genrikh Silanov, head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, cautioned in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from Voronezh. "We never gave them part of what they published."

On Monday, the usually staid, official Soviet news agency told the world that scientists had confirmed an alien spaceship carrying giant people with tiny heads had touched down in Voronezh, a city of more than 800,000 people about 300 miles southeast of Moscow.

As many as three aliens 13 feet tall left the spacecraft, described as a large shining ball, and walked in the park with a small robot, Tass reported. A Tass duty officer stood by the story. "It is not April Fool's today," he said.

The purported close encounter in Voronezh was only the latest weird tale to appear in the Soviet media, which under the policy of "glasnost" or openness have recently told of other sightings of UFOs and the Yeti, or abominable snowman.

Monday's report spawned rumors in Moscow, including one that the aliens told Voronezh residents the Earth would be destroyed by the

year 2000 if people didn't stop polluting it.

Nonetheless, a Communist Party paper whose avowed mission is to write about culture was the only major national daily to print anything Tuesday about the UFO, indicating more authoritative newspapers like *Pravda* thought the topic too hot to handle.

*Sovetskaya Kultura* said its coverage was motivated by "the golden rule of journalism: the reader must know everything."

"Of course, it's hard to believe in what happened in the town," it reported from Voronezh. "It's even more difficult to explain."

**'Don't believe all you hear from Tass. We never gave them part of what they published.'**

The daily quoted witnesses as saying the UFO flew into Voronezh on Sept. 27. At 6:30 p.m. local time, it said, boys playing soccer saw a pink glow in the sky, then saw a deep red ball about 10 yards in diameter. The ball circled, vanished, then reappeared minutes later and hovered, it said.

A crowd rushed to the site, *Sovetskaya Kultura* said, and through an open hatch people saw a "three-eyed alien" about 10 feet tall, clad in silvery overalls and bronze-colored boots, and wearing a disk on his chest.

The newspaper, quoting witnesses, gave this account:

The UFO landed. Two creatures, one apparently a robot, exited. A boy screamed with fear, but when the alien gazed at him, with eyes shining, he fell silent, unable to move. Onlookers screamed, and the UFO and the creatures disappeared.

About five minutes later,

they reappeared. The alien had a "pistol" — a tube about 20 inches long, which it pointed at an unidentified 16-year-old boy, making him disappear. The alien went inside the sphere, which took off. At the same time, the boy reappeared.

"Children and eyewitnesses of the abnormal phenomenon have been questioned by police workers and journalists," wrote *Sovetskaya Kultura's* Voronezh correspondent, E. Efremov. "There are no discrepancies in the description of the sphere itself, or the actions of the 'aliens.' Moreover, all the children who became witnesses to this event are still afraid, even now."

It gave the names of only three witnesses, all youngsters.

Scientists from a nationwide group that investigates "abnormal phenomena" were looking into the landing, the newspaper said.

Silanov, who said he belongs to the group, cast doubt on the Tass report that quoted him as saying the aliens left behind two rocks resembling sandstone of a deep red color that cannot be found anywhere.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 12, 1989

## Soviet TV airs child's drawing of aliens

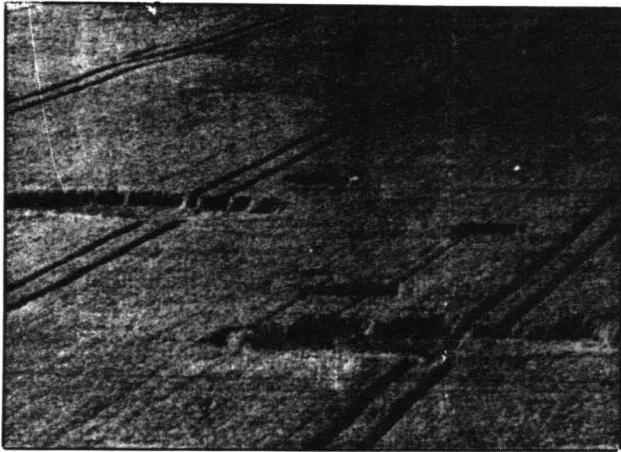
MOSCOW — Soviet TV viewers Wednesday night saw the aliens that created a cosmic sensation with their reported landing in the town of Voronezh — but only in a child's scribbled drawing.

The Soviet nightly news program "Vremya" broadcast a report from Voronezh showing the spot among yellow-leaved birches where, according to the official news agency Tass, scientists confirmed an unearthly craft had touched down.

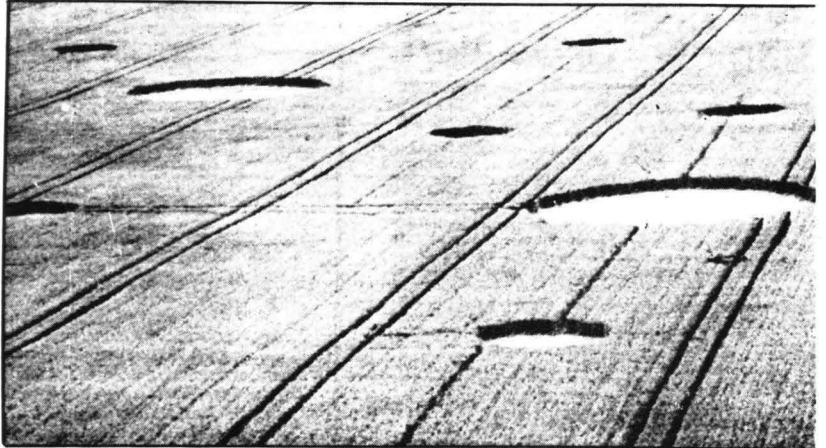
"We were scared," said Vasya Surin, who appeared to be about 11. "It hovered over this tree. Then the door opened and a tall person of about 3 meters looked out. He didn't have a head, or shoulders either. He just had a kind of hump. There he had three eyes, two on each side and one in the middle."

Vasya's picture showed a glowing two-legged sphere with a smiling stick figure inside. (AP)

Curious corn circles are common in this area — but what makes them?



Several corn circles appeared last year at Silbury Hill.



Part of a set of circles that re-appeared near Marlborough. The picture was taken in early July

# They came from outer space...or did they?

"Gosh, Professor, it's out of this world!" Real life imitates science fiction as a series of bizarre, perfectly-formed circles in fields baffle scientists and intrigue amateurs. MARK TUNGATE investigates.

**1986:** Colin Andrews removes a soil sample from one of the mysterious circles which have appeared in crops at Wantage, Oxfordshire.

He seals it in a plastic bag and locks it in his office at Andover.

At exactly 4.15 am the following day, one of the office's alarm systems activates.

All the clocks in the room, both battery and mains operated, stop. It happens at the same time every morning for two weeks, until the sample is removed.

**1987:** One crystal clear morning in September, a Harrier jet leaves an airfield in Surrey on a test flight.

The air traffic control tower at Boscombe Down, Wiltshire, receives a perfectly normal radio message. Moments later, all contact is lost.

An American transport plane spots the jet, heading out towards the Atlantic with an empty cockpit and its canopy ripped away. The ejector seat is still in place.

Later, the pilot's body is found lying near one of the strange circular formations. His jet passed over several of the rings during its flight.

**1989:** More than 200 of the circles have appeared in various locations around the world — a larger number than ever before.

Most of them are in Wiltshire. And they're getting bigger.

If you think this is a plot from a 1950s B-movie pastiche, think again. The events listed above are real and the strange circular indentations have been appearing in crops for years.

They are always perfectly round, with plants flattened neatly in one direction. In Hampshire and Canada 45 ft conifer trees have been squashed like grass under a roller.

Colin Andrews, of the Circles Phenomena Research Group, has been studying the mystery since 1983.

"Over the past four months there has been a major escalation in activity," he said. "And the very centre of it in the world is the area around Avebury, Silbury Hill and Beckhampton."

The latest find is an unprecedented 100 feet across. As journalists and scientists all over the world are gripped by circle fever, Mr Andrews and his team have their own theory about what causes them.

"We have considerable evidence to show that it is an airborne component, a rotating high energy field which is capable of being luminous at night."

But he dismisses the idea of space ships piloted by alien beings.

"We are not talking about a solid object, I'm convinced of that."

Mr Andrews became interested in the circles when he saw a set of five in a Hampshire field.

Intrigued, he joined forces with Pat Delgado, a retired NASA radar expert who had



This 50ft wide ring, thought to be a hoax copying circles that appeared near Warmminster in the previous week, appeared in a field near Wantage during the summer of 1983.



Mystery circles which appeared at a farm on the Devizes/Beckhampton road.

investigated three rings in the same field in 1981.

By now, the pair have published a book called *Circular Evidence* and surrounded themselves with the country's top scientific minds.

Farmers are more sceptical about the rings. One landowner, from Avebury, dismisses them as a practical joke.

"I've seen gates broken down and fences cut," he says. "But you not only have to put up with the pranksters, you get all these scientists traipsing over your land too."

But most people believe the circles are a genuine phenomenon. The Ministry of Defence is interested, and army helicopters regularly buzz the sites.

Dr Terence Meaden, a physicist from Bradford-On-Avon, has a convincing explanation.

He says the circles are caused by high-speed gusts of wind, rather like aircraft slipstreams. They gather electrical charges and then, for reasons as yet unclear, drop to the earth.

"There are several eyewitness reports which back up this theory," he says.

In the latest sighting, a man saw a line of wind rippling across a field. Suddenly it

stood on one end like a spinning top, flattening the corn into a perfect ring.

"All the other witnesses report similar occurrences," says Dr Meaden.

But there are many bizarre facts surrounding the circles which his theory cannot explain. For instance, they seem clustered around ancient monuments.

The Circles Phenomena Research Group has discovered many of them form a precise pattern, shaped like a dartboard, with seven concentric rings and 48 spokes leading out from the centre.

And then there is the business of the slime.

The jelly-like substance, about the size of a chocolate bar, was found inside one of the rings in 1985.

Those who came into contact with it suffered breathing difficulties shortly afterwards. Four years and three laboratories later, it has still not been identified.

"Next year I'm going to drop a Mars Bar in one of the rings and cause a similar uproar," Dr Meaden chuckles.

Meanwhile, weird things keep happening around the circles.

When the BBC interviewed Colin Andrews in the centre of one, sound recording equipment picked up a high pitched whine and £48,000 worth of camera equipment refused to function.

Mr Andrews is convinced his group is on the brink of a major breakthrough.

"We have detected a molecular change in some of the plants inside the circles, and we've asked the Ministry of Agriculture to do tests," he says.

"It ought to take a closer look at them before they enter the food chain."

But the man from the Ministry is unconcerned.

"Farmers do not have to notify us about these things. We have no reason to believe the cereals are affected or are unfit for human consumption."

He lists possible explanations as ancient earthworks or freak whirlwinds.

"That's nonsense," Mr Andrews snorts. "The circles are genuinely increasing in number and size."

"Things are now at the stage where the Government cannot afford to ignore what is happening."

Looking back into mysteries



Cuttings shown above, from the Evening Advertiser over the past few years, talk of circles that have appeared in many parts of this area.



# Tackled a Nullarbor alien

**A desert highway patroller gives graphic details of four mysterious encounters with ETs and tells how they put him in hospital for nine days...**

THE sign sprayed on the roadside shed west of Mundrabilla (WA) says "UFO base Booking Office".

Another sprayer has plastered "Cut rates for Earth" on one wall and all along the highway across the Nullarbor UFO fever has taken off.

The Nullarbor has long been a centre of UFO sightings, but last year two startling incidents brought space visitors zooming back into the headlines.

The Knowles family claimed their car was picked up by a spaceship about 80km from the WA-South Australian border.

Later, an Ansett Pioneer coach was buzzed several times near the same spot, terrifying the driver and passengers.

UFO watchers from all over the world began calling the Mundrabilla motel and roadhouse after the incidents.

Owners Rob and Shirley Lundon now sell T-shirts, shirts, spoons, stubbie holders, car stickers and post cards featuring the UFOs which have brought fame to the outback fly-speck on the map.

Suddenly people who had kept quiet before are no longer reluctant to talk of strange encounters on the plain near Mundrabilla.

Truckies talk in the roadhouse tell about bright lights travelling parallel to them along the highway.

Even sceptics on the highway are wondering.

Allan Stewart, a supervisor with the WA Main Roads Department, doesn't have to wonder.

He swears to no less than four close encounters with craft from other worlds and says that twice he has ended up in hospital after being "zapped" as a warning.

