

UFO

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PRESS, Grand Rapids, MI - Nov. 8, 1989

Shiny ball over Mississippi raises new UFO speculation

By David Snyder
Newhouse News Service

GREENVILLE, Miss. — After 20 years as a pilot, Bill Kimmel isn't easily impressed by what he sees in the sky.

Fiery meteors, planets that sometimes seem to move and satellites crossing the heavens on their computerized routes — all just part of the skyscape for Kimmel.

But the shiny object that resembled a giant steel ball hurtling through the air at 800 or 900 mph, 200 feet below his left wing, was different. "Now I've seen it all," Kimmel says.

Others around here — some willing to talk about it, some not — also have seen the speeding shiny ball.

And a substantial number of people, including several deputy sheriffs, have seen their own UFOs 84 miles to the northwest outside Pine Bluff, Ark.

In the Greenville area, people have taken to going out on the Mississippi River levee, away from the lights, to seek out the flying ball that Kimmel says looks to be about twice the size of a two-seater airplane.

In Arkansas, the UFO watchers frequent country roads, trying for a peek at whatever it is that's hovering out there at tree-top level, quiet and watchful.

Kimmel remembers everything about his encounter with the ball on a crisp Monday in October.

He was ferrying a Hollandale rice farmer, Felin Cooper, to Missouri where they would pick up a farm machinery part. They were

traveling north "on one of those clear fall days where you can see forever," Kimmel says.

At 5:30 p.m., 40 miles south of Memphis, Tenn., Kimmel saw what appeared to be a bright light about 30 miles to the northeast.

"It was shining like I've seen the sun shining on airplanes," he says. "I could tell it was moving fast, but I thought it was just a jet."

Within seconds, when the object crossed his flight path, Kimmel knew that he was looking at something new and weird.

"It was a solid round metal ball about twice the size of a light twin-engine airplane. No cockpit. No wings. No tail section. When it got behind me the sun silhouetted the thing. I watched it for two or three seconds and it disappeared, like they put it in high gear."

"Just disappeared," Kimmel says, amazement in his voice. "I know it sounds weird, but that's what happened."

Cooper saw it, too, and was equally amazed.

Lee Abide Jr., a Greenville area crop duster, says he saw the same thing a few days earlier.

"I look up and see this thing," he says. "It moved quickly to the right, then to the left. It was round. It was more orange than yellow."

And then the sphere, which Abide estimates was 90 feet in diameter, was gone.

"I was fascinated," he says. "It's something from another universe."

It wasn't long, Abide says, before locals began showing up on the levee with binoculars, "waiting to see something."

Kimmel says two other pilots have told him they've also seen UFOs.

UFOs began popping up around Pine Bluff on Oct. 23.

The sheriff's office received a call from a woman who said she saw a UFO.

Sgt. Bernard Adams went out for a look, and there it was.

"It looked like it was 150 to 200 feet above treetop level," Adams says. "When we saw it, it was over southwest Pine Bluff. It looked like it would hover up a little bit, then it would hover down a little bit."

He says he and other deputies saw the same thing last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

The sheriff's department has been flooded with calls from people who say they have seen it glittering in the sky, sometimes looking like it was ringed with a blue haze, or blue lights. The FAA has told police the object didn't show up on radar, perhaps because it was too low.

Charles Hemann, institutional assistant at the University of Arkansas Planetarium in Monticello, says he hasn't seen the UFO, but he may have an explanation, at least for the Pine Bluff sightings.

What people may be seeing is Venus, which picks up bright sunlight this time of the year and appears low near the southwest horizon. Venus can look like it is moving, Hemann says, because gases in the Earth's atmosphere play tricks on sky watchers.

But those who have seen the object say it is extremely close, not millions of miles away.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO

Nov. 1, 1989 CR: R. Decker

Aliens take a shine to mountain getaway



Bill Husted

The people in Crested Butte are gearing up for the ski season and the annual influx of visitors — including some ETs.

Reports of UFOs in the area hit a new high when Mount Crested Butte police Officer **Carole Ann Brady** made two sightings during the pre-dawn hours on Oct. 20. She described the first sighting as "a red haze over the mountains. ... It looked like it could be coming from the Aspen area." She called the Aspen police, who started giggling until they got a 911 call reporting a sighting there.

Back on the beat, Brady sighted a number of brilliant white lights shooting up from the ground just outside of town. Other residents also reported the sightings, and a number of people reported seeing four U.S. jets flying low over the sighting area later in the day.

Maybe it's just a coincidence, but that same morning in Aspen, a UFO conference began at the Given Institute that drew believers and abductees from throughout the country. Hmmm.

Some people, such as Crested Butte town Councilman **Jim Deli**, say it's the northern lights. But longtime-local and resident-mystic **Henrietta Raines** says she has had "middle-of-the-night" encounters with ETs in the Butte and has been telling people about it for weeks. She is starting a UFO contact center in the mountain hamlet.

Even the usually suspicious editor of the *Crested Butte Chronicle & Pilot*, **Lee Ervin**, says, "Stuff is flying around out there. I've seen stuff flying around out there."

But deputy county clerk **Lynda Jackson** discounts that claim, saying that Ervin is an extra terrestrial.

Ah those mountain towns, where people go to get away from it all!

NEWS-LEADER, Springfield, MO - Oct. 19, 1989 CR: K. Sandberg

Unusual lights sighted across Howell County

By Michelle Beth Katzenell
The News-Leader

Howell County Sheriff's Department officials wonder whether an unidentified flying object spotted late last week will make a return visit.

Meanwhile, unusual lights that may have been meteors were reported Tuesday night in parts of Missouri and Kansas. It's uncertain whether those reports are related to the Howell County sightings.

Sheriff's officials received more than a dozen calls from people wanting to report the sighting of colored, flashing lights circling in the sky. The sky may be clear this week, but authorities say they anticipate whatever it was could return.

"We're just sitting here, more or less, anticipating the next time, if there is one," said Keith Weaver, chief dispatcher at the Howell County Sheriff's Department.

The department received about a dozen calls about 8:20 p.m. on Oct. 12 from people describing an unusual array of flashing colors, Weaver said.

Weaver also spotted what he described as an object flashing red, orange and yellow lights in the sky. The colors disappeared over the horizon after a few minutes, but then a similar object reappeared about 20 minutes later, he said.

This time, Weaver used his moderate-powered

'It appeared to be a circular object with multicolored lighting revolving very quickly ...'

— Keith Weaver, chief dispatcher
Howell County Sheriff's Department

telescope to get a better look at the unusual lights.

"It appeared to be a circular object with multicolored lighting revolving very quickly in a clockwise pattern," Weaver said.

Red, blue, orange, green and yellow lights were flashing, he said. The object appeared overhead about 12 to 15 miles north of the sheriff's department, Weaver said. It appeared to be flying about 8,000 to 12,000 feet high, he said.

Weaver and others watched the unusual object until about 10:45 p.m. About six others called, describing the same incident, Weaver said.

Weaver notified a National Weather Service official, who told him there was no meteor shower in

the area.

But that wasn't the end of the unidentified object.

A West Plains resident called about 9:40 p.m. Friday to report the sighting of an object similar to that spotted by others the night before, Weaver said.

Weaver again pulled out his telescope and spotted the lights.

"It was much lower in the sky — closer to the horizon," he said.

Both nights, the object appeared to be north and northwest of West Plains, Weaver said. The object appeared to be moving west on Oct. 12, but the next night it was moving due south, he added.

Weaver wasn't the only one from the sheriff's office who eyed the flying object.

Chief Deputy Don Baysinger also watched the unidentified lights Friday night from his West Plains home.

"It looked like something you'd see at EPCOT," he said of the flashing lights.

Weaver contacted the Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base on Friday. Neither military base reported any flight activity.

None of the Howell County sight-

ings can be explained by those who Weaver contacted, he said.

"It was some type of an aircraft that still is an unknown," he said. Sky activity described Tuesday may have been unrelated to the Howell County sightings.

A Federal Aviation Administration official said several reports of what was described as fireballs came from people near Kansas City International Airport. In McPherson County, Kan., several motorists reported seeing bright lights in the sky east of McPherson.

There were similar reports of lights moving from south to north in the Emporia, Kan., area Tuesday night.

Ron Cop, FAA spokesman Ron Cop said Tuesday's lights may have been a meteor.

"It was definitely not an aircraft because we didn't have any missing. It's probably a meteor or some space junk entering the atmosphere," Cop said. "When you find it breaking up over a wide area like this, that's usually what it is."

□ The Associated Press also contributed information for this story.

Woman tells of UFO in '73 on U.S. 31

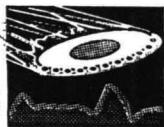
By Frank Sikora
News staff writer

A former Birmingham-area resident says that she had an encounter with an alien spacecraft in October, 1973, but did not know what had happened until two years ago when she underwent hypnosis.

Cynthia Vodovoz, 28, said the incident took place on U.S. 31 near Gardendale, and she and investigators are still trying to sort out the details of how a "thin thing" and "whitish looking" creatures allegedly took her aboard the craft. She was 12 at the time.

"For many years I didn't know what had happened, only that I had been troubled by something," she said in a telephone interview.

She said the event occurred as she was riding with her mother from



their home in Morris to a dance class in Birmingham.

"I noticed an object," she said. "It was big and round and bright green and had a yellow ring around it. It was coming over the trees. It stayed with us. And my mother said, 'Is it going to land?'"

Miss Vodovoz said that just north of Gardendale the object began to descend directly in front of them. She said the car stalled near an intersection. There were several other cars stopped, she said.

"The object kept coming down and seemed to stop near the wires," she continued. "It seemed bigger than a plane. My mother rolled down the window which really upset me. I thought I was going to run. In the car next to me was a man whose face was lit up. He was leaning over toward us. Mother asked the man, 'Do you think it's a UFO?' And he said, 'I guess so.'"

Miss Vodovoz said she recalls feeling "heavy," and a bright light shone in the car. She said she felt she could not move.

"The next thing I remember I was sitting in the car seat but my feet were in mother's lap, and the car door slammed on my back and it woke me up. My mother seemed to wake up. She was trying to start up the car."

She said they continued along U.S. 31 and when they arrived at the dance class they were about 40 minutes late.

Her mother called her father, Irvin Vodovoz, who worked with the Federal Aviation Administration in Birmingham, who dismissed the object as a rocket being test fired by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The following year the family moved to Washington. Later, Miss Vodovoz moved to Los Angeles to pursue her interest in dance. But she was bothered by the incident in Gardendale, she said.

In 1986 she met with Dr. Richard Neal, an obstetrician-gynecologist who also is a hypnotist. Later, she said, famed UFO investigator Budd Hopkins came to interview her, placing her under hypnosis.

In that state, she said, she told an astonishing story.

She told of seeing the object and coming to the intersection, thinking there had been an accident, because of the stopped cars.

"The people ahead were screaming and putting arms out the window," she said, "and this thin thing was coming. And as he passed the cars, the people were subdued. As he got to our car, mother rested her head on the door. Then three small beings, whitish looking, came to my door and opened it. I tried to put my fingers in the air conditioner vents to hold on, but the vents broke."

She said that under hypnosis she told of being taken — floated — aboard a craft that was white inside. She said she was placed on a table and said there was another girl lying on another table.

"She had kind of sandy, curly hair, and she was in the same predicament as me," she said. "They were walking around the table doing an examination. I remember they placed a needle in my navel."

Later, she said, she was placed in what appeared to be a transparent globe and floated back in her mother's car. She said the door of the car was slammed on her back.

"I've always wondered whether anyone remembers anything happening there that night near Gardendale," she said in the interview. "My father remembers getting a call from a man who said he was an Air Force colonel and the man said he had seen a UFO. I wish we could find that man."

Jeff Ballard, state director of the group known as MUFON — Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network — says he hopes to find motorists who might have been on U.S. 31 that night in October 1973.

"I feel there may be a number of people that may have had some encounters like that that they don't understand, but they are bothered by it," said Ballard, who is an engineer with a space-related company in Huntsville. "They just have some memory of a light."

Ballard says October, because of its normally clear nights, often brings reports of sightings of strange lights in the sky.

Tonight in Birmingham, a Nashville woman, Leilani Dearing, and her husband, Dan, will speak at the Parliament House Hotel. Mrs. Dearing says the couple was taken aboard a spacecraft in Hawaii by peaceful aliens.

GAZETTE, Hollywood, CA - [Date Unknown]



by William L. Moore

"I know you've done a lot of writing and researching about the UFO phenomenon," someone said to me recently, "but seriously, what's your bottom line? What are your own personal conclusions about this subject?" I had to think about that. UFOs are such an elusive phenomenon that risking conclusions about them quite literally amounts to putting one's reputation on the line. No matter what you say, someone somewhere is going to see fit to throw rocks at you for saying it. Anyway, damn the torpedoes—full speed ahead!

My interpretation of the UFO evidence falls essentially into four separate categories:

1- A highly advanced civilization is visiting planet Earth and is actively manipulating our awareness of their presence here.

2- Elements of at least two intelligence agencies of the U.S. government are aware of this, and both are presently conducting highly classified, on-going projects. At least one of these efforts (and probably both) has access to scientific data which, if released, would provide proof positive that some UFOs represent someone else's highly advanced technology.

3- U.S. government counter-intelligence people have conducted an on-again, off-again campaign of deception and disinformation against the American public about the UFO phenomenon for more than 40 years. Those who have been responsible for such operations are highly placed individuals within at least two separate agencies and there does seem to be a degree of cooperation between them. These operations involve a significant number of people and are well-organized. They also include the use of phony documents and the recruiting of informants who are able to provide information on the activities of people conducting UFO research or who have had UFO experiences.

There are several possible explanations for this situation:

A) The disinformation is a security cover for a real UFO project which exists at a very high level and is known to only

an elite few.

B) It is a security process designed to divert attention away from real, but non-UFO related, high-tech research and development projects.

C) It is a manipulation by a group of highly placed and well-to-do individuals (like the tri-lateralists) who espouse a one-world philosophy and who are using the UFO phenomenon in an effort to bring about world unity in the face of an unknown threat from space.