Small dark marks appeared on his shoulder and kidney area after an encounter 12 months ago near Mundrabilla ... an encounter which put him in hospital for nine days.

Doctors were unable to explain the pain he had experienced, or the marks, he said.

"I believe they (the aliens) have a way of probing people. They are definitely watching us."

Allan, 53, has been working the highway for 36 years, watching strange lights and listening to stories from others who have made similar sightings.

The UFOs, usually disc-shaped but sometimes cigar-shaped, vary in colour from blue to pale green.

He has seen one as big as a football field and tiny ones which he believes are scout craft.

His first close encounter was in 1977 on the South Australian side of the border. Although alone in a caravan he heard voices and suddenly found himself away from the van clinging to the leg of a being surrounded by a mist or cloud.

About a year ago he was alone in the MRD camp at Mundrabilla when he woke to find all the pumps going full bore.

He claims truck drivers have told of being pinned to the ground while changing tyres at night.

And of vehicles losing all power as they approached each other.

"People are now less reluctant to talk about their encounters," he said.

"The outback Aborigines know what's going on. They often talk about strange sightings. They have a strong belief in these things."

"I believe these alien beings are concerned about what we are doing to our planet."

SUNDAY PEOPLE, London, England

Sept. 24, 1989

## Enter the Red UFO

ANOTHER Soviet secret is out - that they have UFOs just like us. A painting Russian artist Ramil Latipov made after spotting an alien ship has gone on show near Doncaster.

EVENING ADVERTISER, Swindon, England

Sept. 1, 1989 CR: T. Good

## Circles man jets out

Physicist Dr Terence Meaden, who claims to have unravelled the mystery behind giant circles appearing in corn fields, is off to Japan.

Dr Meaden, from Bradford-on-Avon says the rings, which have been sited all over the world including Silbury Hill near Marlborough, are caused by high-speed gusts of wind.

He says the winds gather electrical charges and, for reasons which are as yet unclear, drop to earth.

Dr Meaden, who has studied circles since 1980 and has written The Circles Effect and its Mysteries, will attend a top three-day conference in Tokyo.

WESTERN INDEPENDENT, Plymouth, England - Aug. 20, 1989 CR: T. Good

# UFO THEORY ON CIRCLES

## Scientists check plane crash links

**MYSTERIOUS corn circles that are appearing throughout the West Country may be a hazard to aircraft, scientists have warned.**

Investigations into the strange circles which are appearing in cereal fields have revealed that they contain a powerful energy.

Colin Andrews who is leading a worldwide investigation of the phenomenon says the circles may already have been responsible for air crashes.

A British Harrier jump-jet aircraft which crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the south coast of Ireland in October, 1987 is one of a growing list of incidents which he believes are connected with corn circles.

Mr Andrews says the Harrier changed its course by a few degrees right over a field with these circles at Winterbourne Stoke, near Warminster, Wiltshire.

### Body

It was there that the pilot, Humphrey Taylor Scott inexplicably left the aircraft along with an inflatable dinghy and a parachute.

The pilot's body was found close to the strange circles.

Mr Andrews, a technical officer for Test Valley Borough Council, Hampshire, says circles were found after another air crash in a field near Whiteparish, Wiltshire.

Circles were also found at the spot where an Army

### by Martin Williams

helicopter crashed at Stockbridge Downs in 1978.

Further investigations by Mr Andrews and his team showed a bizarre power coming from the rings.

Dowsing rods placed at the circles started moving sometimes like the blades of a helicopter, according to fellow scientist, George Wingfield.

"We believe there is a possible connection between the crashes and the circles," said Mr Andrews.

"Certainly with these circles we're looking at a high energy vortex of some kind."

He said they had recorded on video tape strange flashes of light and noise while doing surveillance work at one circle.

### Whirlwinds

The circles have been found in Devon and Cornwall.

South Devon farmer, Roy Matthews found a ring in a field on his East Allington farm.

TV weatherman, Trevor Appleton has rejected sug-



CRASH FACTOR?: The corn circle at Winterbourne Stoke.



COLLECTING SIGHTINGS: UFO researcher Bob Boyd.

gestions that the circles are caused by UFOs insisting that they are caused by mini-whirlwinds.

But Mr Andrews' research has shown that the weather theory is 'ridiculous.'

Plymouth UFO researcher, Bob Boyd, who is now collating corn circle sightings, said: 'The stock answer to the question of the circles is that they are caused by whirlwinds, but they couldn't produce such perfect circles.'

I believe the UFO the-

ory is a more realistic explanation than that.

The Ministry of Defence says it is not concerned about the corn circles and says it knows nothing about reports that the Prime Minister has passed a circles research funding report to the ministry.

"We have no interest in these circles whatsoever," said a spokesman who admitted the ministry knew nothing about worries that they could be a danger to aircraft. 'It's all a load of old rubbish.'



DEVON CIRCLE: Found by farmer Roy Matthews at East Allington.

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

# Was it a bird, a plane or a UFO?

CALLING all UFO-spotters in the Wharfe Valley! Did you see an unidentified object flying over the area in the early hours of Saturday morning?

Bradford ufologist Mr David Barclay said he was contacted by a Yeoman man who said he was driving home at 2.45am on July 15.

The man, who wished to remain unnamed, said he saw a moon-like object flying from the Harrogate area towards Bradford.

Mr Barclay said: "The chap said he could see the moon ahead of him, then he started to wonder what the other light was in the sky."

"It was in the shape of a rugby ball - he knew it wasn't the moon because it he could see the moon over his shoulder in the other direction."

"He tried to follow it but it was too fast for him and it disappeared over the horizon," said Mr Barclay.

"The man is not potty - he's the professional type with a degree. He seemed fairly alarmed by the whole thing and wanted to tell me about it," added Mr Barclay, who appealed to anyone else who may have seen the unidentified object to come forward with information.

"The Wharfe Valley has become some what of a hot spot for this sort of thing. The more publici-

ty we get, the more people come forward with their experiences," said Mr Barclay.

This follows the announcement of the possible inclusion of the North and West Yorkshire districts in the list of regions registered as a "must" for a visit by ufologists internationally.

Anyone with information regarding the Yeoman incident can contact Mr Barclay on Bradford 599477.

A Leeds-Bradford airport spokesman said air traffic control radars did not pick up anything at the time of the alleged incident.

# Youths age 12 to 13 source for UFO story

Gazette Press Services

MOSCOW — A correspondent of the Tass news agency who wrote that an unidentified flying object landed in the city of Voronezh said Tuesday he did not see the landing and interviewed "about 10" youngsters as the source of his report.

The report by correspondent Vladimir Lebedev, transmitted by the official Tass agency on Monday, said tiny-headed aliens up to 13 feet tall terrified the residents of Voronezh when they and a robot escort took nighttime strolls through a park after landing in their UFO.

Lebedev, 59, a 20-year Tass veteran, said he heard of three landings in September with the last on Sept. 27 in the city about 300 miles south of Moscow.

Asked whether he had seen any of the landings, he said, "No," and when asked how he confirmed the story, he said that he spoke to "about 10 youngsters aged 12 to 13."

"No more were needed," he said. Asked whether he believed in the story, Lebedev said, "One wants to believe."

The report about the landing of a UFO is just one of a number of such recent stories about sightings, but unlike the others the supposed



Voronezh sighting has captured the imagination of the country.

As the perestroika liberalization program is shaking the foundations of Soviet society, people looking for something to believe in have gone in big for mysticism, and the current rage is healing seances. One such mystic, Anatoly Kashpirovsky, appears regularly on television. Another, who said he could stop trains, was recently killed

when his attempt failed.

A Tuesday morning television show, a regular program called "120 Minutes," devoted a good portion to the UFO saga with interviews of inhabitants of the ancient Russian city with a population of 86,000.

*Sovietskaya Kultura*, a newspaper, reported Tuesday that the UFO landed on Sept. 27, frightening youngsters who were playing football.

The newspaper, quoting witnesses, gave this account:

The UFO landed. Two creatures, one apparently a robot, got out. A boy screamed with fear, but when the alien gazed at him, with eyes shining, he fell silent, unable to move. Onlookers screamed, and the UFO and the creatures disappeared.

About five minutes later, they reappeared. The alien had a "pistol" — a tube about 20 inches long — which it pointed at an unidentified 16-year-old boy, making him disappear. The alien went inside the sphere, which took off. At the same time, the boy reappeared.

Lebedev, the Tass correspondent, though sticking to his story, said there might have been some make-believe.

## UFO hovers over homes

PORTSMOUTH NEWS, Hants., England - Aug. 17, 1989 CR: T. Good

STRANGE lights in the sky have convinced two Stubbington people there is life on other planets.

Miss Adrienne Mable (18) had just gone to bed on Tuesday night at about 11 p.m. when she heard "a horrendous droning sound". She could not see anything at first but then came a flash of light, which made her think it was a thunderstorm.

That idea quickly vanished when she looked outside to find what she described as a brightly-coloured object with red, blue, green, and white flashing lights. The lights stayed for a minute, but the thundering sound remained for about ten minutes.

Miss Mable, who lives at Nursery Lane, and works for the Inland Revenue, described the object as long, and semi-circular in shape. She said the object flew off but then circled before finally disappearing.

Her boyfriend, Mr. Martin Bedford (20), of Foster Close, said he had seen the lights about five or six times over the past two months.

### First time

"That's what makes me think — if it had been a charter flight I would have heard it before. I do believe there is life on other planets. Why should we be the only ones in the Universe?"

Miss Mable said Tuesday night's incident was the first time she had witnessed anything of that sort.

"I did not believe my boyfriend. I thought he was cracking up. But when I saw those lights, a funny feeling came over me and I thought 'Are we really the only planet that has got life, or are there others?' I think I do believe in them now."

If a UFO landed, Mr. Bedford, a painter and decorator, said he would jump at the chance of hitching an inter-galactic ride, but Miss Mable said: "I would be very frightened. I definitely would not go up in it."

Both added they would be keeping an eye out in the future for more close encounters of the extra-terrestrial kind.

■ A spokesman for Fareham police said they had received no reports of alien activity.

## Russia's fear of flying saucers

By John Harlow

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England - Sept. 25, 1989 CR: T. Good

AS THE Soviet Union modifies its stand against Star Wars, its journalists have come up with another argument for scrapping the American anti-missile system — it could accidentally shoot down a flying saucer.

The latest issue of Soviet Military Review sets out to answer a letter from a Zimbabwean worried that UFOs present a direct threat to peace on earth.

Soviet scientists regard this as a serious problem. They have been studying UFOs at the Moscow Aviation Institute since 1958.

The magazine said it believed that the "lack of information on the characteristics and influence of UFOs increases the threat of incorrect identification."

"The mass transition of UFOs along trajectories close to those of combat missiles could be regarded by computers as an attack."

Military Review notes that in 1960, bombers at an American air base were put on full alert to combat Soviet invaders, which turned out to be nothing more than "radar reflections of the Moon".

"In SDI conditions such incidents could provoke immediate reaction from computers to destroy the targets, say by X-ray laser, which means a powerful nuclear explosion."

The magazine concludes that if an alien is not to be accidentally destroyed, possibly causing an angry backlash by its colleagues "from beyond the stars" more international co-operation is needed.

An American Embassy official said: "It is a novel argument. I am sure the White House will take it on board in future negotiations."

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY TIMES, Horsham, England - Aug. 11, 1989 CR: T. Good

# Opinions vary over UFO stir

MIXED reaction has greeted the UFO sightings which caused such a stir in the Horsham area last week.

Unidentified Flying Objects were reported from locations around Godalming in Surrey, Rudgwick and by a family in Copsale, near Horsham.

All reported a large white light with a series of lights around the edge sighted during the late evening of Saturday, July 29.

Surrey police were inundated with calls but said the UFO's were, in fact, nothing more than a laser show at a party in Godalming but as there was a lot of low cloud the lower half of the beam wasn't visible, hence the UFO effect.

But Kevin Phillips-Hill, called by neighbour Jim Chambers, of the Ghyll House Farm Estate at Copsale, to witness the phenomenon, was adamant, as he told the County Times last week: "Nothing anyone can say will convince me that it wasn't a UFO."

And the reports and descriptions reminded Raymond Webb, of East Street, Ruspur, of a similar experience he had in Essex when working as a minicab driver in 1977.

"The circumstances were identical," he said.