D) It is a convenient way of training counterintelligence agents in the techniques of deception and disinformation.

E) It is a manipulation by UFO aliens themselves as part of a long-term plan to gradually make human society aware of their presence here.

It is my "educated guess" that the truth is best described in terms of a combination of all of the above!

4- The real "secret" behind the government's UFO cover-up is essentially an awareness of what UFOs are by a few people in high places who have connections with the National Security Council and the White House. Widespread publicity about the UFO abduction phenomenon is an unwelcome complication to what is already a difficult situation. Within the "in" group there are strong differences of opinion as to whether information should be released to the public and how fast. There also seems to be some consternation about exactly who is in control of the situation.

The so-called UFO community has been stumbling around looking for answers for more than thirty years. If the above conclusions are true, and I believe they are, then the real question centers around whether the American public is better off knowing or not knowing. One thing is certain—it's going to take more than pressure from the UFO community to bring this thing to a head in any sort of credible manner. Perhaps a Congressional investigation is in order. That's going to take public pressure... from YOU! How about it?

UNION, San Diego, CA - Oct. 3, 1989 CR: C. Jines



The names, so far, are June Maurer, Mark Leslie, Edna Seggie, Jerry Gordon, Merv Healey, Carla Spitz, Dr. William A. Shafer, Bob Stille and Mary Ann Bondy. They saw the same UFO as I, last Tuesday morning, about 6:15. I feel as if we are somehow linked, but look, folks: If you suddenly get the urge to pile dirt in your living room and build models of the Devil's Tower in Wyoming, don't call me.

There are other witnesses. Bob Stille knows a colleague who saw it, but doesn't want his name connected with the incident in any way, shape or form. I can understand that.

June Maurer and two friends were taking their regular morning walk on the beach in Del Mar. They saw it out over the water: a very bright, white light in the sky, and beneath it a glowing, conical aura. Everyone's general first impression was of an airplane's landing lights breaking through clouds. But this thing was relatively stationary. Maurer's group watched it for maybe three minutes.

"There was a small airplane flying up from the south to the north," she said. "We were saying, 'What do you think will happen when the little airplane goes under that light?' But when the airplane was almost there, the light — zap! — went out. It just disappeared. Snap. Gone. I didn't tell anybody about it until I read your column, and I said, thank goodness, I've got somebody to tell."

Dr. Shafer, watching from his front yard on Soledad Way, thought at first it was a bolide. A bolide is like a meteorite, but at the end, instead of disintegrating, it explodes.

"This thing just winked out," he said. "It just didn't have the same

appearance as the two I'd seen before. After it went out I stood there for 15 minutes, looking for airplane wing lights. I didn't see any. It was large, it was bright, and it was pure white. I saw it for 35 or 40 seconds at least. First the halo disappeared, then the central light disappeared. Just like somebody turned something off."

Neither did this thing exhibit the movement of a meteorite. The witnesses described it as being essentially stationary. Of course it could have been a meteorite (or a piece of space junk) that was coming straight at us.

Jerry Gordon saw it from Descanso. Merv Healey saw it from Rancho Bernardo. Mark Leslie thought it was hovering directly over a condo complex on his jogging route through Penasquitos. Bob Stille, U.S. Border Patrol agent in charge of the Campo station, saw it as he drove through Dulzura along Highway 94.

"It was a very distinct beam coming down," said Stille. "Due west of me, I would say three or four miles, maybe five. I saw it for 15 or 20 seconds. I first thought it was airplane landing lights, but then I thought it couldn't be that, because the light was shining down, not horizontally. Then there were some clouds, and I thought when I got past the clouds I'd be able to see it again. But I saw nothing."

"I was driving west on Interstate 8 through La Mesa," said Edna Seggie, a buyer at General Dynamics. "I saw a very bright light above and to the right of me. It was very bright and cone-shaped, and very stationary. It looked like it was over the Clairemont or Kearny Mesa area. I thought it was very odd that it wasn't moving. I was driving, so I couldn't stare at it. The next time I looked up, it was gone."

Mary Ann Bondy, viewing the UFO from Penasquitos, saw it much the same as the others: "It wasn't moving fast enough to be a falling star, and if it was a comet, it is certainly the largest I have ever seen."

And I am sure that Mary Ann spoke for all of us when she said, "If you start having trouble with your fork and mashed potatoes, please let me know. I'll bring the canary."

Then we can all fly over the cuckoo's nest.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL

Nov. 30, 1989 CR: R. Reid

Cigar shaped UFO sighted over Naval Live Oaks

A Gulf Breeze resident reported to the Sentinel this week that he and two other motorists watched a UFO descend into the trees in the Naval Live Oaks East of Gulf Breeze on the evening of Wednesday, November 15th.

The witness said he was driving West on Highway 98 near the new park about 9:00 p.m. when he saw a big beige cigar shaped object

with lights on both ends and a light on top in the center settling down into the trees between him and the Sound. The whole craft just glowed in the dark, said the witness.

It was probably 20 to 40 feet long and made no noise, according to the witness. We watched it for 5 or 6 seconds. Then we looked at each other and just shrugged our shoulders, said the witness, referring to himself and the other driver.

TIMES, Los Angeles, CA

June 20, 1989 CR: J. Guma

More than a dozen people phoned The Times Sunday night to report a mysterious aerial sight in the Encino area. "Two large bright orange lights, right next to each other," one caller said. "They moved away for a few seconds, then came back."

No explanation yet for the spacemen who got away, as usual.

REACHING OUT AND TOUCHING UNKNOWN WORLDS

FOR FUN, PROFIT AND KNOWLEDGE

by Craig Phelon

ED CONROY STEPS out of the front door of a downtown San Antonio building and immediately points to the sky.

"There! You see? I'm glad it happened when you were with me."

A small, unmarked helicopter with a light-blue fuselage flies across the sky in front of us.

Conroy seems to be suffering from a plague of helicopters. He says strange helicopters have been buzzing his apartment building and following him as he rides in cars or walks down the street.

But Conroy takes it in stride. He has gotten used to it.

It apparently comes with the territory of being a UFO researcher.

Conroy says helicopters have been following him since he began research for his book, "Report on Communion," an investigation into the story behind "Communion," the best-selling book on UFOs by San Antonio native Whitley Strieber.

"Communion" also has been made into a movie, which opened in several cities this weekend and will open Friday in San Antonio. The movie, like the book, chronicles the Strieber family's alleged extended contacts with the occupants of UFOs and their struggles to come to grips with their experiences.

And that is where the advantage of being a UFO researcher comes into play for Conroy.

It just so happens that his book, published by William Morrow, also is hitting the bookstores with a nationwide promotion campaign at the same time as the movie and another book by Strieber titled "Majestic." This latest book is about a possible government cover-up of a 1947 discovery of a crashed UFO.

Despite those who think Conroy saw a coming fad and jumped on the bandwagon, he says he joined the growing ranks of UFO researchers with great reluctance — specifically because many people still think UFO stories are something to read at the checkout stand in the grocery store.

However, Conroy, a free-lance writer who contributes to the Express-News, says writing the book changed his way of looking at the world, and also may have caused some extraterrestrial experiences of his own — including what he believes may be abductions by "the visitors" similar to those the Strieber family reported.

His work also seems to have surrounded him with helicopters — not just an occasional helicopter passing in the sky, but helicopters that do odd things and seem to be flying aggressively close to him.

According to Conroy, the pilots from these helicopters have shined searchlights into his apartment windows and flown in circles outside his building. The helicopters are different sorts; he says he got a book on helicopters so he could identify them.

They may be white, black or blue, but they always are unmarked; no police, military, television station or business logos can be seen on them. He says he also couldn't see any identifying numbers, even though



Photo courtesy New Line Cinema

The aliens that author Ed Conroy writes about in his own book make an appearance in the soon-to-be released film, "Communion."

the Federal Aviation Administration requires helicopter owners to display their registration numbers in foot-high letters, which should be clearly visible from a distance.

Some people may think Conroy is paranoid, but he doesn't think so.

It might be easy to dismiss this apparent plethora of helicopters as coincidence. Maybe Conroy simply is more aware of helicopters than he has been in the past.

"I have helicopters all around me and I'd never had helicopters around me before," he insists.

Conroy and I have worked on a previous Sunday Magazine story involving Strieber and reported local UFO sightings.

While I'm not qualified to vouch for Conroy's sanity — or my own, for that matter — I do remember seeing helicopters around us whenever we worked together.

One flew by his window when I interviewed him in his apartment. One flew over my van while we were parked at the scene of a reported UFO sighting. And one flew directly overhead as Ron McAtee, another local UFO researcher who helped Conroy with his book, led Conroy and I through the woods in Olmos Basin.

Coincidence? Maybe.

Conroy reports all this in the epilogue of his book.

Judging from stories in the growing numbers of magazines and newsletters about UFOs, being followed by helicopters seems to go hand in hand with UFO research.

In addition to the constant unsettling presence of helicopters in his life, Conroy says his research also has brought him experiences he never bargained for.

In July 1987, when he and his wife, Lucila, were asleep in their apartment at the Casino Club building, "I woke up absolutely convinced that someone was in the next room," Conroy says.

"I was living on the sixth floor in an electronically secure building and my apartment had a heavy door with a deadbolt lock."

He says he instinctively felt ready to fight and picked up the only weapon available to him: a wooden back massager.

"The next thing I remember, it was about 7 in the morning. Light was coming through the blinds. I was lying face-down on my pillow, a position in which I never normally sleep. A blood stain about four inches in diameter was on the pillow and another similarly sized stain was on the sheet."

Conroy says he went to the bathroom and saw dried blood on the right side of his face, apparently from a nosebleed. Nosebleeds are a common theme in stories by people who claim UFO abductions. This supposedly results from nasal probes the visitors perform.

Then there was a three-week period that prior February during which Conroy woke up every night precisely at 4 a.m.

"Every time I woke up, I had the physical sensation of a hand just being removed from the back of my head."

Once, Conroy woke up to see a small dark figure sitting on the edge of his bed.

"I no sooner looked at it, than it moved and flew over my head and disappeared into the wall behind me."

Many people think they see shadowy figures in dark bedrooms. They are the stuff of practically every child's nightmares. However, Conroy says there is more to the story.

As the figure left, Conroy noticed the apartment was very hot — another phenomenon UFO abductees often report.

"It got objectively hot in my apartment, even though it was a winter night," he says. "I usually slept with the window (slightly) open and thermostat set at 64 degrees. I got up and looked at the thermostat and the thermometer on it said 80 degrees."

Many people who claim to have been abducted by UFOs report a sudden inexplicable rise in temperature in their rooms.

Conroy also reports that before he awoke he dreamed of his body literally being filled with light. He looked at his hands and saw "flaming energy" coming from them while in a laboratory standing over what looked like petri dishes.

Part of Conroy's research involved a weekend visit to Strieber's country home in upstate New York. He stayed with eight other people, all of who claimed to have had some UFO experience.

The purpose of the gathering was to see if the group could actually "call" a UFO to visit them.

Though the attempt was not as enlightening as they hoped, group members, including Conroy, reported seeing an orange ball rising over the trees in an undulating fashion.

The full moon appears as an orange disk when it rises and sometimes the effects of the atmosphere can make it appear to undulate.

But Conroy says this orange disk was much smaller than the full moon and appeared to move up and down and sideways across the horizon in a way unlike any moon he ever has seen.

And that night, Conroy had a vivid dream about being driven away into the night sky by what looked like a pretty airline stewardess driving a white Toyota.

And then there are the helicopters.

Conroy says he noticed a Bell 47 model helicopter outside his apartment window early one morning in March 1987.

"What was remarkable about this particular helicopter was the inordinate amount of attention it seemed to be paying to my building, in that it was passing by my windows at a distance of less than 50 yards, and even went so far as to shine its searchlight in my direction," Conroy writes in his book.

"It made at least eight tight circles before making what I believe were four larger circles. . . . (On) the final one of the sequence, the helicopter came directly toward my building, in a straight line that enabled it, before passing directly overhead, to shine its light straight into my main office windows."

That was one of several strange helicopter encounters Conroy recorded. Others included the aircraft hovering at unusually low levels or flying in strange patterns.

Conroy says his most startling helicopter sighting involved two large Chinook-style helicopters flying over downtown San Antonio in August

1988. That may not be an unusual sight in this city surrounded by military bases, but these were painted bright colors and flew so close to each other their blades appeared to be meshing, "as though they were eggbeaters."

Normally, two helicopters coming that close to each other are doomed to crash. But Conroy says he had "a good, long look" at the aircraft through binoculars.

Conroy's neighbor in the Casino Building, Linda Winchester, also saw the helicopters. So did Whitley Strieber and his wife, Anne, and son, Andrew, according to Conroy's book. The Striebers were in San Antonio and were just leaving Conroy's apartment.

Winchester told Sunday Magazine she did see the helicopters flying extremely close to each other. Although she couldn't say the blades appeared to be meshing, she said the formation seemed unusual.

The strange encounters with helicopters and shadowy creatures almost persuaded him to drop the book project, says Conroy.

"In the course of my investigation, I attempted to remain as rigorously objective as possible."

"When I began to have these experiences, I seriously considered stopping the book when I realized I was going to have to either talk about them or deny them."

"I was sick for a week, because I was very, very afraid of being accused of not being objective or of falling under Strieber's spell," he says.

Conroy explains in his book that he finally decided the experiences deepened his capacity to relate to the strange events that make up the narratives of "Communion" and Strieber's second UFO-related book, "Transformation."

"I decided I would be a bad reporter if I didn't talk about them," Conroy says.

One of his first encounters with the subject, which would become almost an obsession, occurred in April 1987 when he wrote a story on Strieber for the Express-News.

He met Strieber the following July during a trip to New York. By that time, "Communion" had reached the top of the New York Times' non-fiction, best-seller list.

"In reading all the publicity that was coming out about 'Communion,' I felt (Strieber) was not understood as an author, much less a human being. So like a good reporter, I set out to investigate the way in which his story was being told and reported by others."