He had two passengers in his car at the time. They stopped the car for a closer look at the UFO by a large quarry area.

This time visibility was "very, very good," and they could clearly see a large white light with others circling it.

Mr Webb said.

"The woman was scared and asked her husband to get in the car."

He said it remained constant for about five or ten minutes then started moving, disappearing then appearing again about ten minutes later some distance away.

Of the latest sighting Mr Webb said: "It is the description of the lights that is an exact parallel of what I saw and the way the things behaved is the same."

He and his passengers reported it separately to the police.

### Practical joke

"They thought it was a practical joke," Mr Webb said, but pointed out that in 1977 there were no laser lights around to offer as an explanation.

But someone who is convinced the laser lights explanation is the correct one for the most recent sightings is Frances Elworthy, of Toat Lane, Pulborough, who was with her family and neighbours.

She said: "We also saw this sight and the lights were, as it appeared, above cloud level."

But Mrs Elworthy said they got some binoculars "and then you could see there was a beam going up".

She had originally reported it to the police before seeing the beam and again afterwards when they told her they had been in touch with Gatwick Airport and been told there was "nothing" on the radar screen.

So there you have it. UFOs or not UFOs? According to some that still remains the question.

NORTON & RADSTOCK STAR, England - Aug. 2, 1989 CR: T. Good

## UFO sighting by mum

A MIDSOMER NORTON mother is convinced she saw an unidentified flying object hover outside her bedroom window.

The sighting came days after rings, discovered pressed in a Wiltshire field, baffled scientists.

Julie Chant, 26, of Greenhill Road, was putting her baby, Michael, to bed at 10.15 pm when she was distracted by the glow of what she claims was an UFO.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing so I told my husband, Richard, to come upstairs. He rushed up and saw exactly what I saw."

"There was a distinct humming sound, not possibly that of a helicopter, and there were four very

bright white lights in the front of the object. I could not identify what it was because I had never seen anything like it before."

Radstock police are treating the incident with an open mind and urge any further similar sightings to be reported immediately.

"We have made a note of the incident and are interested in further reports," said Sergeant Martin Purchase.

Mr Chard, 22, and a neighbour, Heather Hardyman, watched the object for about 20 minutes before it disappeared into the trees at the end of the road.

The object was dome-shaped with a flashing red light on top. It had no wings, but the body emitted an amber glow.

Mrs Chant will keep binoculars and a camera in her bedroom in case the object reappears.

"To be honest, I was fascinated by it. The object lit up edge of the street and seemed to hover for ages without ever landing," she said.

"I am very surprised to hear of this incident," a spokesman for the air show said. "We did have have planes flying about late at night, but nothing that fits Mrs Chant's description."

Mrs Chant's mother said she had seen an unidentified flying object in the sky over Midsomer Norton four years ago.

ADSCENE, Canterbury, Kent, England - June 9, 1989

# Looking for U.F.O.s

ABOUT four weeks ago you very kindly printed a letter for us, and we say thank you very much indeed - the response was great.

We are now looking for witnesses to these events in the following areas:

Christmas 1988 around the coast guard station at Deal - a large disc with a number of lights underneath slowly coasting over the houses lighting up the surrounding area.

Saltwood area - a bright blue/white light around Castle Road area at about 1am, emitting a sound light a large electrical spark was seen in November last year.

Kingsnorth/Ashford area late October 1988 - a UFO in the Riverside Close area and Ashford. A large disc was extremely low over these areas between 500 and 30ft off the ground, with a silver body and lights underneath - circular in shape approximately 10ft in diameter.

Charing Cross/London - we would like more witnesses to come forward about a UFO at or over

the railway station at 6.15pm on 8 April. A number of people travel this line into Folkestone.

Maidstone/Charing in February 1989 - a very large object exploded in the sky at Charing or nearby at about 6pm. There was a lot of traffic on the road at the time.

Maidstone/Bimam Square on 20 February 1989 - an oval object whitish/yellow and red in colour with no sound but controlled movement up high then very low at about 6.40pm.

The UFO stayed in the area for approximately 10 minutes, and was about the size of a large dinner plate.

Kingsdown/Deal on 7 April 1989 - the shape of a low crowned bowler hat, silver in colour with no sound. This lasted for about 4 minutes at 11am in the morning.

These are just a few of the reports that I have received in the south of Kent and in the northern part reports are still coming in by phone and letter. We would like more people to come forward who saw these events, and contact me on 0679 205999.

John Robson, Sunset Cottage, New Street, Lydd.

## Silver UFO still around

THE silver disc with accompanying orange lights is still floating around the Southend area.

UFO researchers have had four more reported sightings.

The noiseless object in one sighting had the orange lights flashing in a circle round it.

There have now been more than a dozen separate reports. If anyone else saw the disc they are asked to contact the UFO hotline on Basildon 286079.

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England July 10, 1989

CR: T. Good

CR: T. Good



# SAM SNAPS A BIG SURPRISE

## Holiday photos reveal a UFO

STUDENT Sam Gangat was really spaced out with shock when he looked at a film he'd just had printed.

It's not a bird, nor a plane ... but it could just be a flying saucer!

This exclusive photograph was snapped by the Leicester student while he was on holiday in France.

It has baffled UFO experts and scientists while exciting others who believe that it could provide the best evidence yet that we are not alone.

Sam, of Ashleigh Road, Leicester, took the mysterious photo while on holiday in Savoy.

"I was taking shots of the mountains and valleys and it was only some time later when I had the film developed that I noticed the flying object," said 19-year-old Sam.

"It must have been travelling at speed or was so far away that I didn't notice it at the time.

"I had always believed there could be life-form on other planets. Having seen the photo blown-up I'm quite sure there must be and this could be one of their spacecrafts."

The photograph is now being examined by the British UFO Research Association.

One of their members, Clive Potter, a leading British UFO expert, said: "It will remain a mystery for some time until all the exhaustive tests are carried out. But the object is very clearly defined, with the sun casting a shadow underneath the main body, suggesting there was an object in the sky when the photograph was taken."

"If this can be established through the tests as a fact, then it will provide exciting and startling evidence into the theory that aliens do visit Earth in space crafts. Perhaps a case of 'plane it again, Sam'?"

WAKEFIELD EXPRESS, Yorkshire, England - Sept. 22, 1989 CR: T. Good

## Orchid smuggler in UFO event

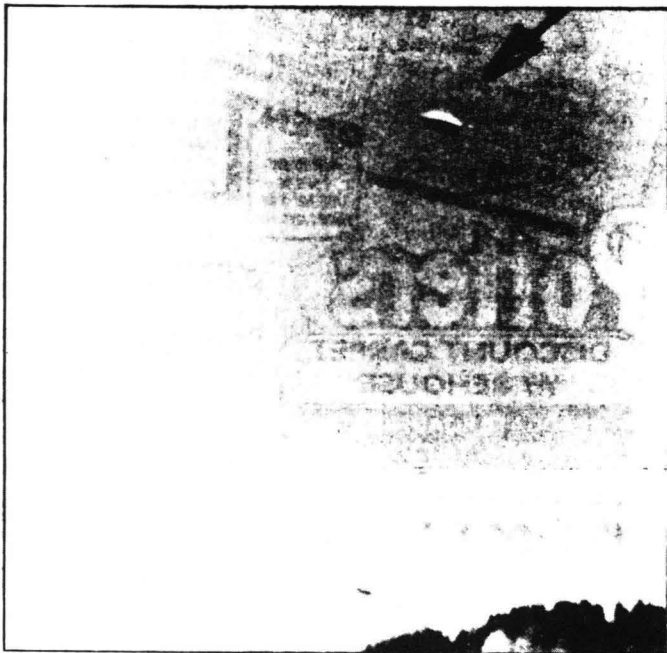
FORMER diplomat for Iran Dr Henry Azadehdel, who earlier this year served a prison sentence for smuggling rare orchids worth thousands of pounds, will be among the top UFO experts visiting Ossett Town Hall tomorrow.

Dr Azadehdel was fined £10,000, and jailed for 12 months at the Old Bailey in June after selling orchids worth £250,000 on the black market.

Eight months of the sentence were suspended and Dr Azadehdel was in prison for three months before being released recently.

A spokesman for the Yorkshire UFO Society who are involved in organising the UFO conference at Ossett tomorrow said: "We have dealt with Dr Azadehdel for a long long time and he is widely acclaimed as a leading authority on UFOs."

"The orchids case has nothing to do with this conference. Dr Azadehdel is a well respected man and he freely admitted the charges brought against him."



Sam's dramatic holiday snap of the Alps with the UFO arrowed

DAILY MAIL, Hull, England - July 29, 1989 CR: T. Good

## Cornfield mystery baffles villagers



Mrs Dorothy Thompson pictured beside the mysterious depression.

A PERFECTLY-formed circle of flattened crops in a cornfield has got residents guessing in a sleepy little North Humberside village.

The mystery circle has provoked much scratching of heads at the nearby Hope and Anchor Pub in Blacktoft, near Goole. Explanations put forward by customers range from some sort of natural phenomenon to a nocturnal visit by a space craft.

"I won't believe in UFO's until I see one," said farmer's wife Mrs Dorothy Thompson. "But it is peculiar — a perfect ring about 20 feet in diameter with no tracks leading to or from it."

The circle appeared in a field farmed by Mrs Thompson's husband Robert (31). "I don't believe anyone could walk through the wheat to reach it because they would have left some sign," said Mrs Thompson (30) of Manor Farm, Blacktoft.

"It's very strange — I'm a farmer's wife and daughter but I have never seen anything like it in my life. We have heard similar circles have appeared in cornfields down south and there are claims they were caused by space ships."

By BOB KERNCHAN

Experts who have investigated the phenomena say the circles have been former mini-whirlwinds ... or hoaxes.

Mrs Thompson said the wheat inside the circle was flattened right down to the ground. "It looks as if something stood on it and the only way it could get there would be from the sky," she said.

"One of our neighbours suggested the bonfire we have in the field every Guy Fawkes Night could have caused it in some way. But we have never had the fire on that side of the field."

"I would love to know what cause it. But I don't suppose we'll ever find out."

Villager Mrs Julie Underwood said she and her husband saw the ring of flattened corn while they were walking their dogs along the river bank. "It's very strange," she said.

"But no-one seriously thinks a flying saucer landed there. We are a bit way-out here but we're not the way-out."

BATH & WEST CHRONICLE, England - July 15, 1989 CR: T. Good

## Forget the UFOs — it's all down to lightning

A HIGH incidence of aircraft crashes and vehicle failures in Wiltshire could well be linked with a previously unrecognised atmospheric effect, it has been claimed.

The theory also accounts for the circles in cornfields, UFO sightings, mystery lights and strange noises in the night, says a Wiltshire scientist.

Dr Terence Meaden, from Bradford on Avon, has analysed many reports from reliable witnesses, been to countless cornfields, studied meteorological

By Roderic Eldridge

surveys and reaches the conclusion that it can all be put down to the "plasma-vortex".

This is a species of ball lightning which descends in certain weather and geographical conditions. The spinning cylinder or ball of air which blows down the crop is thought to be ionised and it is the continuous electrical discharge which illuminates it. In some circumstances vapour on the outer surface appears like a shiny metallic

skin, he believes.

Mr Meaden claimed: "Our explanation for the circles effect uses no more than the laws of physics and the properties of the atmosphere. It turns out that an atmospheric effect which has been missed by previous physicists and meteorologists is at the root of the solution."

"One does not have to have to resort to ad hoc hypotheses drawn from the pseudo-scientific and paranormal world. The explanations advanced at this stage are hardly likely to explain everything in any case

because we suspect that there could be more than one species of circle-making vortex involved, but the work should certainly provide a good forum for discussion and encouragement for grant-aided research."

Researchers Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews have been investigating the phenomenon for six years and say there have been a series of connections between the rings and UFO sightings. This week they published a book on their findings.

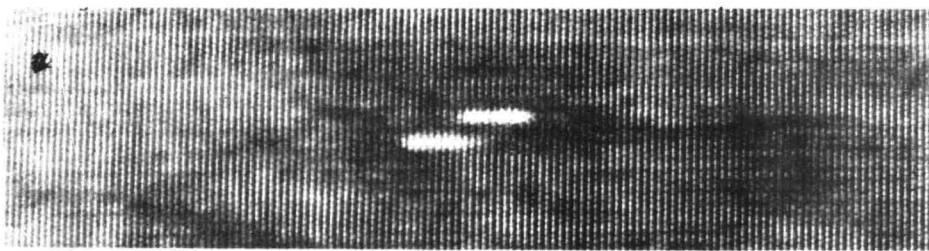
Allies landed in Bath and confused city residents on their way home from work last night,

stopping cars and drinking other people's pints.