Conroy got an agent and Strieber's own publisher interested in a background book on the writer and his experiences.

"I realized from the very beginning that I wouldn't be able to prove once and for all whether Whitley Strieber was actually visited by aliens," he says. "But I wanted to investigate whether there was any basis in fact for the experiences Strieber wrote about — whether his story checked out."

While Conroy's research still has not answered the "big question" of whether space creatures actually are taking humans for rides in their flying saucers, he feels his research did shed some light on Strieber and his experiences.

"I found a series of coincidences in the Strieber story that seemed to have been written by Rod Serling himself," Conroy says.

"Perhaps the most remarkable thing I found on the local level was Strieber grew up in the home of the late Col. Guy Hicks."

In July 1948, Hicks, who was the

(continued on page 4)

commander at Godman Field, near Fort Knox, granted permission to Air National Guard pilot Capt. Thomas Mantel to pursue a silvery disc he reported seeing.

Mantel's plane crashed, killing the pilot, and the strange circumstances surrounding the crash resulted in Hicks being transferred to a lesser post at Lackland AFB.

"So here was a man (Strieber) who was to grow up to be Mr. UFO, growing up in the home of a man whose career was somewhat shattered by a UFO event," Conroy says.

He found people who had not spoken with Strieber for years and had not read "Communion" but remembered him from the neighborhood, provided information that seemed to support the "Communion" story.

"We cannot view this (alleged UFO) phenomenon with an outmoded view of reality," Conroy says. "The phenomenon is a challenge for us to bring our view of the everyday world into sharper focus."

Of course, it remains to be seen whether UFOs, their pint-sized non-human "visitors," and phantom helicopters will eventually sharpen our focus — or make it a lot fuzzier. ■

Craig Phelon is Sunday Magazine's story editor.

CHRONICLE, San Francisco,
CA - Nov. 23, 1989

Alien Kidnap Victims View 'Communion'

Studios and producers often arrange special screenings for special-interest groups. In the case of "Communion," based on writer Whitley Strieber's best-selling account of his real-life abduction by aliens, that group was extra-special: These were folks who also claim to have had Close Encounters.

Abductees and contactees — that is, persons who claim to have been abducted or contacted by extraterrestrials — attended the screenings recently in New York, San Diego, San Antonio, Texas and St. Louis.

Lorie Barnes — a chronic abductee who's also Strieber's secretary — said that the folks were rounded up via "Communion" network groups composed of "hard-core" abductees-contactees in 15 states.

Barnes, 59, had her first contact with a UFO in 1954, she said, when she saw a blue flying saucer with flashing white lights that hovered about 50 feet overhead. Four years later, she added, she was physically abducted — like Strieber, taken aboard a spaceship for examination.

Illinois newspaper's close encounter

Aliens didn't invade Rockford, Ill., this weekend, but don't blame some readers of the Rockford Register Star if they thought otherwise. Several thousand copies of Sunday's metro edition carried a front-page story headlined, "Aliens Spotted Near Rockford."

The story, which had only four lines and ran on the bottom of the page, said: "These aliens claim to be human children offering further proof that alien beings do indeed live in our planet and may be among local residents."

Publisher Michael Coleman said the story was unintentionally inserted by a production employee, who had written the item as a practical joke. The employee, who has been fired, mistakenly placed it on a page that had been cleared for printing. The presses were stopped as soon as the item was spotted.

MEDIA NOTES

Coleman ran a front-page apology Monday. And in case there were any doubters left, he assured readers "all information in the article is false."

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USA TODAY, Arlington,
VA - Dec. 5, 1989

UFOs: Invasion of the Mind-Snatchers

By DAVE SHIFLETT

The world had a big yuck recently when the Soviets reported a rash of UFO landings, one of them bringing tall aliens who glowed in the dark to Voronezh. It is the opinion of Timothy Good, author of "Above Top Secret: The World UFO Cover-Up" (Quill/William Morrow, 592 pages, \$12.95), that the world laughs too fast.

Here is a bible for UFO watchers, complete with pictures of people who say they've had personal relationships with aliens. One photo shows a woman sporting



Bookshelf

Extraterrestrial Tomes

a scar she says was made by a laser beam (a low-caliber weapon, from the looks of the wound).

So far anyway, our alien visitors seem more intent on brightening our skies than pulverizing us. Mr. Good devotes much serious space to the events of Feb. 25, 1942, when American gunners spotted strange lights in the sky above Los Angeles. Air-raid sirens sounded the alarm at 2:25 a.m., summoning 12,000 air wardens to duty. Soon all hell broke loose.

Ground batteries, targeting an odd assortment of aircraft traveling at highly unusual speeds, opened up a furious fusillade. The sky filled with 12.8-pound shells, several of which fell back to Earth, destroying homes and buildings. When the smoke cleared, six people were dead (three from heart attacks), and everyone wondered what in the world they were shooting at.

Mr. Good, who documents these things as best he can, provides an official explanation in the form of a memorandum from

Chief of Staff George C. Marshall to President Roosevelt: "1,430 pounds of ammunition," he wrote his commander in chief, were expended on "unidentified aircraft," flying at speeds as slow as 200 mph and elevations between 9,000 and 18,000 feet.

Well, thousands of Californians on the scene insisted the ammo had been uselessly aimed at a large, hardy UFO, but you will just have to make your own decision about such sightings. One thing's for sure: There have been a ton of them, and greater beings than the editors of the National Enquirer have shown interest. Gerald Ford, a fairly down-to-earth fellow, once sent a letter to the chairman of the Armed Services Committee recommending that "there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomenon. I think we owe it to the American people to establish credibility regarding UFOs and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on the subject."

Jimmy Carter went further in a 1976 campaign promise: "If I become president, I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public, and the scientists. I am convinced that UFOs exist because I have seen one. . . ."

But you know about campaign promises. It still doesn't look like governments are coughing up everything they know. Still, despite their efforts to convince the world that we are indeed alone, the visitors do seem to keep coming and, like the recent sightings, there's often a detail or two that suggests they may actually be a little on the dumb side.

For instance, witnesses in Voronezh say the pinheaded behemoths and their robot friend, after strolling around the city park, left behind some rocks. Now why, you have to ask yourself, would intelligent beings haul a bunch of rocks around the universe? Or land in Russia so often. In a 1961 incident, a Soviet mail plane disappeared off the radar screen just after radioing its po-

sition to ground control in Sverdlovsk. A search party soon found the unscathed aircraft in a forest clearing much too small to have allowed a conventional landing. What's more, the seven mail personnel aboard were missing.

Again, you have to ask the obvious question: Why would intelligent beings kidnap seven Soviet mailmen?

Speculation as to the nature of aliens will no doubt continue until we wake up one morning to find they've taken over "The Today Show," the way they overwhelm an entire town in Jack Finney's "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" (Fire-side/Simon & Schuster, 216 pages, \$8.95). Maybe some of our talk-show hosts and anchors have already been taken over? The point of this 1955 novel, which spawned two movies, is that the soulless pod people replicated by alien plants are virtually indistinguishable from human folks.

Another guy who thinks they're out there and closing fast is Whitley Strieber, whose new novel, "Majestic" (Putnam, 317 pages, \$18.95), takes a look at a reported 1947 UFO crash near the Roswell Army Air Field in a New Mexico desert. Mr. Strieber knows a lot about aliens. He even had sex with one — sort of, and not intentionally — as readers learned in his "Communion" (a book recently described in the New York Times as a "nonfiction best seller").

The way Mr. Strieber tells it in his earnest prose, the intelligence officer who found the craft's strange debris was forced by the government to call the flower-inscribed scraps parts of a weather balloon. The apparent crash became top secret, and the alien creatures went away upset with the rude ways of human beings. We lost our chance to communicate with sweet-natured visitors "about four feet tall [who] looked as though they were made of puffed-up marshmallow."

Mr. Shiflett is an editorial writer for the Rocky Mountain News.

ERA, Bradford, PA - Oct. 13, 1989 CR: P. Johnson

Area residents report UFOs

Area residents witnessed what they believe to be unidentified flying objects both Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Joan Jeffers, a UFO investigator in the Bradford area, said that she received a call around 10 p.m. Thursday from a Harrisburg Run resident who wished to remain anonymous.

"He said that his TV went out and decided to go outside to see if he could fix it," Ms. Jeffers described the situation. "He didn't see a complete object but he saw bright red lights."

"He said that it was not any higher than an airplane," she continued. "And, it went right over his house when his TV went out."

There was no sound to this object, and according to Ms. Jeffers, the object slowly moved behind a tree no more than 60 feet tall. "He said it moved slower than a plane and that it was moving west toward Salamanca (N.Y.)."

Interestingly, the resident reported that his TV was operational after the object left the area.

Another UFO report was called into Ms. Jeffers at 8:50 p.m. Wednesday from Ridgway. She stated that this alleged UFO sighting was seen traveling near the Big Dipper star constellation.

There were two unidentified objects at this time and both were reported as bright lights near the stars with "flashing colors," predominantly red and white.

"While I was getting information," Ms. Jeffers remembered, "At 9:02 p.m., they told me that one of them moved off very slowly."

Ms. Jeffers is considered a bona fide investigator for unidentified flying objects in the Bradford area and these two reports are just part of her investigation experiences. She noted that some of these objects are identifiable, but many aren't.

It is hard to tell whether there is a connection between the UFOs sighted in Bradford and the one seen in Russia, she said. But added that since the Russia sighting, there have been other sightings across the United States.

HERALD, Miami, FL - Oct. 1, 1989

Couple relates other-worldly tale to crowd

Audience hears story of trip on alien ship

By DAN KEATING
Herald Staff Writer

"I remember awakening. As I opened my eyes I saw orange light. I couldn't figure out where I was. I wasn't in my bedroom."

Wednesday, Leilani Dearing described her and her husband Dan's trip on an alien spaceship before an audience at the Miamiway Theater in North Miami.

Most people would have found the story out of this world, but the majority of the 40 listeners this night had no trouble believing.

"Over to our right was a panel board. It was communicating in rectangular boxes with orange light. Dan was strapped into a seat on my left. I lost consciousness after I looked around for a while."

"The ship was octagonal, very angular as compared to a spaceship. I saw beings that resembled people, except that their noses were pointy and their skin was yellow gold with dark black eyes and hair."

"I woke up sitting on my bed with my clothes on, not my pajamas. I jumped up and ran to the window and the ship was sitting by our back deck."

The Dearings acknowledge that scientists reject their ideas and said not everyone can see the space-ships, but they are spreading word of their encounter with the inter-

stellar Pleiadians in order to prepare the world for mass landings of the "people of light" in 1992.

They also pass along the direct communications from the Pleiadians that they say come telepathically to Leilani in the form of songs. The lecture was free, but the Dearings sought donations for the Southeast Regional UFO Communication Center in Nashville, which they founded.

The audience of about 40 Wednesday night included many people who not only agreed with the Dearings, but say they have had several similar experiences.

"I would say thousands of people are having similar experiences," said Dan Dearing, a jazz musician. "We're like pioneers coming out of the closet with it."

Audience member Susie Silva of Miami Beach described her several meetings and journeys with interstellar creatures. They took her to a planet that she recognized as home, she said, and introduced her to a man whom she immediately knew was her father.

Dan Dearing, who has fantasized about meeting extraterrestrials since he was a child, said he and his wife's "Pleiadian friends" come from the planet Pleiades in the Taurus constellation. Astronomers have not found any planets outside Earth's solar system.

One member of the audience, who refused to give his name, was dubious.

"A lot of this stuff makes me skeptical about whether these people have their feet on the ground," he said.

Residents Describe Sightings of UFO

By Jeff Holt
Of the Times Staff

Three weeks ago today, Joanne Wilson and Debbie Underwood had what they could probably call a close encounter with ... something.

Friday, October 27, started as a normal day for the two. They left Harrison at approximately 4:45 a.m. and headed for War Eagle for a craft show.

They were traveling on Highway 68 several miles from Huntsville when their ordinary trip took a turn in the wrong direction. There was a red-orange light in the sky. It was big and bright, and it seemed to be following them. They watched it for a few minutes and saw it had columns of light that seemed to be scanning the ground.

The time then was 5:10 a.m. Debbie quickly grabbed her small Kodak 110 camera, with film, and began taking pictures from inside the vehicle with the windows up.

Realizing it was difficult to take pictures while the vehicle was moving, Debbie stopped the truck and rolled down Debbie's window so she could get a better shot — only a couple minutes after they first saw the object.

Well, when the vehicle stopped moving, so did the object. It was positioned several hundred yards from their vehicle when it stopped. It was soft, gentle and made no sound, they said.

"We were laughing, but we were really

hysterical," Debbie said. "We were scared because we didn't know what it was."

She reluctantly took two photos with her passenger window down. After the second photo, the object disappeared and couldn't be seen.

The women, puzzled, again proceeded toward War Eagle. They looked at the clock and saw that it was 5:40 a.m. — that's 30 minutes after Debbie took the first photos from inside the truck. The whole process shouldn't have taken more than five minutes.

Seconds later, the object reappeared and was again following them. "It's like it knew where we were going."

Second Sighting

Doctor Lynn Keener was bow-hunting at approximately 4:50 a.m. Friday, Oct. 27.

Like usual, he used his flashlight to find his way to his deer stand. Once he was situated, he turned on his flashlight.

for sunlight, but when he turned it on, he saw a strange orange light on the horizon.

He said it looked like an orange, glowing cloud of dust. It didn't look like it was moving, but it had bright white specks in it.

Keener thought at first it was the sun, but it was way too early. Then he thought about the space shuttle launch. Maybe it exploded, he thought, and that was some dangerous gas that had made it down here.

He figured he would have heard something

about it, though. So he continued to watch it hover above the ground. It wasn't doing anything, it was just there. Eventually it made its way out of sight. In his own mind, he would try to forget about it.

After spending the morning in the woods, he went back to his vehicle to meet with some other hunters.

He was expecting the usual question of "Did you see anything?" But strangely enough, they asked "What was that light in the sky this morning, did you see it?"

What Happened?

Debbie and Joanne drove to War Eagle that Saturday and Sunday after the incident. They didn't see anything like they saw on Friday, but that's probably because they wouldn't drive in the dark after what happened to them.

They didn't tell anyone about what they saw because they thought people would think they were crazy.

"We're just not the same," they said. "We both feel different after what happened." The clock on Joanne's truck was also not feeling the same. It was six hours off.

A few days later they went to check on the pictures and were totally amazed at what they saw. Needless to say, it wasn't what they expected.

Debbie caught a corner of the red-orange object on film, but there was something else in the pictures — a large structure that looked to be less than 10 feet from the camera! The

object they saw and photographed was several hundred yards away. They didn't see the object that actually showed up in the picture!

That's when they realized it's time to tell someone about their experience. They contacted NASA, who put them in touch with a UFO investigating bureau in Washington.

The bureau in Washington gave the two women a lot of information about UFO sightings, plus they gave them a little information about their own sighting which really surprised them. Some of the things they told them were pretty scary, the women said.

What really bothers Debbie and Joanne now is that people will think they're crazy, but the truth is, people see UFO's all the time. All it means is that there is an object in the sky, flying, that is unidentified. It doesn't necessarily mean they're from outer space.

The problem is that most of the time people don't report them because they don't want to be ridiculed.

The entire NACC girls' volleyball team saw a UFO a few years ago in Missouri and a lot of people didn't believe them. That's 12 girls who said they all saw the same thing.

UFO Network

Lucius Farish and Ed Maser work with the Mutual UFO Network investigations in Arkansas. Last week they were able to visit with Debbie and Joanne and talk to them about what they saw.

something other than a car's hub cap flying through the air!

Well, that's exactly what I got. The pictures I saw that Debbie Underwood took were different. They were real, but very unrealistic — bizarre. I've never seen anything like it.

Had she been a professional photographer with a great understanding of film and how it works, I may question it. But she's an amateur who uses a simple camera and simple film. Those pictures are real.

And these ladies had no reason in the world to make up something like this. If they did make it up, they probably wouldn't have gone through the trouble to contact the proper authorities.

Plus, both of them have expressed a willingness and interest to go through with the hypnosis process. I don't think they're worried about people not believing them anymore, I think they're just looking for some answers to find out what happened that night.

Dr. Keener and the handful of hunters near Kingston who saw the very same thing just add jewels to the pot. Call me what you like, but there was something there that morning.

I'm no professional, so I couldn't begin to tell you what it was. Believe me, I've tried time and time again to fit something a little more realistic in that picture, but I haven't been able to. There's really no logical explanation that I know of.

It's like someone told me the other day, why should we be conceited enough to think God created a whole universe and chose us as the only people to inhabit it?

Think about it.

And in the meantime, keep an eye out. Someday you may be the one trying to convince people that such bizarre things really do exist.

SENTRY ENTERPRISE, Hillsboro, WI - Oct. 12, 1989 CR: R. Heiden/COUD-I

Close encounter of the Hillsboro kind

By Steven J. Stanek

A strange visitor recently appeared in the skies over Hillsboro. One warm night in the latter part of August, Betty and Harley Pliner watched an unidentified flying object for over five minutes as it hung motionless in the night air above the city.

"I worked for the Knights of Columbus that night, helping out with the bingo at the Community Center," recalls Harley. "I drove home about 10:30. I put the car in the garage, and walked up the sidewalk toward the house, when I saw this big thing in the sky."

Harley was startled to

observe a large lighted object hovering above some trees across the street from his house on Mill Street.

"It was on the other side of Albrecht's house," he continued. "It was stationary, and it wasn't making a sound. It was round and covered with red and blue lights. 'I ran in the house and yelled at my wife, and she came out and looked at it'."

Betty Pliner described the object as having, "...a million lights all around it, and they were all blinking. I thought it was beautiful. They never quit flashing...they just kept flashing. 'I know it was no plane. They can't hang in the air like that. A helicopter would make noise, but this didn't!'"

The couple estimate they watched the strange lighted object for nearly five minutes before it slowly moved away. "I was going to jump in my car," reveals Harvey, "but it moved out of sight. I was going to chase it!"

"When it disappeared over the tree," says Betty, "he thought he saw another light."

So he went clear across the road looking for it. I would have been afraid, but I guess when you see a spectacle like that, you're too astonished to be afraid.

Though, Harley continued to look, the UFO had apparently vanished, returning to whence it had come. Later, he wondered why he and his wife alone were privy to the unusual phenomenon.

"I'm surprised that nobody else ever saw it," he commented.

Betty won't speculate on whether or not the object she observed originated in outer space.

"I don't think it was from around here, though," she remarked. "It was weird. It was nothing we had ever seen."

The couple's brief glimpse of the unknown proved tantalizing, and they hope that maybe someday they'll get a second chance to view an unidentified flying object.

"We've looked every night," reports Betty, "but haven't seen it since."



EVENING LEADER, Shawano, WI - Oct. 15, 1989 CR: R. Heiden/COUD-I

Local writer recalls close UFO encounter

By ROLAND BARTELS
Special to SUNDAY

It was on the Nauman road west of Highway C, near Advance, toward Green Valley, past the Hagan farm, that I came over a hill and saw the strange object, several hundred feet ahead, inside and near the fence on the right side of the road.

It was oval, about six feet high and about 20 feet across its round top. It was, as best as I can remember, a silvery color. It was on the ground, but when I came over the hill, it must have seen me. It left on the ground and soared into the air.

I should have stopped my car immediately and got out to watch it, but I made a dumb decision. I went to the spot where it had been, but by the time I got there it was too late. It was out of sight. It must have traveled at about the speed of sound.

I got out of the car and went into the field. There was no evidence that anything had been there. I looked across the road and noticed that the view from the nearby farm was obstructed by a machine shed. The farmers could not have seen the object from the house even though it was nearby. So I got in my car and kept going.

What to do? It was a time when

such sightings were reported, but the Air Force kept saying that people were mistaken, that what they saw were military balloons, sunspots, atmospheric formations and lots of other explanations. They ridiculed people and accused them of having vivid imaginations. They tried to make us look like a bunch of kooks.

So I did not tell a soul about my experience, not even my wife, until several years later. But the memory is still with me. I know what I saw. It was not an illusion. It was real. Many other people have had sightings so I am not alone. Is our mili-

tary trying to tell us that we are all kooks? It is time they truly inform us about what they know.

It happened many years ago. Tom and Stella say in the '50s, but I don't know. Did it happen after that, or before? Anyway, it was along time ago. The farm is still there, but the machine shed is gone. The former owners informed me that it has been torn down.

The above is my story. What happened is still quite vivid in my memory. For those that believe, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.

Friendly aliens?

UND prof says encounter helped his life



This is a sketch of a humanoid that UND professor John Salter says resembles one that he and his son encountered on March 20, 1988, in Wisconsin. The picture is an artist's concept of one of the humanoids described under hypnosis by Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth, N.H., after a 1961 UFO encounter.

By Steve Schmidt
Herald Staff Writer

A year and a half after reporting UFO encounters in Wisconsin and Illinois, UND professor John Salter says he remains "absolutely convinced" that he and his son had a friendly visit with extraterrestrial beings.

He recently mailed letters to friends and some fellow faculty members listing 18 physical changes he says have occurred since the encounters on March 20 and 21, 1988. He hasn't gone in for a medical exam yet, however.

Salter, 55, believes changes in his body were caused by the beings and have given him more energy, optimism and psychic sensitivity.

He thinks that among other things, the visitors to Earth inserted "a transplant" that could have effected the numerous body changes he's reported.

Among them: improved skin tone, circulation, eyesight and "psychic sensitivities;" faster blood-clotting after cuts or scratches; and faster and thicker growth of toenails, fingernails and hair.

"After all these years, I have a 5 o'clock shadow," Salter said, smiling and rubbing his chin.

Salter also reported he stopped smoking in May after 35 years of heavy tobacco use.

"There hasn't been a single twinge," he said. "We're talking about a pound of pipe tobacco a week."

Salter said he hasn't gone in for a doctor's checkup to look into the reported transplant and the numerous bodily changes because, "Part of it is that I haven't thought seeing a doctor was necessary. There's also sort of an induced block against seeing one."

Salter chairs the Indian studies department at UND. He is president of the UND chapter of the North Dakota Higher Education Association. He was the 1989 winner of a Martin Luther King Jr. Award from Gov. George Sinner for his contributions to the civil rights causes.

For the past year, Salter also has been coordinator of the North Dakota chapter of the Mutual UFO Network. He says it has about two dozen members and helpers in the state. He has corresponded extensively with and recently visited a New England woman who had a widely publicized UFO experience in 1961.

The woman, Betty Hill of Portsmouth, N.H., and her husband, the late Barney Hill, were the subjects of a 1969 book, "The Interrupted Journey: Two Lost Hours Aboard a Flying Saucer," by John G. Fuller and a Look magazine series. They reported visiting a group of humanoids in a spaceship in New Hampshire's White Mountain area on their way back from a trip to Canada.

Salter said one of the aliens that the Hills described under hypnosis was very similar to a humanoid about 6 feet tall he remembers visiting in a field near Richland Center, Wis., on March 20, 1988. He also reported seeing three or four smaller humanoids in the Wisconsin woods.

He said the taller visitor resembled

March 20 through "recalls," or memory flashbacks, of the time he and his son couldn't account for in Wisconsin. The recalls have continued through this fall.

The younger Salter, who is the director of an Indian education center in northern California, hasn't had similar recalls and physical changes, but his father said, "His psychic faculties have been increased."

John Sr. said he's discussed the UFO experience and the physical changes in detail with fellow UFO network member Kevin Henke, a chemist at the UND Energy and Environmental Research Center. Salter also has occasionally discussed his experiences with student groups and other faculty members.

Henke said of Salter's accounts: "Everything he has told me in the last year and a half has been consistent. He hasn't contradicted himself. Although it's a very unusual case, I do have a tendency to believe he's telling the truth, and that what he is seeing is real. . . . He's a very upright and honest person. I've never known him to exaggerate or lie or anything like that."

Henke added, "Unfortunately, he doesn't have anything really tangible to prove it. He's had some physical changes. From a scientific point of view, you'd like to have a medical examination before and after."

Henke has not had a UFO experience of his own, but has studied sighting reports on occasion. He and Salter recently looked into a UFO sighting reported in September by an airman at Grand Forks Air Force Base. Henke said, "I have reason to believe it was probably the remains of a Soviet booster rocket. There's a good chance it entered the atmosphere over Canada or North Dakota and went across the eastern United States and crashed into the Atlantic about 20 minutes after Mr. Carlson saw it. I'm not sure. But it's one likely hypothesis."

Bernard O'Kelly, dean of the UND College of Arts and Sciences, said he considers Salter a credible source and he's keeping an open mind on the phenomena the professor has reported.

O'Kelly said, "I certainly believe he's a fine academic citizen. He's not the first person I've heard of to have had experiences related to UFOs. . . . I know of people who dismiss all such things as being impossible. I have more an open mind on the nature of the phenomena, which scientists haven't always been able to explain."

Salter said, "I've received an enormous amount of positive support from family and friends and students. . . . I don't think I've encountered any open skepticism. It should be reasonably clear I haven't fallen out of my treehouse."

He believes the extraterrestrials he visited with are interested in people engaged in such social justice causes as the civil rights movement that he and the Hills were involved in. He also believes the extraterrestrials will make more open contact soon with the people of Earth.

"But you've got to remember," he said, "we still live on a dangerous and volatile kind of planet. Look what we've done to our own people."



John Salter says he's sure the aliens were saying goodbye after he and his son went inside their ship in 1988.

the one that the Hills described as "The Examiner." They thought he was a physician. Salter thinks a similar figure appeared in what he now believes to have been an earlier UFO experience he had in 1957 in Arizona.

He and his 24-year-old son, John Salter III, now of Quincy, Calif., reported more than an hour of "lost" time — a period blanked out in their memory as they drove a pickup truck near Richland Center. The next day, they saw what appeared to them to be a silvery, round spacecraft 5 miles east of Peoria, Ill.

"I'm sure they were saying 'Adios' after we visited them and went in their ship the night before," John Salter Sr. said. He said that he's pieced together details of the visit on

NEWS-JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL - Sept. 22, 1989

After rash of sightings months ago, Gulf Breeze man sees another UFO

By Michael Burke
News Journal

Gulf Breeze businessman Ed Walters, whose UFO photographs attracted national attention last year, took two photographs last week that show a glowing red light in the night sky over Pensacola.

At least 20 other people viewed the object in the photograph, said Gary Watson of Pensacola, a field investigator for a private UFO research group. They described it as a red light that hovered for five or six minutes.

Walters, who has been identified in press reports in the past only as "Ed" or "Jim," said he took the new photos shortly before 8 p.m. Sept. 12. That UFO sighting was his first in almost 16 months, Walters said.

Between November 1987 and May 1, 1988, Walters and dozens of other Gulf Breeze residents reported more than 70 UFO sightings. In that period, Walters also took almost 40 photographs that show strange lights in the sky or perhaps hovering spacecraft.

Walters said Thursday that he is willing to be identified now because he feels much less pressure than he did after his initial UFO encounter in late 1987.

"I feel more comfortable. The sightings have stood the test of time," he said.

Walters said last week's sighting began as he arrived late for a membership meeting of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) at the Unity Church on Ninth Avenue in Pensacola.

Walters said he saw the object as he exited his car. He took two photographs with an instamatic camera before rushing inside the church to alert MUFON's Gary Watson.

Soon afterward, at least 20 other people at the MUFON meeting came outside the church and saw the red light, Watson said.

Walters' two photographs show a small red oval-shaped image against a dark background.

MUFON State Director Donald Ware of Fort Walton Beach said he observed a deep red light "as bright as the brightest planet."

Watson said he saw a bright red light that was four times as big as a star. "This thing was stationary for five minutes and was getting dimmer and dimmer," he said.

The group's sighting ended when clouds moved over the area.

Except for Walters, none of the 33 people attending the meeting — including 12 MUFON investigators — had a camera.