The egg-headed aliens, alias Bath Technical Students William Mickleburgh, Ginny Adams, and Sophie Brookes, and National Theatre Company members Oliver Childs and Gary Barber, were practising for the City of London Festival later this month.

The technical students are in training with the NTC. Mr Brian Popey, also a member of the NTC, said: "They were practising their improvisation and were spending an hour on the streets."

## Experts investigate pictures of mystery flying objects



LOOKING UP: The mystery flying objects, top, that video enthusiast Anthony Jenkins, above, filmed

# Video buff claims he's got UFO proof taped

By SANDRA HEMBERY

A BILLERICAY novelist hopes to baffle scientists with proof that UFOs exist.

Star-gazer Anthony Jenkins was dumbfounded when he spotted strange comet-like objects fleeing across the night sky.

A keen amateur video-maker, he rushed for his video camera at his Billericay home to capture the quick-moving objects. Now he has taken his "proof" to a top UFO investigation team.

Anthony said: "Before this happened I did not really believe in UFO sightings.

"It was one o'clock in the morning and I was saying goodbye to a relative of mine. There were things flying across the sky with lights shooting all over the place.

"I first saw something with a tail. You could be forgiven for thinking it was a comet."

Romantic novelist Anthony described the craft as domed on top and underneath with a disk running around the edge — like Saturn.

He stood for more than three-quarters of an hour, camera poised, watching the objects 'dance' around.

Wife Teresa, 33, had earlier seen the strange objects but had been too embarrassed to say.

Now Anthony, 36, has contacted the East Anglian UFO Society to investigate the incident.

A spokesman for the society said they had heard of several sightings locally of strange objects and would investigate every call.

She said: "We will certainly look into it. If people say they have got evidence, especially on video it has got to be looked into."

A society member was to visit Mr Jenkins home to collect the video for examination.

COUNTRY LIFE, England - July 20, 1989 CR: T. Good

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## Ring Cycle

RALPH NOYES

*CIRCULAR EVIDENCE.* By Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews (Bloomsbury, £14.95)

*THE CIRCLES EFFECT AND ITS MYSTERIES.* By Dr G. Terence Meaden (Artetech Publishing, 54 Frome Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, £9.95)

*CONTROVERSY OF THE CIRCLES.* By Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller (available from 37 Heathbank Road, Cheddle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire, £3.95)

SIGHTINGS of cropfield circles—areas of crops neatly flattened in generally circular patterns—are increasing at the rate of 10 a week. This has prompted serious scientific study, which has been collated and analysed in three new books. These offer explanatory hypotheses and sound some notes of doom.

Indispensable for its abundant illustrations, *Circular Evidence* offers an absorbing account of the many expeditions made in pursuit of cropfield circles by the book's two authors and their several colleagues in the Andover-based research group, Circles Phenomenon Research. The book also contains much anecdotal evidence of the occurrences which have been reported in association with the circles—luminous phenomena of several kinds, remarkable sounds for which no explanation has been found, and some of the authors' strange personal experiences—which must be taken into account in the search for an explanation. The book concludes with a review of the several guesses which have been made about the nature of the phenomenon, and the authors wisely add: "Conclusive evidence and final answers are a long way off."

*The Circles Effect and its Mysteries* and *Controversy of the Circles* are equally indispensable to serious research. Dr Meaden, the author of the former book and editor of the *Journal of Meteorology*, has studied the circles since 1980, and has already published many meticulous observations as well as some tentative explanatory hypotheses, based on his expert knowledge of atmospheric physics.

His current book postulates a hitherto unrecognised form of atmospheric disturbance with associated electrical

effects. This may be related not only to the cropfield circles but also to some other puzzling phenomena: ball lightning, for example (the existence of which was denied by good physicists until quite recently, but which is now under intense scientific study), and that still more elusive oddity, the UFO phenomenon, for which the testimony is overwhelming, though the supposed explanations range from the bewildered to the merely ridiculous. Dr Meaden is highly sceptical of any paranormal, or extraterrestrial, explanation for the circles.

In *Controversy of the Circles*, Jenny Randles (director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association) and Paul Fuller, a professional statistician, update their earlier studies of the cropfield circles. They cast a critical eye at one of the most puzzling aspects of the circles, that the overwhelming preponderance of appearances has been noted in Wessex, since 1980. They argue carefully that this may simply be due to the concentration of interested observers in that area. Like Dr Meaden, Randles and Fuller speculate about the possible link between the cropfield circles and the UFO phenomenon, firmly repudiating the suggestion, often exploited by the popular press, that UFOs have anything to do with little green men. However, these authors share Meaden's belief that earth-bound events at the edge of our present understanding are probably the cause, and that these need to be tackled by the well-tried methods of scientific enquiry.

Meaden ends his book by pleading for properly funded research into the circles and the oddities associated with them. He makes the grim observation, already hinted at by others (including Andrews and Delgado), that "circumstantial evidence already to hand suggests that aircraft crashes in the vicinity of circle-prone landscape is anomalously high". He adds that in these troublesome days of widespread concern for the environment there is an urgent need to find resources for scientific research into anything as strange, vigorous, puzzling—and perhaps disturbing—as the circles effect and its possible link with the events taking place in the earth's atmosphere.

DAILY STAR, London, England - July 13, 1989

## ALIENS IN RED SKY AT NIGHT

RUSSIAN sky-watchers are going crazy over some amazing close encounters with alien spaceships.

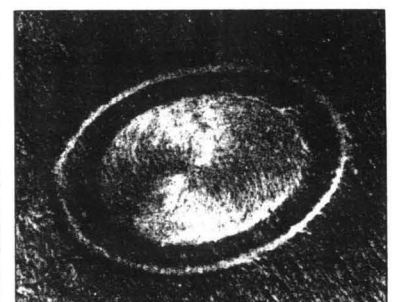
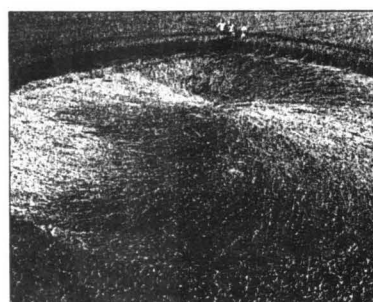
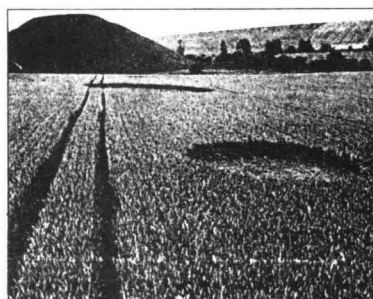
Dozens of UFOs have been sighted hurtling over Kharovsk in the Volga region.

Eye-witnesses say an enormous light appeared in the sky and suddenly lots of silver flying objects flew out of it at high speed.

Marina Shiriaeva was gathering mushrooms when a UFO landed 20 feet away from her.

"It landed and I was terrified because it was so big. Then a door opened in its side," said Marina. "I didn't wait. I was terrified and ran home."

CR: T. Good



From *Circular Evidence*: (top left and top right) cropfield circles in Wiltshire; (above left) a large manifestation; (above right) a variant on the simple circular theme



# Unidentified Flying Objects, or Utterly Foolish Observations?

Whatever our attitude to UFOs — baloney or new beginning — the fact remains that they are back in the news.

A spate of recent sightings suggests that if the Force is with anybody at the moment, it's the people of South-East Essex.

**When the first UFO lands, is it likely to be in Essex?**

UFO sightings seem to be concentrated in particular places at particular times. Recent areas to be favoured include the north of Italy and South Island, New Zealand.

But the Thames Estuary does appear to be very much flavour of the year in alien circles, if only because the river may act as a guideline to London and tea with the Queen.

By March 1989 there had been over 70 sightings, putting south-east Essex at the top of the national league, although the concentrated population may mean that there are simply more eyes to look, particularly during the repeat season on television.

**What do the UFOs look like?**

If even a fraction of the accounts are to be believed, UFO builders offer

Bright blue, green and red lights over Canvey... saucer shapes hovering over Pitsea... A Saturn shaped comet's tail tail caught on video by a Billericay novelist... Something is going on up there.

The Standard Recorder has examined the whole phenomenon of

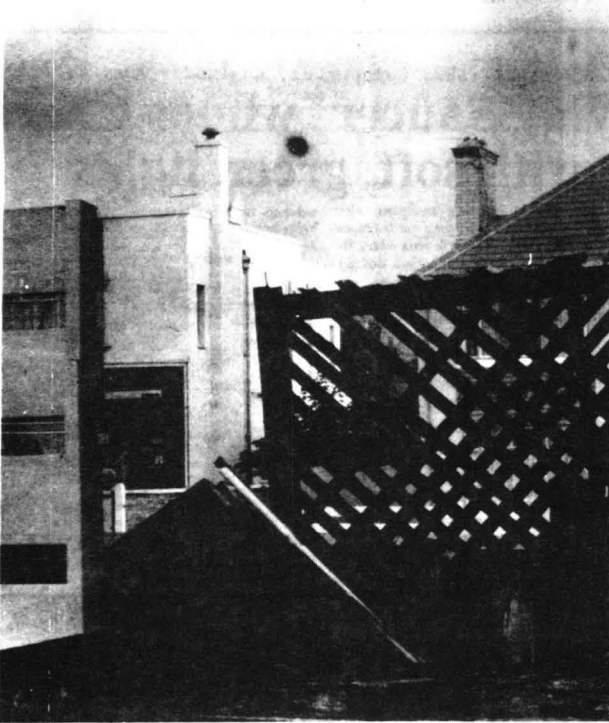
UFOs in this part of the country in a bid to discover just how seriously we should take them.

Some sightings are just plain fanciful. Others can be explained away. But there remains a small core that can only be described as inexplicable.

One fact remains clear. Flying saucers have never yet harmed anybody. Nobody has even fallen off a bike while spotting them.

And whether or not the things themselves are real, one thing remains for sure about flying saucers — their entertainment value.

## Do UFOs appear to those who really want to see them?



NO. There is every evidence to suggest that the things are perverse in this respect. And there is little to suggest that many sightings are the result of wishful thinking.

If there is one person who can be said to have devoted himself more than most to chasing UFOs in Essex it is author Andrew Collins.

From the age of 16 he has been devotedly logging all sightings in the area. At a young age he put his savings into a magazine dedicated to the subject.

Over the years he had talked to countless witnesses. But ungrateful aliens resolutely refused to make any appearance before

the eyes of this, one of their greatest enthusiasts.

Then, in 1981, in Rhyl, North Wales, it looked as if the moment had come. Idly gazing through the viewfinder of his camera, Andrew spotted the spiralling phenomenon above.

The UFO obligingly remained in sight while he snapped it and, to Andrew's delight, was still there when the film was developed.

But Echo Newspapers' Chief Photographer Ron Case recognised the object for what it was, — highly identifiable flying dirt that had become embedded in the film emulsion.

Eight years on Andrew Collins is still looking.

express cannonball." But witnesses generally agreed that it had been moving too fast to see at all. It had made an almighty splash.

Essex police frogmen made a thorough search but could find nothing. Science fiction aficionados will, however, recall the Steven Spielberg produced film Cocoon, in which alien spacemen are suspended in deep sleep at the bottom of the sea until their colleagues can return to rescue them.

The Hanningfield UFO was no alien. Almost two years later water bailiffs succeeded where the frogmen had failed. Out of the water they fished — a weather balloon.

Who owned the balloon and why it had come down remained a mystery. Someone, somewhere, must have received a very damp weather forecast.

Another clearly identified UFO was the "green glowing thing" described by alarmed housewife Mrs Pat Busby of Pitsea and Mr William Jones in June 1980.

Mr Pat Miles of the British Astronomical Association also saw it.

"It was a brilliant fireball, a piece of rock," he explained. "They come from minor planets between Mars and Jupiter." So minor, indeed, that unlike Southend they don't have their names all through the rock.

**Who gets the prize for the most ingenious investigation of UFOs?**

Undoubtedly a special team that mixed members of Basildon police force traffic control and other flight experts from Southend airport. One night in early October 1987 a spate of UFO reports arrived on their desk and they set to work.