TIMES, New York, NY - Oct. 22, 1989

Close Encounters of the Soviet Kind

To the Editor:

The Tass report of an unidentified flying object landing in the Soviet Union and apparent alien activity there (news stories, Oct. 10, 11, 12) illustrate the difficulty of coming to any final conclusion about the U.F.O. phenomenon without definite proof of alien origin.

Events in Voronezh present a superficially convincing case that contact with aliens has taken place. However, there are elements of absurdity and anomaly that are difficult to explain.

For example, the aliens seen in Voronezh had huge bodies and tiny heads. Most aliens seen in the United States have huge heads and tiny bodies. Contrary to popular mythology, alien encounters are not homogeneous, and aliens come in a plethora of different shapes and sizes.

It is, however, quite possibly true that the U.F.O. phenomenon cannot be explained in a prosaic manner. The Voronezh case, with its background of multiple sightings and elaborately detailed encounter, illustrates this point. Either we are dealing with entities of considerable intelligence and not a little wit, or with an aspect of mind that we have not yet even begun to understand.

Absent final, physical proof acceptable to the most rigorous skeptics,



even official announcements of alien encounter should continue to be viewed with caution. However, it is obvious that a more open-minded approach to this bizarre phenomenon would be more in keeping with the Western world's tradition of adventure and discovery than the present general policy of scientific denial.

WHITLEY STRIEBER
New York, Oct. 11, 1989

The writer is author of "Communion" and other books on the subject of alien encounter.

REGISTER CITIZEN, Torrington-Winsted, CT - Sept. 29, 1989 CR: R. Collins

Object in night sky causes stir in area

By DON CORBETT
Register Citizen Staff

A UFO — which police say was most likely a group of ultralights — buzzed the area last night, stopping cars on Route 8 and prompting worried calls to area police departments.

"I saw something very huge in the sky," said 24-year-old Torrington resident Kevin Shelton, who first spotted the slow-moving collection of lights in Watertown while driving on Route 8.

Shelton pulled his car over to examine the object. "I don't know what the hell it was."

Richard Weimann, 19, also of Torrington, said the object circled over his Clarence Street home.

"It looked like a diamond shape with two rows of lights," he said. "It was pretty weird."

Weimann snapped two pictures for further inspection.

In the end, police in Torrington and at Troop B say they solved the mystery, saying it was a group of ultralights, small, one-man helicopter type machines, flying in formation.

Police said there was nothing illegal about the flights.

Police at Troop L in Litchfield said they received about a dozen calls of people reporting a "big object in the sky." Police said it passed directly over the barracks in a northwesterly direction.

Torrington police also reported

receiving a half dozen calls. Three officers also spotted the object. Police said eight to 10 cars were stopped on Route 8 near the high school, watching the object in the sky.

Using binoculars, one officer was able to make out separate ultralights.

Police at Troop B in Canaan received about eight to 10 calls reporting a UFO making a humming noise over the area.

Troop B police said that a trooper earlier in the evening spotted the ultralights flying from New York State into the area.

Several people reported seeing the same phenomenon last year.

Mystery lights



The mystery lights last night over Miami.

Skywatchers will be out tonight

From Staff Reports

A full moon this Friday the 13th awaits skywatchers venturing out tonight to get a glimpse of the mysterious lights that have been reported over the Miami and Commerce area since Tuesday night.

Some groups are planning UFO-watch parties. The lights, seen this week in the skies to the northwest and northeast, have caught the imagination of area residents and network and syndicated television shows.

On Wednesday morning, the strange sightings were featured on the "Good Morning America" television show, and the prime-time "Unsolved Mysteries" television show's research department was making inquiries about the local sightings. A reporter from "Inside Report," a Miami, Fla.-based nationally syndicated show seen locally on Oklahoma City Channel 5, interviewed skywatchers in Ottawa County Thursday night.

On a more serious note, the first officially organized attempt at verifying or explaining the recent sightings was carried out Thursday night by Miami and Ottawa County Civil Defense leaders and volunteers.

And after a vigil of nearly four hours, City CD Director Jim Green termed the effort "inconclusive."

At a pre-watch planning session at Miami CD headquarters in the basement of the Civic Center, Green and Paul assigned volunteers to cover the skies from at least seven vantage points throughout the area.

Miami pilot Tom Robertson was on-call in the event his airplane was needed for an air-to-air search, should one had developed. It didn't.

Green, accompanied by an unofficial group of five observers, manned the CD's mobile command post and drove to a pre-determined spot near Cardin. Back at CD headquarters in the Emergency Operations Center command post, volunteers Karen Hall and Terry Durburow took in-coming calls of sightings on referrals from the Miami Police Department and other local and area emergency and law enforcement agencies.

Within a four-hour period, the EOC received 12 reports of sightings by area residents. Most of those

Watcher critically injured

A woman who was watching the sky for strange lights was critically injured Thursday in a three-car accident at 9 p.m. one mile west of Commerce on a county road.

Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Danny Miller said Brenda Hogan, 41, Miami, received severe leg injuries in the accident and was taken by ambulance to Baptist Regional Health Center, then transferred to St. John's Regional Medical Center, Joplin.

Miller said Mrs. Hogan and her husband, Glen Hogan, 42, were both sitting on the hood of their car, which was illegally parked in the road directly behind an unoccupied car which also was illegally parked. Neither car had lights on. A car driven by Robert Eugene Hulsey, 44, Commerce, struck the back of the Hogan car, knocking Mr. and Mrs. Hogan off the hood and crushing their legs between the two parked cars. Hogan was treated and released for leg injuries at Baptist Regional Health Center.

The Hogans had been watching the sky for lights when the accident occurred.

who called were older residents, 50 to 60 years of age, according to Mrs. Hall.

"So, it wasn't a matter of kids making a bunch of prank calls," Mrs. Hall said. "And these people are really concerned. Some are even genuinely frightened. And all of them were convinced that they did, indeed, see something unusual."

It was for those reasons that Green and Paul decided to conduct Thursday night's search.

"We're just trying to find out what is going on," Green explained.

He discounted reports that teen-agers flying kites wrapped in colored aluminum foil and using spotlights to illuminate them were responsible for the sightings.

"Based on everything I have been told by experts on the subject, that would be impossible," Green said.

He said kites would be easily detected and spotlights could be traced to the source. He also said that gusty winds would be needed for kite flying. Winds were calm Thursday night.

"Besides, the sightings that have been reported to us have been of objects in the northeast and northwest skies at 20 to 30 degrees above the horizon, and those reports have been — for the most part — uniform in their descriptions. There's no way a kite could fly and be controlled at that height."

In Commerce, Green met up with Police Chief Bob Baine and a group of skywatchers. Baine and several others already there insisted that an object they had been watching in the northwest sky was a UFO.

Still others were equally insistent that the object was a star reflecting shades of red, green and gold or yellow due to heat inversion.

No one, it seems, is sure whether the current sightings are merely natural phenomena or actually terrestrial visitors. But one thing is certain: discussions about and searches for the objects is the talk of the town.

The lights have appeared at about 7:45 each night since Tuesday.

Last night they blinked red, blue and white. Streaks of gold and red tandem lights have been observed each night.

Richard Fry, who lives 1/4 mile south of Shawnee Grocery on Highway 137, reported he saw a large, very bright blinking light hovering low right across the highway from his home around 8:30 p.m. last night. He said the light proceeded toward Miami. Shortly after that sighting, he saw another, similar low-flying light farther south which headed west over the turnpike. He lost track of that one when trees blocked his vision. Fry saw both lights, which were round, through a rifle scope, he said.

In the northeastern sky at about a 45 degree angle from the ground, Miamians observed a flurry of tandem, mostly red streaks at 8 p.m. A few gold streaks also were observed. The red streaks traveled from east to west, whereas the gold streaks went west to east. The streaking lights had disappeared by 9 p.m.

NEWS-RECORD, Miami, OK

Oct. 13, 1989

JOURNAL, Salina, KS - Oct. 20, 1989 CR: PUF0G

Unexplained night lights spotted in Kansas skies

COLUMBUS (AP) — Unusual lights were reported in the sky over Cherokee County in southeast Kansas Wednesday evening, the night after similar reports from around Miami, Okla.

A dispatcher with the Cherokee County sheriff's office said officials began getting reports about 8 p.m., and officers began pursuing them 90 minutes later.

People from the Columbus, Galena and Baxter Springs areas reported seeing the lights.

Galena Police Chief Pat Collins said his office received many calls from area residents curious about the lights, and he saw them.

Collins said he saw at least two red lights, and possibly three, at a distance of seven to eight miles.

"They seemed to be stationary, or hovering, for a period of seven or eight minutes," he said. "Then they disappeared."

"There was also one bright white

light that appeared for about 30 seconds, closer to the city."

The hovering lights were a deep red, Collins said, and they moved apart and then disappeared.

The chief said he had no idea what the lights he saw might have been. It was his second spotting of unusual lights, the first coming in 1975.

That time, Collins said, the light he saw was considerably different. He described it as orange, like a campfire.

"It seemed to go north of Columbus, then came back at a high rate of speed, then went south and disappeared," he said. "The type of movement was not like an airplane. This was smooth, and quite quick."

Baxter Springs Police Chief Jerry Nohren said his office received only one call from a person who reported having taken pictures of the lights. Nohren said he was not out and did not see any lights.

'Communion' author plays role of 'questioner'

BY SUSAN PIERCE
Democrat Staff Writer

Author Whitley Strieber is keeping an open mind about the strange events that have changed his life since October 1985 — experiences many might interpret as visits from outer space creatures.

"I don't think lights in the sky prove aliens are present. What they prove is that something strange is going on," Strieber said in a recent telephone interview.

"I don't want to be an advocate. I want to be a questioner."

Strieber has written three books inspired by the events: "Communion" and "Transformation," both non-fiction accounts, and "Majestic," a novel about an alien visit covered up by the United States government.

He has adapted "Communion" for a film (now playing at the UA Cinema City) starring

Christopher Walken as Strieber and Lindsay Crouse as his wife, Anne.

Strieber, who became known for horror novels including "The Wolfen" and "The Hunger," along with apocalyptic science fiction including "War Day," wrote the script and served as a producer for "Communion."

"I am satisfied with the emotional accuracy of the piece and the ambiguity about the aliens," he said.

Several of the "visits" occurred at the Striebers' cabin in upstate New York, most dramatically in October 1985 and on Dec. 26 of that year.

Under hypnosis, Strieber recalled seeing dwarfish, ugly beings and tall, slender creatures that abducted him and sometimes performed uncomfortable medical experiments — including inserting a sharp probe behind one ear.

These experiences, Strieber

said, paralleled those of individuals throughout the country, many of whom don't talk much about them for fear of being labeled "crazy."

"I didn't write about this because I wanted to, believe me," Strieber said. "I did it because I thought it was necessary to draw attention to the situation."

Throughout "Communion," Strieber was careful to present several hypotheses for the happenings — perhaps they were alien abductions, perhaps they were somehow brought into physical existence through his own mind.

"The media, for the most part, jumped to the incorrect conclusion that I claimed to have been abducted by aliens. The public mostly did understand what I was trying to say and were very appreciative that I kept the question of what happened to me open," Strieber said.

At the time he wrote "Communion," Strieber had not seen anything he would classify as a "UFO." That changed after another incident at the cabin.

"My wife and I saw something one night in October of '87 while we were sitting in our hot tub. It flew over the house and blew light on us. It (the light) hit me. It made me sort of sleepy and I had to immediately get out of the hot tub for fear I would slip under the water."

Strieber does not intend to write any more about the visitors, he said.

"With the distribution of the film, as far as I'm concerned, I'm finished with this subject."

"None of us like the notoriety," he said, referring to himself and his family. "It's something we're very eager to get past. We're very private people. My son has been very

much sheltered from it. ... That's the way I want it to remain."

"The only way I'd go back to this is if mankind's understanding changed radically. Nothing I could offer would prove anything right now. I would be especially interested if it would turn out not to be visitors from outer space, but mental and societal factors that we don't yet understand."

Strieber's next project is a novel which he said is "about childhood" and "very different" from anything else he's ever done.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little

Rock, AR - Nov. 16, 1989

Tulsa, Area Residents Mystified by Lights Hovering in Night Sky

An off duty Tulsa firefighter Wednesday joined a chorus of northeastern Oklahoma police and residents who reported seeing strange lights in the night sky.

Tulsa Fire Capt. Jim White said he saw two colored lights in the eastern horizon about 10:30 p.m. White, who lives in south Tulsa, said he was looking at the sky after watching a television news broadcast that reported two Tulsa area residents saw lights.

One light was red and the other blue and green. They were about 30-40 degrees above the horizon and moved slightly, possibly as the earth turned, he said.

"I believe it is just the atmospheric conditions playing with

the stars. Or it could be something else," he said.

Meanwhile, police and residents in northeast Oklahoma say they have no clue to the origin of five strange, colored lights spotted over Commerce and Miami earlier this week.

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

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. (Tuesday) 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 like 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.

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.

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."

Wayne Wyrick, director and staff astronomer of the Kirkpatrick Planetarium in Oklahoma City, said he doubts the lights were caused by a magnetic storm in the far north.

WORLD, Tulsa, OK - Oct. 12, 1989 CR: R. Runnels

Close Encounters Of The Queens Kind

By RON LEVOVITZ

Orson Welles move over.

Flushing's Bill Knell has an even better Halloween story than the famous radio invasion of the 1930's. And it doesn't take place in Grovers Mill, New Jersey, but right here in Queens—in Kissena Park to be exact.

Bill Knell is that rarest of individuals: a man who read about something that interested him and subsequently pursued the topic, eventually making it an engrossing hobby. Not your ordinary, run-of-the-mill hobby either.

Knell is a U.F.O. investigator.

You may not believe such things exist, but Knell is worth listening to. He doesn't talk about alien beings in weird looking spacecraft; he's not even sure there is life on other planets. Rather, Knell's approach to "ufology" is a scientific one.