The team were initially puzzled by the reports of large, bright lights hovering in the sky near Southend Pier, and silently rising up and down.

In fact, the mystery was the result of a military cock-up, not by invading aliens but by the British army.

Soldiers were holding a particularly vigorous night exercise over the Medway and shooting considerable volumes of flares. They had, however, neglected to let anybody know what was going on.

"By coincidence," said the team's spokesman, "it was a very clear night which meant their activities could be seen for miles around."

"Because of the considerable distance involved, the lights could have appeared to hang in the air like fireworks."

The spokesman explained that because of the distance, the explosions could be seen but not heard. Local fishermen will tell you, however, that they had no trouble hearing some of the soldierly language.

**How many people really believe in aliens?**

In October 1985 researchers from New Era, the publishers, beamed themselves down into Basildon town centre to do some market research.

They asked a random sample of shoppers and workers whether they believed that there was life on other planets. 75 per cent thought that there was.

Only 30 per cent thought that Earth had sufficiently strong defences against an attack by aliens.

The subject was not raised in the questionnaire, but local wags are believed to have volunteered the opinion that Basildon's nuclear free zone status would be of no help whatsoever.

**Surely many of the so-called sightings are spoofs?**

The UFO investigators' network check each reported sighting. Over the years, like the little green men of the cartoons, they've developed antennae. They believe that they have evolved quite sophisticated techniques for spotting a hoax without wasting too much time. Little green men in rubber suits knocking at the door are always referred to the Salvation Army.

## The latest sightings

MR EDWARD Chard, of Thisselt Road, Canvey, was called into the garden of his home by his wife Doreen.

It was the night of Friday, September 15, and Mrs Chard was astonished by flashing blue, green and red lights.

Tailoring manager Edward, 51, said: "I saw these lights hovering around and I got the binoculars out and it certainly was not an aircraft."

When I used the binoculars all I could see was a triangular shape and it was fairly big. I was quite taken aback."

He claimed other people had also seen the strange lights and could find no explanation for the sighting.

Similar visions were also reported from the Pitsea area where anxious residents described five or six saucer shaped objects fly-

ving from left to right around 9pm.

Police made checks with Southend and Stansted air traffic controls but none of them could provide any explanation.

A Basildon police spokesman said: "The only explanation I can think of is that it is probably aircraft stacking. Because of the difficulty of estimating height and speed by ground observers, I feel it can only be aircraft."

The police will be forwarding a report to the Defence Ministry with details of the sightings.

Five days before that, romantic novelist Anthony Jenkins of Billericay was startled by a particularly striking UFO which appeared in the night sky above his head.

Anthony said: "Before this hap-

pened I did not really believe in UFO sightings."

"It was one o'clock in the morning and I was saying goodbye to a relative of mine."

"There were things flying across the sky with lights shooting all over the place."

"I first saw something with a tail. It was bright and shot across the sky. 'You could be forgiven for thinking it was a comet.'"

Anthony described the aircraft as domed on top and underneath with a disk running around the edge — like Saturn.

He stood poised, video camera in hand, for more than three-quarters of an hour, watching the objects 'dance' around each other.

Wife Teresa, 33, had earlier seen the strange objects but had been too embarrassed to say.



## What should I do if I see a UFO?

DO not be bashful. Many a person who has had a close encounter has been too embarrassed to talk about it.

The police look kindly enough upon UFO spotters, always with the proviso that their time is not being wasted by a hoax. They will do their best to trace a rational explanation for the sighting.

However, the most satisfactory way to lodge information is undoubtedly to ring the local UFO hotline, Basildon 286079.

Members of the UFO Study Group have been collating information for many years, as well as holding regular watches on Langdon Hills.

They have access to geiger counters, chemical sniffers and other scientific apparatus to test out the proximity of alien objects.

In the photograph above, members of the Society can be seen preparing for a 24 hour watch on Galleywood Common.

Virtue has not been rewarded on this occasion. The "flying saucer" is in fact a paper plate, thrown from behind the camera.

## HAVE YOU SEEN A UFO?

If you have had a close encounter of the first, second or third kind, don't keep quiet for fear of being called a crackpot! Write to UFO, Standard Recorder, Newspaper House, Chester Hall Lane, Basildon, Essex.

## MYSTERY OF THE FLYING OBJECT

A GROUP researching unidentified flying objects claims to have spotted one in the skies above Ilford and Dagenham.

The claim was made by the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association.

Researcher Sheridan

Lane said the first sighting was made on June 17 at Becontree Heath, Dagenham.

At 10.25pm Tony and Chris Pratt said they saw an object from their bedroom window. It was egg-shaped with blue and white lights round the edges.

It made no sound and

was heading very fast towards East London. They watched it for four to five minutes.

On June 19 a similar object was seen travelling towards Ilford at midnight, claims the association. It was shaped like a rugby ball but slightly larger and had

an orange glow.

Its movement was erratic but slow. It made no sound and the observer watched it for 15 minutes.

Miss Lane said the association carried out its usual checks, contacting local groups, airports and other organisations to see if the sighting could be explained

by ordinary objects known to be in the area at the time, but there were none.

She said that since it was formed last July, the association had recorded 1,100 reported sightings.

The UFO hotline number is 0268 286079.

CR: T. Good

## Did you see the UFOs last night?

UFO investigators want more witnesses who might have seen a round dark disc looking about the size of a tennis ball and two smaller orange lights which seemed to accompany it.

The objects were spotted in the Southend and Shoebury areas about 9.30 last night. The UFO hotline is Basildon 286079.

# Dowser warns of strange forces as circles proliferate

## Barley field mystery at Viney's Farm

MYSTERIOUS circles of flattened crops speckle Wiltshire's fields — scientists are dumbfounded and the Government is being questioned in the House of Commons. As national interest mounts, the Journal has an eerie tale from Amesbury.

Farmer Richard Crook called the paper, having discovered a 30 ft circle in his barley field.

Reporter and photographer were duly despatched, together with Salisbury dowser Noel Wynyard, who has suc-

cessfully helped in police searches and is a former editor of the official dowsing journal.

On entering the field her divining rod twitched alarmingly, its frenzy increasing with every step towards the ring. Suddenly the whalebone

Story by Chris Tate  
Pictures by Roger Elliott

rod snapped with a loud crack.

"It seemed to have a life of its own," said photographer Roger Elliott.

Noel Wynyard was visibly shaken.

"I've never felt a such a powerful force," she said. She has been dowsing for over 30 years.

Amesbury councillor Mr Crook and his wife Susan, who are as baffled as the experts, were standing by the ring some 100 yards away.

With them was John Brady, their friend and bank manager, who had suggested contacting the Journal.

Mr Crook's normally obedient dog refused to enter the circle until sharply called to heel, a compass seemed confused and a divining weight spun wildly on its string.

Ms Wynyard would not enter the circle herself, as confronting such power, she believed, would have been dangerous.

She felt that someone attuned to such things might be knocked unconscious by a force similar to an electric shock.

She also believes that the magnetic field generated by this strange circle could affect machinery, and she



Farmer Richard Crook puzzles over the strange circle on his land at Viney's Farm.



Noel Wynyard dowsing around the circle.

urges farmers to take care.

Military aircraft roared overhead and nearby stood a silent, ancient barrow.

Does either hold the answer to the riddle of the circles — or could it lie elsewhere?

The circles have appeared for many years but no-one has yet been able to explain the phenomenon.

More than 170 circles

have already materialised this summer, many more than in previous years — with three or four appearing every day.

It is reported that Mrs Thatcher has forwarded research material and a copy of a new book by two Hampshire men, Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews, to the Ministry of Defence for consideration.

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England - Aug. 4, 1989

## 'Flying Saucer' whoos Cherie with soft, green lights

Good CR: T. Good

A WHOOOING sound was the first indication Cherie Grant had of possibly otherworldly mysteries gliding past her Laindon home.

And hearing the sound shortly after midnight on

Sunday morning she looked from her bedroom window to see a round, illuminated object drifting slowly past overhead.

"It was about 10 to 15 feet across and had half-

a-dozen or more green lights beneath it," said 23-year-old Cherie.

The object seemed in no hurry, and was drifting some several feet higher than a telegraph pole, recalled Cherie.

"It seemed to come from the direction of Leinster Road and travel towards the Arterial Road," added Cherie.

A spokesman at West Drayton air traffic control was unable to confirm if any unusual radar contact had been made over the area.

But a spokesman at the Ministry of Defence admitted the MoD "did not believe in UFOs."

He said: "The air traffic control radar at West Drayton is more interested in keeping a look out over the north sea regions for possible hostile aircraft."

PORTSMOUTH NEWS, Hants., England - July 31, 1989 CR: T. Good

## Plenty of evidence of UFO activity

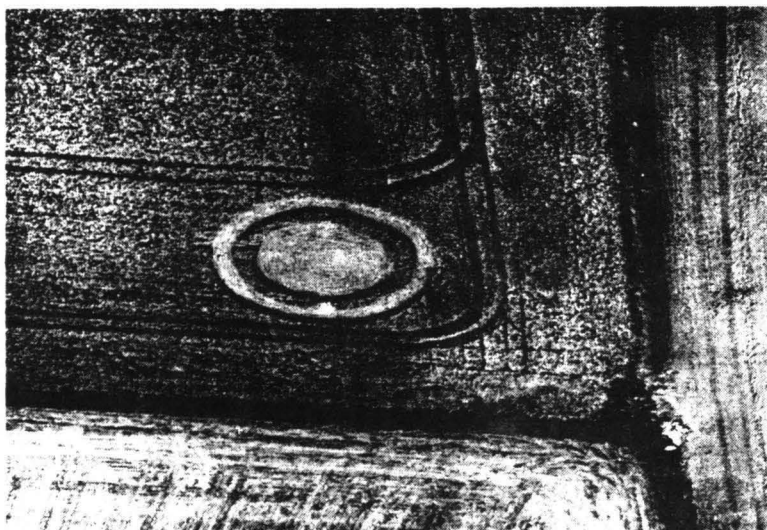
● THE reappearance of the mysterious grain circles has prompted the usual conjecture regarding their origin, but the detection, at the sites, of an unknown energy field which appears to have caused a contamination of the molecular structure of the grain, has resulted in questions in Parliament, and the Ministry of Agriculture being advised to ban the grain for human consumption.

Certainly, most of the theories advanced have been discounted, and certainly the situation is bizarre enough to envisage a non-terrestrial origin, not so way out when one considers that the cumulative and factual evidence for the existence of UFOs is overwhelming, to such an extent that every major country has a government committee of inquiry.

### 'Astronauts'

It is difficult to understand the reticence of world governments to disclose this vast store of information, e.g. the filming of UFOs by some 30 astronauts — including the Russian crews of Vokshed 1, and Vokshed 2 — Apollo 11 being "escorted" for two days during its voyage to the moon, the reports of Borman and Lovell, of John Glenn, and the crew of Apollo 12 reporting a UFO accompanying them to within 130,000 miles of the moon. Small wonder that Ed Mitchell of Apollo 14 stated: "We know UFOs exist!"

Because all information is



● Mystery rings which appeared at Ventoms Farm, Froxfield, in 1986.

suppressed, many of the public refuse to acknowledge that other forms of highly intelligent life regularly enter our planet's aerospace, yet had these visitors wished to enslave or destroy us they could have done so at any time over the past centuries, and the only conclusion is that their interest is at least neu-

tral, and, more probably, beneficial.

Finally, U Thant, when Secretary General of the United Nations, is on record as saying: "... after peace, unidentified aerial objects are the most important question facing mankind." — John A. Wright, Wyndcliffe Road, Southsea.

## UFO sighting to be probed

Research scientists are to investigate a UFO sighting.

Mr Alan Cooke, of Church Lane, Weddington, saw a large object hovering over the North Warwickshire village with a blinding bright light emanating from it.

### Sceptical

Previously sceptical of UFO sightings, Mr Cooke fetched a pair of binoculars to try and examine the strange object more closely but couldn't discover its identity.

"I've always been very sceptical about UFOs, but the sight of this was just simply incredible," said Mr Cooke.

"It seemed to be motionless and low over Caldecote with this incredibly bright light coming from it — it was far too bright for it to be navigation lights from an aircraft, and even too bright to be floodlights from a police helicopter.

"I first saw it when I was just about to go to bed on Monday night and I was closing the curtains in the children's room when the light caught my eye.

"My gaze was fixed on it and it didn't appear to move for two minutes or more.

"I ran downstairs to fetch my binoculars and went to have a look at it from the bottom of the garden, and it seemed to be moving slightly to the left and then to the right.

"Then I looked away for a split second and when I looked back it had completely disappeared without trace which was very strange indeed.

"I'm wondering if anyone else in the area may have seen it too."

Mr Cooke has now contacted the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association (BUFORA) who are to look into the incident.





## OGOPOGO'S CAMERA-SHY

By IAN AUSTIN  
Staff Reporter

KELOWNA — It was supposed to be a high-tech seahunt — Seamor the submersible vs. Ogopogo the sea monster.

But it turned out to be just another wasted day in the search for B.C.'s version of the Loch Ness monster.

John Kirk, vice-president of the B.C. Krypto-Zoology Club, searched the waters of Okanagan Lake yesterday for the elusive creature with the help of a \$14,000 underwater, remote-controlled videocamera on one-day loan from Robotic Systems International, of Sidney.

Heavy clouds and choppy

waters, however, kept camera visibility to just four metres.

Three propellers steered the small, eight-kilogram submersible through the water, but nothing tangible was found other than a used tire and a few fish.

But Kirk remained undaunted.

"I've seen it six times," claims Kirk, who runs a Vancouver yogurt shop. "There's definitely a very large animal in the lake."

But he admits it isn't easy convincing people.

Kirk believes Ogopogo is an air-breathing mammal that migrated up the Columbia River from the sea. He thinks there are others in Kootenay Lake and the Arrow Lakes.

Staff photo by Wayne Leidenfrost

Chris Roper readies Seamor for action in Okanagan Lake.



SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 16, 1989

## Ogopogo tape impresses producer

KELOWNA — Car salesman Ken Chaplin has hooked a big fish with his claim to have the serpent-like Ogopogo of Okanagan Lake on videotape.

"There's definitely something there," said Paul Gasek, a field producer for the National Geographic Society's Explorer series sent here Tuesday to view Chaplin's video.

"I can't make a positive ID," he said. "I don't doubt for a minute that they believe they've seen this critter."

The video was shown to reporters last week, clearly revealing a long, snake-like creature that has a pointed tail and two hind feet or flip-flops.

"It's interesting but I'm not willing to say what I saw," Gasek said.

Chaplin claims to have seen at least two of the creatures a number of times in July, but won't say where. He estimates they are five to six metres long.

"It's impossible not to raise an eyebrow when you hear about Ogopogo," said Gasek. "But there are some strange things in the world and we at National Geographic have heard of a few and photographed a few."

While Chaplin wants to sell his story and film to TV or a publication, Gasek said National Geographic had no interest from the outset in buying the film or the story.

He said he was interested in trying to improve the quality of the video through image enhancement procedures but couldn't reach agreement with Chaplin for the video to be taken outside Kelowna for the work.

"Anything involving National Geographic will develop very slowly. We're a conservative organization



OGOPOGO: sculpture of the legendary beast greets Okanagan visitors

and we'll move slowly. If there is a creature it survived this long and so is not going away in a week or two."

Gasek said the existence of Ogopogo would not surprise him.

"The Anaconda snake in South America grows to be 20 feet long, which is a very big snake."

## Strange footprints found near northern B.C. river said to be from Sasquatch

Canadian Press

PRINCE GEORGE — Walter Patrick thinks he knows what left those size-11 footprints he saw in the sandy clay bank of a northern British Columbia river.

"I believe it's the footprint of a Sasquatch," said Patrick, a foreman of a salmon enhancement program in Fort St. James, a lumber town about 580-kilometres north of Vancouver.

"It's the only definite answer I can come up with."

The Sasquatch, also known as Bigfoot, is said to be an ape-like creature that lives in wilderness in the Pacific Northwest of Canada and the United States.

Although there have been no verified sightings, those who claim to have seen a Sasquatch describe it as being covered in hair, walking on two legs, standing two to three metres tall, weighing more than 225 kilograms and leaving footprints up to 43-centimetres long.

Patrick said Tuesday the most significant of eight prints he saw in the clay

bank along the Stuart River was about 28-centimetres long and slightly wider than a human foot.

But it's not the size that intrigued Patrick, who has lived in remote areas for years.

The print, sunk about five centimetres into the ground, had pointed toes, he said. It had one big toe and four digits, which inclined sharply from the big toe down to the little one.

The arch area was curved and the inside heel portion seemed to have a strange bump with a type of spur jutting from the back of the heel, he said, but there were no signs of claws one would find with bear tracks.

Patrick said he also found one or two sets of the same type of prints, only smaller, behind a clump of bushes, suggesting the big one had smaller ones along, but kept them at a distance.

"I'm excited," he said. "I've never seen anything like it."

By JOHN ARMSTRONG  
Sun Staff Reporter

KELOWNA — National Geographic buys Ogopogo.

Sort of. Salmon Arm car salesman Ken Chaplin signed a contract Thursday with the National Geographic Society, which will deliver highly enhanced and digitally processed renditions of his Ogopogo home movies.

"The deal is they'll enhance it and send an enhanced copy back to me within 10 days," Chaplin said.

He said that based on its examination of the enhanced footage, the society would decide whether to go ahead with a documentary film.

Chaplin said that after a visit to Kelowna, National Geographic representative Paul Gasek "saw we weren't a bunch of kooks or trying to pull something."

"They (National Geographic) believe it's credible. There's some-

thing there, they said."

Chaplin said the combined minutes and 43 seconds of videos from four alleged sightings of the green and ochre-spotted creature will be returned to him within 10 days by the society.

Chaplin, who has already been interviewed by Time and Maclean's magazines, as well as The Vancouver Sun, has also been approached by American tabloids, but said he wishes to preserve the integrity of his find.

He has, however, scheduled a meeting today with a representative of 20th Century Fox's A Current Affair.

## Ogopogo's allure endless

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 31, 1989 CR: J. Pobst

# Divers find Rock Lake's 'lost pyramids'

By Helen Mansfield  
Gazette Correspondent

LAKE MILLS—Scoters may sigh when they hear of another quest for the pyramids of Rock Lake, but divers say confirmation of the elusive underground formations is surfacing.

Tales of sightings have popped up every few years since two duck hunters, Claude and Lee Wilson, claimed in the early 1900s that their oar struck the apex of a pyramid about six feet below the lake's surface.

But now a group of divers has removed the story from folklore by shoring it up with facts.

"This time they went in high tech," said observer Pat Arntsen from Middleton, who is a member of the Ancient Earthworks Society. The results have been promising enough to draw the group back for an extended series of dives this week-end.

Scuba diver Frank Joseph, of Olympia Fields, Ill., ended a recent series of descents both weary and exhilarated.

"We definitely found two structures about in the middle of the lake in 55 feet of water. I would have been satisfied with only one, but finding two is terrific."

A diving companion, 17-year-old John Shulak of Lake Mills, has been exploring

Rock Lake for six years, but this was his first search for the "lost pyramids."

"I'd say the first one is about eight feet high, 12 to 15 feet wide and more than 100 feet long. The second is 10 to 20 feet south of the first and about the same width, with a steeper slant to the sides, and is shorter in length," Shulak said. "They look to be the same height and exactly north and south on a compass alignment."

"One is exactly like 'the loaf-of-bread pyramid' Kennedy described," said Joseph, referring to a 1970 account in Skin Diver magazine of a 1967 scuba dive by John Kennedy, a botanist from Lombard, Ill. "The area of rocks looks like a tent-

shaped pyramid, collapsed."

Careful planning and ideal conditions are credited with the success of the expedition and the documentation. "Visibility was the best ever, maybe because there was little runoff into the lake during last year's dry summer. I could see at least 10 to 15 feet," Shulak said.

Craig Scott from Sea Search, Muskegon, Mich., operated his side-scan sonar apparatus—a towline with torpedo-like "fish" at the end—and took sound photographs. He pointed to dark shadows on his wide sonograph scroll of paper. "It is so linear,"

that tells me it is man-made. It doesn't fit into the surroundings."

Deciding where and how to search had been planned at a meeting of about 20 people who have been interested in the mysterious pyramids for years. At the Lake Mills home of history enthusiast Wayne May, they exchanged descriptions that previous divers have reported, stories about the ancient truncated Aztalan pyramids nearby, theories about ancient topography and Rock Lake depth, and beliefs that there were even earlier Indians who had a hand in Aztalan. (Researchers believe that the above-ground pyramids were constructed more than 1,400 years ago. But no one has attached a date to the origin of the underwater structures.)

Fishing maps, lake-depth charts and communication equipment they would need were discussed, and arrangements were made for video filming. The side scan sonar would be sent to the most likely places.

A pontoon boat and several smaller boats were launched at the north end of the lake and sent

"between the red barn and the water tower" in the distance. Botanist Ruth Schmitz and electrical engineering expert Norbert Schmitz handled walkie-talkies and other communications.

Divers waited until the sonar located something. "There were five divers in our group. More would have been too many fish in the water," Joseph said.

Shulak is satisfied even if he didn't see exactly what he had expected. "It's like a pile of rubble, large stones on the bottom and smaller ones on top. I was looking for something a little more complete, but after all, they are pretty old."

He describes the experience as "pretty weird. It was like a mud desert around the structure—no weeds. It's sitting in silt, with this pile of stones rising up ... kind of round on top."

"Some kind of plaster had been used on the sides. Slabs or fragments of cement or plaster, or at least something man-made were on top of the large one. Doug Gossage took photos so that the things can be studied," Shulak said.

Bob Pope, who had divers off his pontoon boat, said everything went "pretty well." He said the day was definitely worthwhile—

"kind of like a pioneer thing and I wanted to be involved in it."

How the structures are aligned and what's on top of them are important to the explorers because scuba-diving professor Jim Scherz of Madison has an elaborate theory of a calendar system and solar alignments tied in with the nearby Aztalan truncated pyramids.

As Scherz's theory goes, the pyramids are flat-topped observation points that form a system for watching the movements of the sun and planets. The longer underwater structure could be a road leading toward the mounds on the shore. And the numerous springs in the lake could have led to the establishment of a worship site there.

Joseph theorizes that the lake, in much earlier, drier times, could have been "a city of the dead."

Although no high-tech devices will ever take away all the mystery of the lake, they have given it a pretty thorough going-over.

Joseph said they checked the whole lake with the sonar so they won't have to use the \$700-per-day device again. "We'll definitely be back to check out what the pictures show," he said.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Sept. 17, 1989

## Books

### 'Southern Mysteries' enthralling

E. Randall Floyd's narrative proves flowing, easy to read

"Great Southern Mysteries," by E. Randall Floyd, August House, 180 pages, \$16.95

★Review  
BY MAYLON T. RICE  
Special to the Democrat

The secret is out about August House of Little Rock and its effort to place into print the unsolved mysteries and enigmas of the South.

They have been successful. So is the latest in a line of regional publications, "Great Southern Mysteries." This one in particular should be a blockbuster for the Little Rock publishing house and E. Randall Floyd, the veteran Southeast journalist and journalism school teacher.

The mysteries, from the story of the lost colony of Roanoke, or "Croatin," as Southerners know the tale, to mermaids, to an intriguing look at Blackbeard's very darkest side, are told in an easy-to-read, flowing narrative that shows Floyd's skill and talent

as a writer.

His academic background supplies enough ready "facts" of each of these strange case studies to keep the student of history, of fact and of the region as enthralled as the casual reader who searches these pages for lost tribes, Big Foot, voodoo queens and even the Lizard Man of the Carolinas.

The book takes the reader on a back-roads tour of Southern coasts and tidewaters and into the far reaches of swamps and pine forests.

Floyd's collection meshes well, moving easily from chapter groupings such as "Fabled Lands and Vanished People" to "Voyagers From Beyond" to "Caves, Comets and Killer Storms."

Altogether, there are 13 Southern riddles, some historical, some supernatural.

"Great Southern Mysteries" is quickly read but not easily forgotten. The avid reader can

devour the contents without being overburdened by too many minute details. For a truly Southern overview of some of the puzzles which have mystified for countless years, there is none better.

Other chapters not to be discounted as every bit as exciting as those mentioned previously are "Unearthly Oddities," "Specters and Spells" and, especially, "Fin, Fang and Fantasy."

The book closes with a truly evocative collection, "The Devil's Brother and Other Strange Travelers," which includes tales of the Goat Man of Dixie and Blackbeard, "The Scourge of the Spanish Main."