"I don't want to see something or have a look at a photo and say, 'oh, yes, that's definitely a U.F.O.'," he explains. "I want to try and explain what exactly was seen. If it was a star, I'm going to say 'hey, you saw a star. I would have liked it to be a U.F.O. but it was a star.'"

"I try to investigate every case, and I write a report for whoever had told me about the sighting. Sometimes they don't agree with what I tell them, and sometimes they don't want to accept it, but I try to remain objective," Knell told the *Tribune*.

summer at Jones Beach he saw the first of the many unexplained circles he has spotted over the years.

"We had rented a boat to go fishing," Knell recalls, "and we landed on one of those shorelines there, and there was this circle, and my parents even thought it was very strange. The funny part is that the next week when we went back, every single bulrush in that whole area was completely cut down. I've never seen them do that again. That was my first experience with possible UFO's and cover-ups. Long Island is, without a doubt, the hottest spot for UFO's in the country," Knell says.

Knell calls circles like the one at Jones Beach "possible landing sights." They are almost circular patches of dry, twisted grass, often tens of feet in diameter.

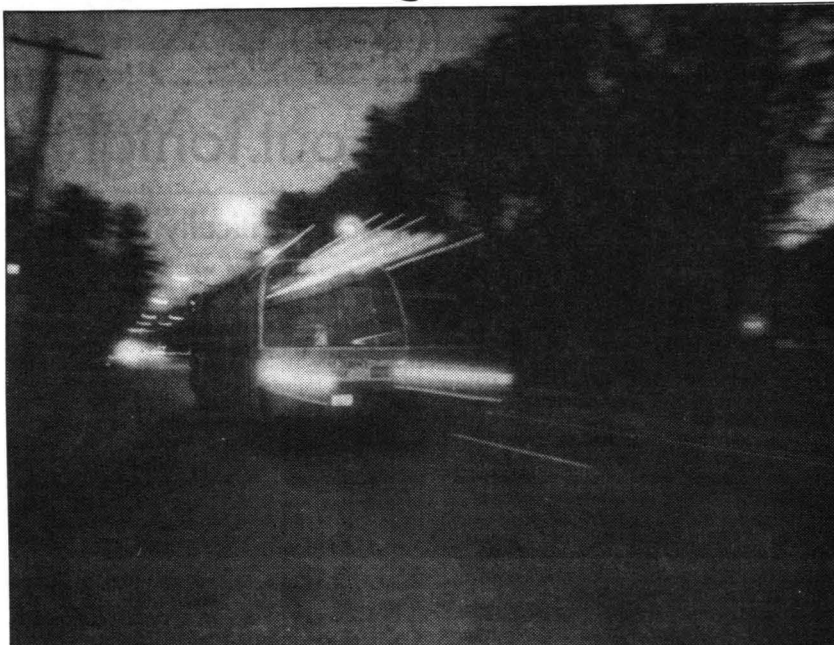
These curious shapes have been spotted all over including, as Knell related, in Kissena Park in Flushing a short while after a bright object was seen there at night by an entire busload of passengers on the Q65.

Even after the torrential downpours last May, that patch had remained substantially drier than the rest of the grass in the park.

With the recent official Soviet news agency accounts of extraterrestrial landings just outside of Moscow, interest has heightened in the subject.

Parks Commissioner Henry Stern told the *Tribune* that he knows why the alien sightings have been spotted over Queens. "It's like an exchange program. 'You see, the Queens borough president's daughter just visited outer space, so the aliens are just paying a return call.' Asked if he thought there was life on other planets, Stern answered, "That would be like asking if Macy's believes in Santa Claus."

Stern added that his "deputy commissioner for Recreation and Interplanetary Affairs, William Castro, has an investigation of the Kissena Park sighting underway." Castro told the *Tribune* that samples from the park have been sent to Long Island University for investigation.



Tribune photo by Sarah Feinsmith

UFB: To aliens landing at Flushing's Kissena Park, this passing Q65 may have appeared as an unidentified flying bus. But to some real-life passengers on a recent Q65, there appeared to be something unworldly hovering above the park, according to local UFO researchers.

Castro said that, so far, the geologists at LIU have yet to find anything unusual in the soil samplings and pebbles found in the rings in Kissena Park, however, they were not from the park itself. "One of the types of rock found could be a 'dio-rite' type of material, which could have come from the resurfacing of the nearby tennis courts," Castro said. Stern added that the Parks Department investigation is ongoing.

Knell runs a hotline in his house for people to call in their sightings, while he works at his regular jobs, as a security consultant and head of a package delivery service. He gets about five to twenty calls a week, which are taken by his wife, Kathy. "People who are credible come to me," he says. "A lot of them are crazy stories that if I hadn't heard them from the person I wouldn't believe it, but credible

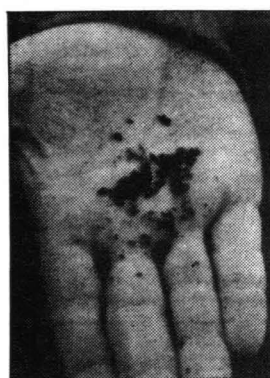
scientists are telling me these things," he said.

"I've really gotten concerned about the level of activity around here, and I feel people have a right to know."

Another one of his services is a booklet titled "Hidden Truth: The UFO Story," which chronicles the history of UFO's, from Ezekiel's wheel through the Roswell, New Mexico Pentagon coverup in

1947, and to today's sightings. It includes copies of official government documents on the topic, including one with then-President Harry Truman's signature, and various newspaper articles.

His ultimate goal? "To find out what these things are. Sometimes they even do harm to people and animals and things, so if the government won't tell us, maybe we'll find out on our own."



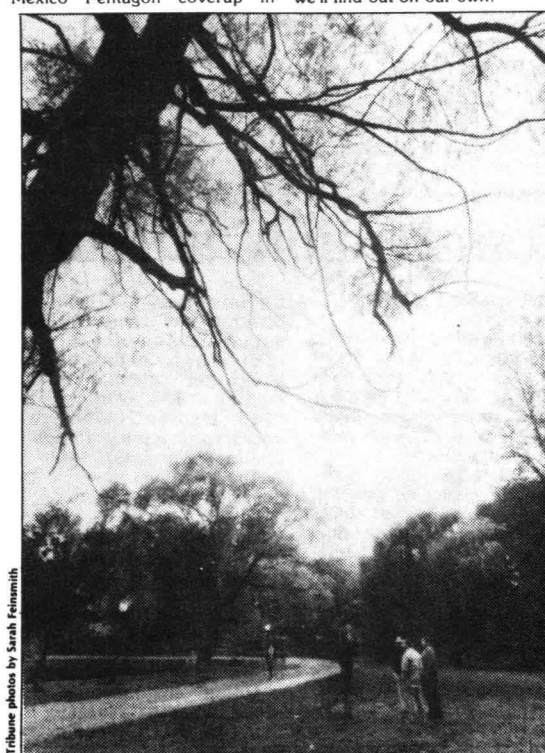
ROCK SOLID EVIDENCE: Bill Knell holds gravel found on Kissena Park site.

Although Knell has never come close to seeing anything even resembling a spacecraft, he did witness something last January. "I had looked up in the sky and I saw two airplanes that were flying really low. I watched them fly close to each other, almost running into each other, trying to see something. Then I see this very bright ball of light traveling very slowly. I run in the house and grab my video camera. It stayed perfectly still in the sky for almost four minutes and then it just blinked out, like someone turning off a light."

It all started twenty years ago, when Knell read a book called "Flying Saucers-Serious Business" by Frank Edwards. Although only ten years old, a time when a boy's attention span is at a minimum, he read it cover to cover. The next



SEARCHERS: Members of Island Skywatch at Kissena Park "landing site" are Bill Knell, Diane Montrose, Phil Lord, Herb Taylor and Robert Atlas.



OUT ON A LIMB: Members of Island Skywatch survey the alleged UFO landing site at Kissena Park last weekend. In foreground is tree with dead and broken branches only on the side next to the site.

(continued on page 9)

OUT OF THIS WORLD



Bill Knell, a Queens-based UFO investigator, points to one of the "mysterious brown circles" which appeared recently in Kaseena Park in Flushing, which he believes shows evidence of UFO landings at the site.

THEY'RE HERE?

PRESS, Asbury Park, NJ - Oct. 10, 1989

Who are you going to call if you encounter a UFO?

JOHN A. HARNES
Press Staff Writer

SINCE THE EARLY days of pulp science fiction, tales of strange lights in the sky, spaceship landings, and encounters with extraterrestrials have fueled the public's fantasies of life in other worlds.

Today, reports of these encounters have become standard filler material for supermarket tabloids and well-worn scenarios for television shows.

But reports of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects continue and there are people who question the veracity of government officials who seem to dismiss these claims routinely.

At about 9:15 p.m. on March 1, 1988, Egg Harbor Township police received the first reports of a UFO — "a green light or lights that appeared to be hovering in the Egg Harbor Township area."

The first report claimed a person driving north on the Garden State Parkway spotted a gray metallic-colored object, about 10 times bigger than a car. It was about 80 to 100 feet in diameter and was flying 150 to 200 yards above her car with two large headlights that glowed white and several smaller white and green lights underneath that blinked intermittently. It also made no sound, according to reports at that time.

As news of the sighting spread, more and more people began calling in about UFO sightings. Area police said they became tired of the continuing reports and claimed they were "laughing" at the sensational press coverage.

Despite clear weather and 12-mile visibility, the radar at the Federal Aviation Administration technical center, Pomona section of Galloway Township, saw nothing unusual in the area at the time of the sightings. The only contacts were two air cargo planes, heading for McGuire Air Force Base, 20 minutes before the first sighting was reported.

Because the FAA could not confirm anything on its radar, the case was closed, FAA spokesman Anthony Willett said on March 4, 1988.

Focus

Then on March 7, a spokesman for Fels Planetarium in Philadelphia claimed to identify the mysterious flying objects as the planets Venus and Jupiter.

The two planets appeared brighter than usual in the night sky because their orbits are in a phase that brings them closer to the Earth, the spokesman for the planetarium said in releases to the media.

This was just one example of many UFO sightings that have taken place during the years in the Shore area.

"The question of whether we have and are being visited has been posed for as long as man has been man," said Robert C. Warth, Little Silver, president of the national Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained.

Warth said his group has received hundreds of reports of UFOs during the years from people in this area, that claim to have spotted everything from strange lights in the sky to actual contact with alien beings.

The society attempts to investigate each report it receives with an objective — but open — mind, he said.

"We get a lot of reports from the general public, but our investigations depend on the individual circumstances involved," Warth said.

"If it's just lights in the sky, well there's not an awful lot that we can do except call local police and check with the area's military bases. If there are multiple reports by civilians, then we try to establish as close as possible its location, the speed of the craft and direction its color and any other available descriptions," Warth said.

When there is a report of a landing, or a contact with an extraterrestrial, the society calls on scientific experts and volunteers to thoroughly investigate the reported contact. This includes interviews with witnesses, and a thorough examination of the scene looking for physical evidence, he said.

The non-profit society was founded

in 1965 to study the paranormal by the late Ivan T. Sanderson, a zoologist, who also was a science commentator for WNBC in New York and a science writer for the New York Herald Tribune. He died in 1973.

Warth, who became the society's president in 1975, said that since earliest times men have reported sightings of strangers from the sky.

"Many share the feeling that we are not alone in the universe. In this solar system, our Earth is a water planet. Also, in recent times there seems to be apprehension that we could possibly destroy our earth," he said.

Warth said he believes that the operators of UFOs — whether they are from other planets in our own universe or from other dimensions — probably find the Earth with all its resources, such as water, very useful.

These beings also appear to be concerned about the possibility that modern war may make the planet uninhabitable, he said.

This could explain why so many of the sightings seem to involve military installations, where nuclear weapons possibly are stored, he said.

"As our technology advances, more possibilities are presented to us. There is more ground for accepting the believability of advanced technology from outside the earth," Warth said.

Today, United State Stealth technology supposedly can make a plane undetectable to radar.

"It wasn't that long ago that people didn't believe man would ever fly, and it was just 50 years ago that the possibility of a trip to the moon was considered nothing more than an Orson Welles fantasy," he said.

Warth said investigating UFO reports can be frustrating, both because of the problem in getting accurate information, as well as having to deal with people who attempt to fake sightings as a joke.

The Society For The Investigation of The Unexplained can be contacted at P.O. Box 265, Little Silver, N.J. 07739-0265.

UFO Stuff

BY CHARLIE SOMERBY

Local television viewers had an opportunity last night (October 11) during an hour-long call-in program over Channel 12 to ask questions of Timothy Good, author of *Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up*, copies of which are now on sale in paperback at area bookstores.

Good is acclaimed as one of the most thorough and best-informed researchers into this arcane subject. The 492-page book is well-documented, appears to be based soundly on fact and presents a great deal of most convincing evidence not seen in print heretofore.

Although published in 1988, the publications -- unless we missed it -- makes no mention of Gulf Breeze sightings starting in November 1987.

Good's research includes the period from 1943 to 1954 in Great Britain and from 1947 to 1954 in the United States with updates.

Some of us recall that in February 1942, less than three months after the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor, unidentified aircraft appeared over Los Angeles causing wide-spread alarm, and 1,430 rounds of anti-aircraft shells were fired in an attempt to bring down what were considered to be Japanese planes.

According to thousands of witnesses, a large unidentified flying object remained stationary while the aircraft shells burst around and against it. But the object eventually proceeded at a leisurely pace over coastal cities taking about 20 minutes of actual "flight time" to move 20 miles, then disappeared from view.

The author gives Philip Klass, former senior avionics editor of *Aviation Week & Space Technology* and America's leading UFO debunker, plenty of space for his adverse comments.

Klass expresses the belief that all UFO sightings reports can be explained in terms of rocket launches, weapons testing, barium cloud experiments, and so on.

In Milton, we don't pick up Channel 12, so we're sure that Duane will get it on tape for later viewing by the Somerbys.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Oct. 12, 1989 CR: R. Reid

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Aug. 24, 1989

CHARLIE'S CORNER

BY CHARLIE SOMERBY

The UFO phenomenon has been called the deepest mystery mankind has ever encountered.