Colleges and universities throughout the South should look upon this collection as a welcome addition to their regional literature programs. It would be to their benefit to include such offerings in regional literary projects and creative writing courses.

WALL STREET JOURNAL, Princeton, NJ - Sept. 14, 1989

## One Thing We Know Right Now Is Just Who's Going to Pay for It

By BOB DAVIS  
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL  
Here's a space trip that's pretty far out even if it doesn't reach Neptune. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration will soon hunt for pyramids. On Mars.

### Cydonia Region

The space agency says it has granted a longstanding request from some space buffs, who call themselves the Mars Project, to photograph the Cydonia region of Mars. Cydonia may be home to a field of pyramids and other rock formations erected by alien beings, speculate Mars Project enthusiasts, who pore over old photos of Mars looking for odd things. They have even found one rock formation that looks like a human face.

Richard Hoagland, the Mars Project founder, says he assumes that through the pyramids the aliens are trying to tell us "something significant, something useful." But he doesn't know just what yet.

Mr. Hoagland's ruminations have long been a source of merriment among space scientists. But NASA started taking him more seriously after he recently recruited Rep. Robert Roe, a New Jersey Democrat who is chairman of the House Science and Space Committee, to help him. Rep. Roe's

staff asked NASA whether it planned to photograph Cydonia with its Mars Observer spacecraft, scheduled for launch in September 1992—with the clear implication that if it didn't, it should. "With space, there are so many unknowns, why not take a picture?" reasons Robert Maitlin, an aide to Rep. Roe.

So now NASA, grudgingly, says it will try to unravel the pyramid scheme with new photos of Cydonia. "We'll try, if only to kill off the rumors," says Arden Albee, the Mars Observer project scientist.

### Dump Sites

The Mars Observer camera can see objects as small as a car. If aliens built in Cydonia, says Michael Malin, the Arizona State University scientist who manages the camera for NASA, there should be small buildings, roads and dump sites. "That would be clear evidence" that the formations aren't just weird geology, he says.

But the Mars Project's Mr. Hoagland says that's asking too much. Roads could erode, over time, and aliens might have different ways of building things from those of humans. What he's looking for are unusual geometric patterns that indicate the presence of intelligence. "I don't want to limit ourselves to things we'd expect to see," he says. "How alien is alien?"

DAILY STAR, London, England

Aug. 11, 1989 CR: D. Speed

## YETI'S YOMP INTO RUSSIA

THE Abominable Snowman is living in Russia, claim farmers from the Volga region.

Workers say they disturbed the giant creature, which turned and ran away. The spooky beast, usually thought to inhabit the Himalayan mountains, was described as seven feet tall and covered in thick fur.

The Yeti has been slammed as a myth by unbelievers, but mountaineer Chris Bonington is convinced the ape-like creature DOES exist.

Last year he led an expedition to Tibet and brought back film evidence of huge footprints in the snow.

The team found the carcasses of two sheep which had been beheaded and skilfully skinned, and they also claimed that ski sticks mysteriously disappeared 18,000 feet up in the Himalayas.

Tibetan Sherpas have reported numerous sightings of a woolly beast that stands like man.

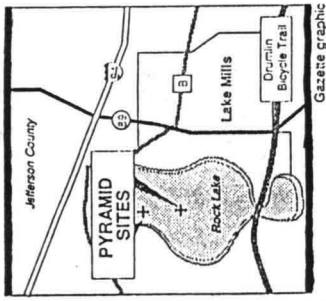
But last year, a Punjabi newspaper printed a claim that the Yeti was dreamed up by a British army officer in 1916.

AN Inverness marine biologist has claimed a Canadian woman may have captured the Loch Ness monster on film.

## Expert says it could be Nessie

Dr Gordon Williamson watched the 90-second video shot by Mrs Judy Chaffin (24) and said: "I could clearly see an animal swimming far out in Urquhart Bay."

"I have filmed wild-life on the loch before, but this was something unusual."





# 'Face' of Mars up for sale in Wytheville

By PAUL DELLINGER  
SOUTHWEST BUREAU

WYTHEVILLE — This city, already known as the hub of Southwest Virginia because of interstate highways crossing nearby, may soon become the interplanetary crossroads for studies involving "the face" on Mars.

The main difference is that, for the Mars studies, the roads are electronic rather than concrete. Current papers on the investigations are submitted to scientific journals from here and also will appear on a computer bulletin board coming on line.

But research and computer communications take money, which is why Wytheville also is at the center of the merchandising of Mars. Wytheville has probably generated more public excitement about Mars than any one location since Orson Welles' Mercury Theatre frightened thousands of radio listeners in 1938 with his "War of the Worlds" broadcast about invading Martians.

Some of the reporters covering the liftoff of the space shuttle Atlantis in May wore T-shirts with a computer-enhanced view of the Martian face as photographed in 1976 by the Viking I Mars orbiter. It was that shuttle that launched the Magellan spacecraft toward Venus, NASA's first interplanetary mission in 11 years.

The T-shirts, which also show a computer-derived surface profile of the face and carry the message "Go For It!" on the back, were designed by Wythe County resident Jim Lucas.

Lucas, a state Veterans' Affairs Department representative in this area, works from an upstairs office in the Main Street building where his wife, Pam, operates Deva Gallery and sells art lessons and supplies, crystals and books on a variety of subjects.

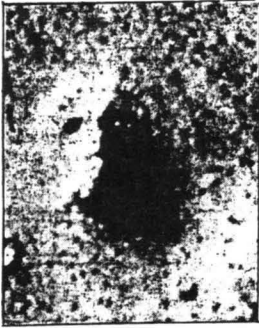
Her store also offers the T-shirts and other Mars materials, including "The Monuments of Mars," a 1987 book by Richard C. Hoagland that suggests that the face and surrounding structures on Mars are evidence of extraterrestrial life.

The store sells digitally produced music inspired by the book on compact disk and cassette tape, computer-enhanced NASA photos of the area around the face that are much more clear than those released by the space agency, and the first quarterly issue of Mars Mission News, now available by subscription.

For six years, members of the loose-knit Mars Mission group have been studying the face-like structure on Mars (which NASA explained as merely a trick of light and shadow when it was first observed). They live all over this country and in a few others, and coordinate their research through computer links with their hub in Wytheville.

Why Wytheville? "That's a question we keep asking ourselves," chuckled Lucas, a retired Navy veteran and a former Bland County administrator.

The simple answer is that Hoagland met a young woman from here and stayed.



What is the 'face' of Mars telling us?

But Hoagland, never satisfied with simple answers, sees a philosophical connection to George Wythe, the man for whom the town and county are named, because Wythe signed the Declaration of Independence, which expanded the horizons to which people could aspire.

Such work might be better done in more urban surroundings, closer to scientific and educational centers.

But the work is done in those places, too, Hoagland said. "The technology by now has progressed to where you can be where you want to be, and still be in touch. . . . You should see my phone bills!"

Hoagland was part of the news corps covering the Viking spacecraft that landed on Mars. Previously, he had been a consultant to NBC and CBS for their coverage of manned and unmanned moon landings. He was a key figure in the creation of a plaque aboard a Pioneer space probe that would give information about Earth to any intelligent beings that found it.

Jim Lucas got involved when his wife, Pam, persuaded Hoagland to sign copies of his book and give a talk on its subject at the grand opening of her gallery. He attended and was instantly fascinated.

Lucas also happened to possess a knowledge of computers, photography and other fields that fit into what would be needed at Mars Mission central, wherever it happened to be. His hand can be seen in the enhanced Mars photos available at Deva Gallery or by mail, the T-shirts and the computer bulletin board.

Lucas said they had some misgivings over the shirts at first.

"We wanted to keep this on a scientific level; and the T-shirts sort of smacked of commercialism." But they have enticed people to talk about the subject, which is one of the goals of Mars Mission, he said.

Instead of asking for contributions or selling memberships, the idea has been to offer items people can use, Lucas said. It puts a product in their hands, "as opposed to them giving us a check and wishing us well."

Lucas is setting up the Mars Mission electronic bulletin board, accessible to anyone with a personal computer. Computer users can log on by calling (703) 228-7822, to read the most recent updates or submit their own papers on the subject.

Traditionally, Hoagland said, researchers submit papers to certain scientific journals, where the papers are reviewed by others in the field. Mars Mission people are doing that, too.

But it takes six to eight months for a paper to appear in a published journal. These papers are published immediately on the electronic bulletin board, where others can see them at once.

Hoagland calls it the democratization of science. The public has paid for the NASA research that provided the pictures, as well as the Mars Observer mission scheduled for the early 1990s, and so the public should have access to the results — or, for that matter, participate in the research if they wish.

"It's the way it should be done," he said. "It belongs to the world."

Anyone with a personal computer and telephone modem can send material to the bulletin board or read from it, he said. And the material is not so esoteric that only people trained in science can understand it.

Mars Mission is already getting a lot of mail, generated by Hoagland's participation in radio talk shows around the country. It piles up in the Mars Mission office — also located above Deva Gallery — until it can be answered by Lucas or Hoagland, as there is no budget for secretarial help.

"We got a little problem with that. If you walk by here late at night, you see the lights on up here," Lucas said. "We're operating on a shoestring. . . . Hiring is a bad word right now. Volunteers we could use."

Information on ordering Hoagland's book, the video, music recordings, T-shirts, Mars maps or photos is available by writing Mars Mission, P.O. Box 981, Wytheville, Va. 24328.

## Ogopogo to get wildlife status

By MOIRA FARROW

Environment Minister Bruce Strachan acted Thursday to give legal protection to Ogopogo so it cannot be captured, killed or even harassed by anyone.

The minister, in a letter to Kelowna Mayor Jim Stuart, said he is prepared to present an order-in-council to the legislature officially designating Ogopogo as "wildlife."

"This is very, very good news," said Stuart after receiving the minister's faxed letter late Thursday.

However, he was distressed that the location of the recent alleged sighting of Ogopogo has been made public and he's asked the RCMP to watch the area.

Car salesman Ken Chaplin, who has made a video of four alleged Ogopogo sightings, told reporters Thursday the location along the Lake Okanagan waterfront from where he observed the creature over a period of four days in July.

"It's unfortunate that the location is now public," said Stuart. "I've asked the RCMP to watch out for possible problems on the lake and additional traffic along the shore."

However, the mayor said he believes the B.C. government has moved "extremely fast" in response to a recent request from Kelowna city council for help in dealing with the increased number of sightings of Ogopogo this year which culminated with Chaplin's video.

Stuart said Strachan has promised to present to the legislature an order-in-council which will give Ogopogo protection under the Wildlife Act.

"Under the Wildlife Act we can prohibit any person from capturing, killing or even harassing the creature," B.C.'s wildlife director Jim Walker said in a telephone interview from his Victoria home Thursday night.

"Now we can protect the creature because we can put a total closure on its capture. It would be most exciting if it was some species not known before."

Said Stuart: "I've seen Mr. Chaplin's video so I know there's something there in the lake but I realize it's difficult for people to believe that if they've not seen the film."

# Author may know what Mars is saying

By PAUL DELLINGER  
SOUTHWEST BUREAU

WYTHEVILLE — For six years, author Richard Hoagland has been leading an effort to find out whether the face on Mars is trying to tell us something.

He has written a book on the subject, "The Monuments of Mars," which advances the hypothesis that the mile-long, face-like object and structures in the area of the planet called Cydonia exist in such precise mathematical and geometrical relationships to one another that they must be artificial.



Hoagland

Hoagland has plowed the proceeds from his book into Mars Mission, a loose-knit group of researchers seeking whatever meaning there may be behind the face, pyramid-like objects and other parts of the puzzle. One guess is that it may all have been left by some space-faring race long ago as a message to whatever intelligent life might develop someday next door on Earth.

The most recent focus has been on trying to decipher its meaning, if one exists. And Hoagland says that now may have been done.

"We think we have decoded the first part of the message," he said. Work is still being done on "dotting the i's and crossing the t's" and double-checking what probes think they have found.

"We're doing what we need to do to make sure that we don't make fools of ourselves, and we don't think we are," he said. "This could be the first decoding of the first interstellar or interplanetary message to mankind."

The work should be complete early in August, when Hoagland is scheduled to speak at the National Press Club. He plans to announce the findings at that time.

Researchers now believe there is more than one message, each of increasing complexity. "It's like being in kindergarten and walking in the door to a graduate-level seminar," he said. "The first part seems to be stunningly verifiable, and we will provide details in about a month in Washington."

Some of the verifications may be in observations of the planet Neptune, now being approached by the Voyager 2 space probe, which will be transmitting close-up data from that gas giant during August.

"This potentially has implications that are going to affect a

lot of people on this planet," he said.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration plans to return to Mars in 1992 via the Mars Observer but seems reluctant to take more photos around Cydonia to find out if the face is merely the result of observers imposing their own ideas on what they see — as the 19th-century Martian "canals" turned out to be — or is artificial.

Hoagland's group is lobbying for Congress to order NASA to take the pictures, arguing that public money is being used for the flight and — if the public wants the question resolved — NASA should be directed to do so. Mars Mission is also trying to increase that public support.

One NASA spokesman has said there would be difficulty in focusing the Mars Observer camera on Cydonia.

"That's an asinine excuse," Hoagland said. "What it illustrates is that what we're dealing with is not a scientific problem, it's a political problem. The essence of science is if you can test it. This is science because you can test it."

But only NASA will have the equipment that can perform the test, when the Mars Orbiter is to arrive at its destination in the summer of 1992. Mars Mission's claims about a message may help push the camera in the direction of Cydonia.

Much of the research in the attempt to decipher a message will be on an electronic bulletin board that is accessible to anyone with a personal computer. "The actual message we will not put on until after the press conference," Hoagland said.

Mars Mission publishes a quarterly newsletter, available for \$15 a year by mail, and what is now on the bulletin board will be in the next issue. It just takes a little longer by print than computer, said Jim Lucas, the Mars Mission technical director.

Hoagland sees education — which, today, must prepare students in science and technology — as one of the beneficiaries of the work. It fits right in with using mathematics and logic to decipher the message, he said.

"This is 'Star Trek' for real, and the methodology for decoding it is right out of Mr. Spock," he said. If young people are as interested as it seems about such science fiction stuff, he said, "what happens if it appears on the American agenda for real?"

He feels it could renew interest in math and science in classrooms. "If they won't get curious about this, they won't get curious about anything. But the popular culture says they are curious about this," he said. "It's a most exciting time to be alive."

DAILY LEADER, Stuttgart, AR - July 25, 1989

## Strange activity is investigated

Dear editor:

The Casscoe community appears to have been the target of an apparent cult or some group that mutilates farm animals.

A local farmer in Casscoe found one of his cows missing a tail one morning last week. His first thought was, she got her tail caught on something and it was pulled off, but after having neighbors look at her, it was determined that the tail was cut off with some care and skill.

A clean cut was made about three inches up on her back, where the tail meets the backbone at the joint. The tail was removed without tearing any tissue around it. The group apparently used a dart tranquilizer gun to

disable the cow to perform the operation. The cow is alive and well, but missing a much-needed weapon, here in the fly season.

The sheriff's office was notified after a full-grown cow was missing a few days later. The sheriff and his deputies are investigating what the sheriff believes to be a satanic cult.

The farmer said if what appears to be some left-handed religious cult is true, you can rest assured they will strike again somewhere.

Thomas C. Sutton  
Casscoe

CR: R. Powell

CR: D. Gordon

# Hairy tale that's not for sale

NEWS that an Australian "cryptozoologist" plans an expedition in search of the "Great Hairy Moehau" in Fiordland or National Park has not amused folk who live in the shadow of Mt Moehau in northern Coromandel.

For much of this century talk by Europeans about a large hairy apparition which

shuns human company has centred on the dark primeval bush of the mist-covered 829-metre high mountain.

Generations of Coromandel children have grown up hearing stories of encounters by frightened pighunters; of food being stolen by night from bushmen's huts; of paw scrapes on a pat of butter; of sheep being plucked from hull paddocks in a back-snapping grip.

And they have, too, pondered the old question: Was it a man or beast? Was it a ship-wrecked sailor who thought he was on a cannibal shore; a berserk bushman or gold prospector; or a deserter from a ship or the Army?

Whether the residents believe the stories any attempt to hijack or reassign their Hairy Man to somewhere else is resented.

They are fairly confident, though, that the Australian party will find nothing in their search of the "foreign" wilderness. Sightings of the Hairy Man in his home on the range proper have not been reported by residents since the early 1950s.

There have been plenty of expeditions since as well as grid searches by police looking for escaped prisoners and cannabis plots; there has been fine combing of the bush by goat cullers and hunting residents; and the probing of the men from Mitsui, Kaiser or Broken Hill during the mining revival of the sixties.

The only thing found has been the "little red" men of Moehau — a name which residents have given to the petite frog found up there.

IN 1952 the *New Zealand Herald* reported that rumours were gathering strength that a strange hairy creature lurked at the back of Waiaro, eight kilometres north of Colville School. Pighunters Roy Norman, of Waikawau, and Douglas Taniwhana, of North Auckland, the paper reported, had caught a glimpse of "a hairy man," or possibly a gorilla, "running along a bush track."

Benjamin Savage, of Coromandel, said he was walking along a beach in the area and saw a lightly built man with an unkempt grey beard and long hair walking a short distance away. (This would not have been an unusual sight later in the hippie era.)

Nearby was a cave containing campfire ashes and scraps. A hunter named Beazley

## By Wayne Thompson

also found a cave with evidence of animal bones, from which the flesh had presumably been eaten raw.

Stories abounded of night intrusions into bush camps, dogs bristling and snarling because of a strange invisible presence and of mysterious footfalls in the bush.

A long-time resident of Amodeo Bay, Frederick Wenzlick, said that about 30 years before, a ship lying off Waiaro had a young gorilla as a mascot.

The animal swam ashore to escape the taunts and the teasing of the crew.

People became excited about this revelation because gorillas live to the age of 45 to 50. The question is could a strictly vegetarian gorilla find enough fruit and veg to keep perky?

THE director of the Auckland Zoo at the time suggested the best bet was a Chacma baboon, which frequently utter wild barks and snarls, was partial to some meat now and again and was not aggressive towards human beings.

The find of a cave was not significant because an ape's home was more likely to be a nest in the top of a puriri tree.

The baboon-deserter theory stuck and became even more popular as time ticked by with no fresh sightings and with the baboon surely by then in its golden years.

Jack Bongard was a reporter on a peninsular newspaper who enthusiastically kept the Hairy Man story alive for several months, finding that each article generated more stories of sightings and hearsay.

Bongard, who was a schoolteacher for 25 years and who is now retired to Otahuhu, agrees some of his sources were known for colourful imaginings.

But others, he says, were "prominent people of unquestionable character."

His initial scepticism gradually turned to wonder about whether there was "some sort of creature" up in the ranges.

HE INTERVIEWED three young Maori pighunters whose dog — the bravest bailer and holder in the district — had suddenly bristled and frozen in its tracks, growled but refused to attack.

A huge unkempt creature then appeared from behind the bush in front of the dog, ambled on to the track and with an easy grace leaped into the lower branches of an overhanging tree and disappeared — like Tarzan.

"When I found two of those kids locked up in their bush where, they were dead scared," recalls Bongard.

Their description of the creature was similar — large, stooping, completely covered with long shaggy white hair. It had a huge beard, longer hair on its head, and monstrous arms and shoulders.

Then a county councillor, a steady, reliable sort of man, told Bongard of a hairy "humanoid" which shadowed his work gang in the bush during the 1930s Depression.

As the gang cleared drains in the swamp, the creature would dart out from the raupo cover to snatch up eels they flung on to the bank. Their food safe and scrap bags were raided at night and a trail of large, bare footprints led into the bush.

Nearly 18 years passed before the Hairy Man again made headlines in New Zealand. The *Herald* reported in 1969 a J. P. Grey, formerly of Thames, as saying he would lead a party of 40 Australians on a "Moehau monster hunt." Grey said an overseas article depicted an ape-like creature 7ft tall, covered with silver-white hair and with large pink vacant eyes and short thin legs. Its growl could be heard two miles away.

THIS group of adventurers were hot to trot in the Moehau range because Vera

Marshall, of Punchbowl, Sydney, and her husband had reported coming face to face with the "thing" only six weeks before on their Coromandel holiday.

We never heard how the monster hunters fared, or whether, in fact, they ever made it to the Coromandel.

Nevertheless, such free transtasman publicity was welcomed by local tourism interests and it gave Jack Bongard an opportunity to suggest his pet theory — a link between the Hairy Man and the supernatural.

He quotes from a 1904 book, *The Maori Race* by Edward Tregear, which talked of the Patupaearehe — Maori fairies who mainly lived at Moehau in forts made of supplejack.

Tregear mentions often hearing Maori speak of wild men or mohao who haunted the Coromandel Peninsula, especially Moehau.

The Maori described them as very tall, horrible-looking men, having long yellow hair and with teeth like bent-down tusks at the corners of the mouth.

"The night-cry 'makona' supposed to be given by the mohao has thrilled many a stout heart with its fancied sound," wrote Tregear, adding that the wild man was "strong, fierce, cunning and apt to carry off women and children."

Tregear suggested the Maori immigrants had brought the stories of forest wildmen with them from another land or that the stories derived from preceding generations' memories of the orang-utan or other apes.

Mt Moehau is said to be a very tapu place where Tama te Kapua, the captain of the Arawa canoe in the great migration, and many Hauraki tribe members were buried.

Bongard says he is "not really sceptical." If the Moehau creatures were mere myths, he says, how is it that they were reputed to inhabit only Moehau. Why not other early Maori settlements?

NEW ZEALAND HERALD, Auckland, New Zealand - Jan. 14, 1989 CR: R. Collins



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - Aug. 12, 1989

## Colorado 'bigfoot' puzzling

By DICK FOSTER  
Rocky Mountain News Southern Bureau

COLORADO — State sightings don't fit usual bigfoot-type creature spotted last year west of Colorado Springs is confounding those who study them, an Omaha specialist said yesterday after a week of walking the Colorado woods.

Bob Brienza and two other trackers roamed the Colorado backcountry from Monument to Florissant for a week in late July looking for traces of the creature.

"We've gathered enough information that a pattern has emerged. Not a good or a clear-cut pattern, but at least one that would give us some direction to look," said Brienza, who has studied bigfoot creatures around the world since 1967.

"But I'm not sure that what people are seeing out there in Colorado is a bigfoot as we understand the typical primate. North-western woods type of creature," said Brienza. "There are some things that just don't fit the pattern."

Hair samples gathered last August from a Green Mountain Falls cabin, where the creature was seen ramming a hairy forearm through a screen door, are primate. A San Francisco University professor determined them to be in the range between chimpanzee, gorilla and human, "but so close that they really couldn't differentiate," said Brienza. He is convinced they are authentic.

"I was there when we pulled those hairs out of the fragmented wood and the torn screen, and there's no way anybody could plant those bits of flesh and hair between splinters and cracks in the wood like that."

But other aspects of the Green Mountain Falls sightings are baffling, he said.

"The footprints that have been photographed up there definitely are not a traditional bigfoot print," said Brienza.

The bigfoot's print resembles a large, flat human foot, while those found at Green Mountain Falls are "almost like a hoof."

"There are definite hard, incised indentations like a hoof on the front of it, and a clawlike spur on the side, which are definitely not indicative of any kind of a primate as we understand them," he said.

"Nowhere in the other bigfoot tracks seen in that area of Colorado, other areas of the United States or even the Himalayas have we seen that kind of adaptation," he said.

Another thing perplexes Brienza. Never in the history of bigfoot sightings were the creatures seen in Colorado before the Green Mountain Falls sightings in 1987.

"The Rocky Mountains has been conspicuous by the absence of bigfoot activity, and the only reason I can think of is food supply," said Brienza.

"The Rockies are not an abundant food source, and if you're talking about a large, warm-blooded mammal, 400 to 800 pounds, that requires a lot of food," he said.

Brienza expects to return to Colorado, possibly next summer, to pursue the riddles.

## Farmers on watch for stock mutilators

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Aug. 22, 1989 CR: G. Duplantier

CODDETTE, Sask. (CP) — Farmers near Colette are taking extra precautions to safeguard their animals after the mutilation of a bull last month.

"Those of us with cattle are babysitting them," said Janet Paisley, who farms with her husband Wayne near this community 100 km (60 miles) east of Prince Albert.

There has also been a rash of disappearances and mutilations of domestic pets, Paisley said.

The bull was killed July 19. The tongue and penis had been cut out.