The Gulf Breeze case remains a mystery -- probably the greatest in UFO history.

Those are two of the comments found in a recently published booklet on sale at area supermarkets.

Entitled *The Startling UFO Files*, it is one of a group of publications under the heading of *Great Unexplained Mysteries*. Cost of each is 99¢ and put out by Globe Communications Corp. located at Boca Raton, FL.

Ed Manzi is the editor with illustrations by Marvin Shervan. White on black commentary on the back cover asserts that "mysterious sightings and abductions that will shock and horrify you. Some still say that UFOs do not exist. This book contains proof positive that invading humanoids have arrived and are still arriving on our planet!"

Eight pages are devoted to the Gulf Breeze story with *The Sentinel* and Publisher Duane Cook along with "Ed" receiving major attention.

The Startling UFO Files booklet quotes several authorities including Donald Ware, MUFON field investigator; Dr. Willy Smith, physicist of Longwood, FL; Dr. Bruce Maccabee, optical physicist and chairman of the Fund for UFO Research Inc.; Robert Boyd, MUFON investigator and an investigator for the Chicago-based Center for UFO studies Budd Hopkins, UFOlogist and author of *Intruders and Missing Time*; and Dr. Robert Nathan, photographic expert at Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Livermore, CA.

There are also quotes by Mr. Ed, local general contractor. There are not comments by Charlie and Dori Somerby, who were among the first to spot a quite unusual flying object just off the shoreline of East Bay in the Midway area.

There was a quick response to our recent suggestion that Amtrak service be provided to this area of the Florida Panhandle, but the improvement in rail transportation came from an unexpected source.

A joint announcement from Mobile officials and Alabama Governor Guy Hunt was to the effect that train service between the port city and Montgomery, Birmingham and Anniston will start October 29.

Even better news is that stops will be made in Brewton. The proposed schedule has a 4-car train leaving Birmingham at 11:50 a.m. daily arriving in Mobile at 6:30 p.m. A train will depart Mobile at 7:15 a.m. daily reaching Birmingham at 1:15 p.m. to connect with The Crescent out of New Orleans.

Each train will have two coach cars, one sleeper car and one food service car.

CR: R. Reid

Ridicule fear clouds UFOs

Excessive skepticism distresses believers in outer space encounters

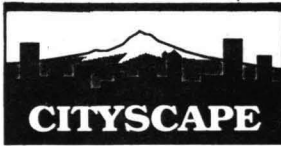
The public notice said "PUFOG," which sounded like a muffler problem, but it actually was short for the Portland UFO Group, and the monthly meeting was about to begin.

About 100 persons showed. They needed to deal with the age-old question of whether beings had visited from farther out than Gresham. They jammed a room at Mt. Hood Community College to see, as publicized, "Seattle psychic healer Steve Merrick and UFO researcher Bill Keenan."

The public notice went on: "Merrick developed his extraordinary abilities after having a UFO missing time incident. He has the ability to direct healing energy without touching or speaking to the patient — even at long distances."

The notice switched to Keenan: "Keenan will speak on the 1981 sightings of a UFO which reportedly dived into the Columbia River near Portland Int. Airport. Included in his talk will be a tape of the sounds made by the UFO."

Apple juice and cookies were there. So were displays of literature that included "An Alien Harvest" and the August 1989 edition of UFO Newslipping Service, a worldwide collage of photocopied newspaper stories in which people with hair on end variously reported, for example, a "brilliant blue flash of light," or a "huge red flashing light," or a "brilliant white light," or "two bands of yellow and green lights moving clockwise," or "an absolutely monstrous craft, oval-shaped and with yellow-blue lights around the base."



By Spencer Heinz

PUFOG regulars become dismayed when such reports are flatly dismissed. They believe close-encounter claims deserve serious investigation and call for contemplation: What is mankind's place in the universe? Many of the regulars say they have observed things that they cannot explain away. Most upsetting is when a skeptic who has not even seen what observers have seen tries to tell them that what they actually have seen is probably just balloons or maybe bugs or swamp gas.

One of the PUFOG regulars, James Deardorff, research professor emeritus with the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University, said he thought excessive skepticism about UFOs reflected simply fear — a fear of public ridicule. "The ridicule factor," he said.

Jennifer Brown-Jacobs, PUFOG director, ran the meeting that day. She is a graciously upbeat homemaker, art therapist and illustrator who says she once saw floating lights, hit the brakes, then drove badly down a mountain while the lights continued to follow. That was in New Mexico. The lights eased behind a hill, glowed and dis-



Steve and Kellie Merrick put some energy into Inez Whitney (seated in high chair) during UFO meeting.

appeared. She gave it some thought. In 1988, she helped form PUFOG, which is a non-profit, non-membership, information-sharing group that is open to the public.

Brown-Jacobs began the latest meeting by mentioning, among other things, the reported Soviet sighting of a three-eyed alien with bronze-colored boots and a disk on his chest. For good news closer to home, Brown-Jacobs introduced the first speaker, "UFO researcher Bill Keenan." He made cutting remarks about swamp gas and played a tape recorder. It featured a reported UFO sound that he said had been transmitted over a citizens band radio during a local sighting in 1981.

The sound resembled the screech of a brake-locked car in a skid. It had tonal shadings of cats caught in light machinery. Something along those lines awakened

Keenan about 3:45 a.m. on March 17, 1981. He lived in Southeast Portland. He ran outdoors in pajamas. He saw nothing, but at 4:25 a.m., according to a 1981 newspaper report, police and many others saw two large orange balls over the Columbia River near the town of St. Helens. And Keenan said an acoustical expert since had told him that the recorded sound was created by "no known natural phenomenon."

Next on the PUFOG agenda was "Seattle psychic healer Steve Merrick," a congenial man who recounted his abduction by what he saw as other life forms. He added that he and his daughter, Kellie, 19, are New Age healers who recently moved from Seattle to Yelm. He offered to use their healing knowledge to transmit energy to volunteers.

One after another, each volun-

teer revealed an affliction. Merrick wiggled his fingers at them. It sometimes resembled typing, but it was not, and no one was heard to complain. There were many favorable comments. One of the volunteers, a Northeast Portland resident named Inez Whitney, said she suffered from cataracts, but maybe not so bad as before.

"I feel a clearing," she said later. "It's more of a feeling than a seeing. It's a clearing away of the fog, really. He was balancing the auric field in my head and clearing away the congestion of thought forms."

After the PUFOG meeting was done, nothing else happened. Down the road about six miles, a greenish object appeared, but it was a water tower. It looked at first like swamp gas. But it definitely was a water tower, either that or something else that turned into one so as not to attract attention.

For some, Friday the 13th came a little early

BY JULIE WARNER
Quill Staff Writer

Friday the 13th may have come a little early for some West Plains area residents, and they are unsure if it was good or bad luck that they saw some unidentified flying objects Thursday evening.

Could it be that the "space invasion" reported in Russia earlier this week has come to Howell County?

No one has been able to come up with an answer to that question, nor give an explanation for all the strange lights revolving in the sky north of the city last night.

Officials from the Howell Co. Sheriff's Department told The Quill today they began receiving telephone calls about 8:30 p.m. from people reporting strange lights in two separate locations around West Plains.

Dispatcher Keith Weaver said the first call came about 8:20 p.m., when a man reported a bright orange light southwest of the city in the vicinity of K Highway. Weaver, who also saw the light, said it would flash and fade into different shades of orange. The light was visible for about 15 minutes until it eventually disappeared over the horizon.

A call to Dr. George Wolfe, a professor of astronomy at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, cleared up this mystery. Wolfe said the bright light was probably the planet Venus.

"Venus is generally white in color, but looks orange when it is near the horizon and twinkles like a star, which could explain the flashing phenomena," he said.

Wolfe said Venus can usually be spotted this time of year in the southwest between the hours of 8 and 9 p.m.

SECOND REPORT

Weaver said about five minutes after the light was reported southwest of the city, the sheriff's department received a call about another light north of West Plains.

He said this light was reported as being doughnut-shaped with flashing lights of different colors.

Weaver said he and Deputy Don Reid observed the light through a telescope positioned at the sheriff's department on Missouri Avenue.

"To the naked eye, it looked like it was flashing different colors, but through the telescope, the object looked like a round floures-

DAILY QUILL, West Plains, MO - Oct. 13, 1989

cent light bulb with different colored lights revolving around the inside of the bulb," he explained.

Weaver said the object was observed by the deputies for at least two hours. He said it appeared to be located at a high altitude and was moving south at a very slow rate of speed.

"I have no idea what it might be," he said. "And I'm sure you're not going to find anyone who would want to make a comment on what it might be."

Weaver said he and Reid had thought maybe it was some type of aircraft or weather balloon until it was observed with the telescope.

"When I saw it through the telescope, it kind of threw me," he said. "It wasn't what I expected at all."

Weaver said the sheriff's department received about a dozen telephone calls from Howell County residents within a five minute period right after the lights were spotted.

When contacted by The Quill, officials from the Missouri Air National Guard and Fort Leonard Wood also were not able to explain the lights.

When some flashing lights were spotted in the skies around West Plains in November of 1988, Capt. Ken MacNevin, public affairs officer for the Mo. Air National Guard in Jefferson City said they were probably glows from maneuvers being undertaken by members of a tactical flight wing flying unit out of St. Louis.

He said the unit was practicing weapon-deceiving techniques used by the military in avoiding heat-seeking missiles. He said that if a heat-seeking missile were to be shot at one of the U.S. fighter jets, the pilot would shoot off a flare which would cause the missile to veer towards the flare rather than the jet.

Col. Ed Gruetzmancher of the national guard told The Quill today that to his knowledge no military aircraft was flying in this area last night. Ft. Leonard Wood officials also confirmed they were not conducting any maneuvers in the area.

Gruetzmancher said the national guard had conducted defense maneuvers about three to four weeks ago, but have not been in the area since.

When asked what this second sighting could be, Dr. Wolfe said with a chuckle, "It sounds like some type of fancy Frisbee."

CR: K. Sandberg

NEWS-LEADER, Springfield,
MO - Oct. 22, 1989

Paper's UFO article 'neat' explanation

Read the article "Expert: Mysterious lights no mystery" in Sunday's News-Leader. Must say Don Lind's explanation is real neat; it wraps up everything in a nutshell.

Two weeks ago I watched four UFO's through binoculars near Sarcocoe. During this time there were two airplanes with their flashing lights in the same area. Two UFO's flew toward each other at high speed and slightly changed course when it appeared they might collide.

As a one-time pilot who owned my own airplane I know something of flight characteristics. These objects are definitely not airplanes.

From my observations, I shall institute a new science. It shall be called astro-physics-haha and be able to explain absolutely everything without ever having to go out and do anything.

DEAN M. McCLANAHAN
Springfield

CR: K. Sandberg



'This blob stole my fiancée'

BIZARRE

★ US tests revealed this blur over Bass Strait was a solid metallic structure.

11 years after pilot Fred Valentich disappeared without a trace over Bass Strait, his former girlfriend is convinced he was taken by a UFO ...

By DENISE DALGLIESH



★ Frederick's final words were "it's hovering and it's not an aircraft."

RHONDA Rushton firmly believes her fiancé was abducted by a UFO and she claims photographic evidence supports her story.

Breaking her silence for the first time in 11 years, Rhonda explained exclusively to POST why she remains convinced her fiancé was taken by aliens.

Rhonda was planning to wed the man of her dreams, 20-year-old pilot Frederick Valentich, when he disappeared 11 years ago on the night of October 21, 1978.

Valentich and the single-engine Cessna he was flying vanished without trace over Bass Strait.

In his last radio transmission to Melbourne Flight Service he described the UFO which was persistently shadowing his plane. Valentich's final words were: "That strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again ... it is hovering

and it's not an aircraft ..."

A metallic clicking noise was then heard over the radio for 17 seconds before communication was lost. No wreckage was ever found.

The Bureau of Air Safety Investigation launched a full inquiry. Their confidential report, completed in 1982, concluded: "The reason for the disappearance of the aircraft has not been determined."

But Rhonda, a level-headed and intelligent young woman, believes she has the answer. She believes she has seen the proof.

Twenty-one minutes before Valentich was buzzed by the UFO, Melbourne man Roy Manifold was taking photos of the sunset at Cape Otway, the last land mass Valentich flew over. When his film was developed it showed an unidentified object shooting out of the water and flying off over Bass Strait.

Manifold's negatives were sent to

the Civilian Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation in Arizona (USA) for computer analysis. Extensive tests found no evidence of a hoax, and revealed the image captured on film was not the result of a developing error.

The unidentified object was neither a cloud nor a weather phenomenon, but a solid metallic structure capped by a bright disc.

In his last transmission Valentich said: "It seems like it's stationary and the thing is just orbiting on top of me, also it's got a green light and sort of metallic — it's all shiny (on) the outside."

"When I saw the Manifold photos I knew that this was the proof that supported Fred's last words," Rhonda, 28, told POST in an exclusive interview. "The object in the picture is what he saw, what he was trying to describe. I believe that the UFO took the whole plane, that was why no trace of it, not even an oil

slick, was ever found.

"I think the clicking noise that came over the radio had something to do with the UFO — Fred left the radio on so we would hear that. He was a very calm sort of person and that was the sort of thing he would have done."

"Fred was such a truthful, honest person — if that's what he said he saw, that's what he saw," Rhonda said. "I'd flown with him many times and he was an experienced, competent pilot who could handle panic situations."

"People said he was flying upside down but the plane used a gravity-fed fuel system. If it was upside down it would have just conked out."

"Fred and I had discussed UFOs, he believed in them strongly. He thought it was arrogant of people to think we were the only life-form in the galaxy."

"He said once that if one did show itself to him he would want to go with it. That helped me a lot when he went missing. He wouldn't have been frightened, maybe he even looked on it as an adventure."

Paul Norman, from the Victorian UFO Research Society, told POST: "The Valentich case is the 20th such UFO encounter in the past 30 years. Some people live to tell the tale, others vanish without trace."

"We don't know if the Valentich case was an abduction. We don't know if he went up, down or disintegrated, but there is no doubt that the UFO caused his disappearance in some way."

★ BELOW: Rhonda Rushton ... still believes the UFO theory.



★ BELOW: Rhonda and Fred back in 1978. "Fred was such an honest person. If that's what he said he saw, that's what he saw."



Little green men sightings flood Hungary

BUDAPEST.— A month after the Soviet Union was swept by tales of visitors from outer space, Hungarians have started seeing unidentified flying objects and little green men.

Air force pilots in southern Kecskemet were followed during training flights late last month by a "strange, spherical, orange-coloured" flying object which did not show up on radar, the independent weekly *Del-Kelet* reported.

Days later, two soldiers on duty

at the airport there saw a figure of fluorescent green about 1.2 metres tall who beamed himself up into space.

"He passed around a plane, lifted one of his arms and created a cone-shaped light-beam above his head, disappearing silently within seconds into a high-rising tunnel of light," the weekly said.

Left behind on the concrete was the same kind of reddish deposit reported in news last month of three-

metre tall, three-eyed monsters in Voronezh, central Russia.

Deputy Defence Minister Janos Stock was quoted by the daily *Nepszabadsag* yesterday as saying the red deposit was a piece of synthetic resin used for repairing pavements.

"We have never had the chance of meeting genuine UFO colleagues," Stock said — adding that soldiers sometimes have visions which others embellish.

Nepszabadsag also quoted a report that a farmer in south-eastern

Gyomaendrod had seen two long-eared little green men. "The man tried to hit them with his shovel but they paralysed him with an unknown power and disappeared," it said.

The Soviet sightings were eventually officially declared to have been aliens, according to Tass news agency. Asked at the time whether there might just be a hoaxer at work, the agency said "Tass never jokes." — NZPA-Reuter.

UFO mystery

By DAVID GADD

A strange circular marking in a Waitakere beach swamp has left people talking of UFO activity in west Auckland.

The depression is similar to phenomena being reported in England, Europe, the Soviet Union and Japan.

While alleged UFO sightings are common over the Waitakere Ranges this incident is apparently unique in Auckland.

A perfect circle, about 3m in diameter, appeared in a raupo swamp, behind sand dunes in the small bay between Karekare beach and the old Piha Tramway tunnelled rock.

The raupo reeds are flattened into a circular pattern in the middle of surrounding upright reeds, and appear woven into an anti-clockwise swirl.

In England corn and other high standing grain crop fields are the most frequent to be affected by this phenomenon.

There, questions on the circular markings have even been asked in Parliament with special government investigations called for.

The Karekare circle first appeared some time in February.

However, it was not until later this year when papers, and the influential *Time* magazine, ran articles about the overseas occurrences and theories of alien origin, that west Aucklanders began making their own UFO associations.

"It is amazingly close to those overseas circles," says one eyewitness, who has returned several times to look at the Karekare phenomenon.

Even now, nine months on, the Karekare reeds are flattened and seem woven. Those in the depression also now appear greener than surrounding reeds.

The reeds were intertwined like something rotary came down at enormous speed and wove the reeds together, says the eyewitness, who does not want to be named for fear of being labelled a lunatic.

"People who are smarter than me think there's something very strange about it."

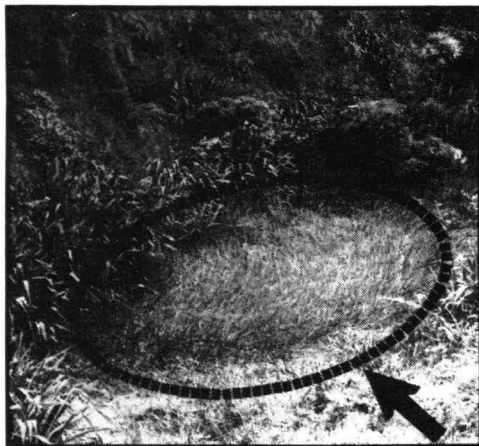
He discounts the obvious conclusion of a helicopter causing the pattern because the circle is within 2m of cliffs and under overhanging scrub and trees.

Squadron Leader Gordon Habgood of the air force says the closest a helicopter could safely fly to the cliffs is 6m.

The air force, usually notified by people of UFO sightings, has no record of sighting in February either.

One man convinced of UFO activity in the Waitakere Ranges is Oratia's Bruce Cathie, the former air force and Air New Zealand pilot has tracked UFO sightings for 25 years.

He says the Karekare circle fits in with overseas mark-



A line is drawn around the unexplained flat spot in reeds at Karekare.

ings, even down to the green centre while vegetation nearby appears to die off.

He believes it was made by a mechanical object, possibly an anti-gravity craft hovering.

However Mr Cathie feels it is more likely to have been piloted by men than extra-terrestrial life. He says the Waitakeres are a favourite area for overseas military to engage in secret research of various craft.

The ranges are also perfect for secluded drop-offs and pick-ups of personnel. He says the military either test their own craft or alien craft that have been found by humans.

However, one natural explanation of the mystery comes from Dr Terence Meaden, an English physicist. According to the *Time* article, Dr Meaden puts the circles down to a previously unknown atmospheric disturbance.

He calls it the "plasma vortex phenomenon" and says a spinning ball of air, highly charged with electricity, hits the grain crops, or reeds, and flattens them.

Flying saucer mystery over Wycke Hill

A FLYING saucer in Maldon?

That is what Wycke Hill resident Eve Joyce reckons she may have seen in thickets near her home.

Soon after midnight on Tuesday night, Frederick Joyce called his wife Eve to their bedroom window, which overlooks the hill near Spital Road.

"There was this big mass of light, bigger than our house," said Mrs Joyce. "It seemed to have little lights in it. It was yellow and didn't seem to be moving."

She compared it to a fair-ground roundabout and said it had disappeared when they looked again two hours later. "It was very weird."

Mrs Joyce said she spoke to a neighbour the next morning, who had also seen the strange lights on the hill and thought they might have been a flying saucer.

There may be a down-to-earth reason for the phenomenon: "It could have been gipsies but it is a long way from where they are sited," said Mrs Joyce. "I'm not seeing things!" she added.

This is the third mysterious incident Mrs Joyce said she has seen since the beginning of September. About two weeks ago she saw what looked like a small fire on the hill, and last week "a huge cloud of smoke" in the same area. Both were seen in the early hours of the morning.

FLYING VISIT CHECK

Bright moving lights spotted in the night sky over Lowdham on Sunday are being investigated as a possible UFO sighting.

Mr and Mrs Brian Barnaby, of Old Epperstone Road, Lowdham, made the sighting about 8pm.

Mrs Barnaby saw a mushroom-shaped object and another like a ship's wheel. They were very bright with twinkling red and green lights.

They hovered, joined together, and disappeared at about 10.30pm.

Mrs Barnaby said: "The experience will stay with me for a long time."

Mr Duncan Walters of Mansfield UFO Society said his group would investigate the sighting.

CR: T. Good

NEWARK ADVERTISER, Notts., England - Sept. 29, 1989

Pear-shaped UFO stuns author

A PEAR-SHAPED UFO has been sighted near the Downs.

The dark ominous shape came plummeting towards the earth and burst into flames at dusk on Friday, according to a startled eyewitness.

After it crashed to the ground in the Wannock and Folkington area a huge cloud of smoke rose above it.

When most of the smoke had cleared odd lights were spotted flitting around it which suddenly disappeared.

Local author Cecile Woodford stood stunned at her top flat window in Carmen Court, Willington, too frightened to investigate any wreckage.

She said, "It was about 7.15pm and was beginning to get dark. There was a bank of cloud in the far distance when this pear-shaped thing started to come down lower and lower."

"It came in front of the cloud and burst into flames, not just a flare it really burst and then it went down."

"Up came a huge cloud of smoke then odd dots of light were around it."

"It was as if something was following it."

The larger than life UFO was too big to be an air balloon, she said.

And nearby museum owner, Paul Foulkes-Halbard of Filching Manor, said he heard a loud explosion coming from the same area at about the same time.

"I was sitting in my study and heard this noise. It sounded like a metallic explosion and reminded me of a bad crash where a car had tumbled over and over."

No wreckage could be found.

The Ministry of Defence could offer no explanation as to what the strange object was.

GAZETTE, Eastbourne, England

Oct. 18, 1989 CR: T. Good

CR: T. Good

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England - Sept. 22, 1989

Is anybody up there?

WHEN Laidon's Mr Milner spotted an unusual object in the night sky, he didn't think of phoning home... but he did call the UFO hot-line.

Last Tuesday morning just after midnight he was out with his dog, when he looked up and saw a large, round stationary object of about 25 to 30 metres, with flashing red,

white and green lights circling its base. The object was about 1,000 metres from the ground and made no noise at all.

After about five minutes, it shot upwards into the night sky.

A similar sight was reported by Mr and Mrs Steven Harrison from Basildon the same night and around the same time.

They were about to go to bed and

noticed the object from her window. Their description was identical to Mr Milner's.

They watched for about three minutes, before the object again sped off skywards.

Both sightings were reported to the South East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association, on its 24-hour hotline, 0268 286079.

Mysterious circle stumps experts



Ray Crawford of Argyle, Man., stands inside a circle that appeared with no known cause.

Canadian Press

ARGYLE, Man. — Something has left a mysterious mark on Ray Crawford's land.

And stumped investigators say anything from bizarre weather phenomena to visitors from outer space could have put it there.

Sometime in the past year, an almost perfect circle was gouged out of a remote patch of the elderly cattle farmer's property, about 30 kilometres north of Winnipeg.

There is no sign that anything human had a hand in its creation.

"I don't know if it's man-made or what it is," said a puzzled Crawford. "If it's man-made, they must have gone to a lot of trouble to fool someone."

"When I first saw it, I thought 'Is that all there is?'," recalls weekly newspaper reporter Sheila Morrison, asked by Crawford to check out his odd discovery.

"But the more you look at it, the more you think how it got there, it becomes very puzzling," she said.

The six-metre-diameter ring is not unique.

Unexplained circles have been found elsewhere in rural Manitoba. One was accompanied by what looked like the marks of a large tripod, said Ed Barker, an investigator with the Winnipeg Planetarium's Centre for UFO Studies.

Similar circles also have been discovered throughout England, and one physicist believes they may be caused by strange weather.

In his book, *The Circle Effect and Its Mysteries*, British physicist Terrence Meaden theorizes they're caused by spinning balls of air highly charged with electricity, which plunge downward, leaving a uniform mark.

"It's not impossible that they are aliens," said Barker. "but you have to realize that presents some very real problems for scientists."

Probe into town UFO sighting

UFO investigators have been called in to look into a mysterious North Warwickshire sighting.

Officials from the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association plan to interview Mr Alan Cook of Church Lane, Weddington, who saw a large object hovering over Caldecote with a blinding bright light emanating from it.

He watched it through binoculars to try and identify it and described it as "simply incredible."

Description

A spokesman for the association said they would be contacting Mr Cook to find out more details about what he saw.

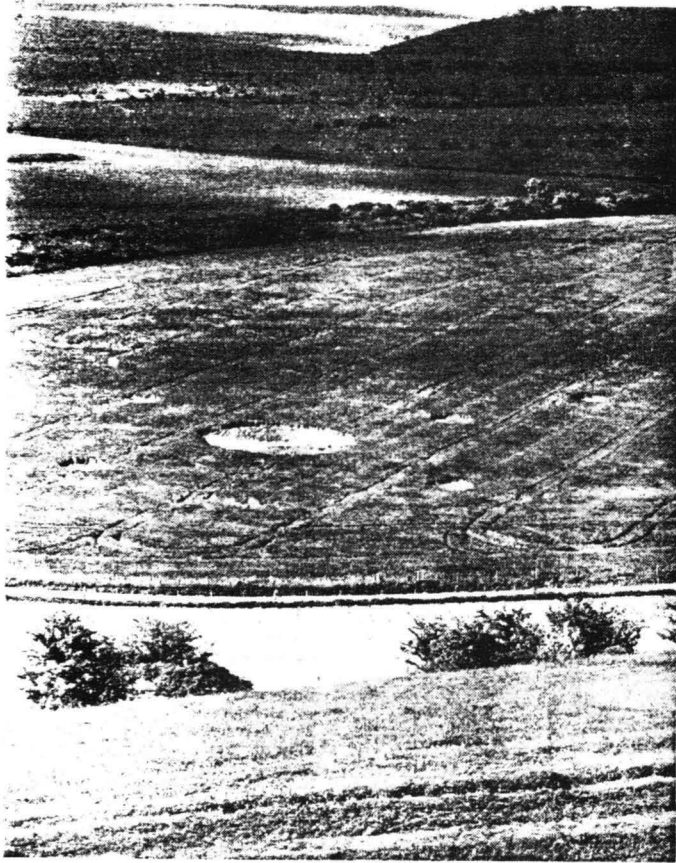
"He seems to have given a very clear description of what he saw and we are interested in talking to him."

"There have been a few sightings which we haven't been able to come to a conclusion about but most of them suggest that they can be explained."

"Many turn out to be some sort of aircraft or air transport."

Mr Cook said the mystery object was too bright for aircraft navigation lights and could not have been helicopter floodlights.

CR: T. Good



For S&S: Terence Meaden

A crucifix pattern is seen in a 1982 photo of a Wiltshire field. At right, Terence Meaden stands inside a circle, 50 feet in diameter, photographed in a field in June 1989.

Weird field patterns have farmers going in circles

By DAVE DIEHL
U.K. bureau

It's the kind of mystery that can ruin friendships and put the scientific community at each other's throats.

Unexplained circular depressions have been turning up in the farm fields of southern England, neatly flattening crops in a precise swirling pattern that, inexplicably, does not prevent the plants from reaching maturity.

Researchers have ruled out hoax, but that's about where agreement ends. To date, theories on the circles range from weird weather patterns to the paranormal to, yes, visitors from outer space.

The circles were first spotted about 15 years ago, when workers in Hampshire found a large circular pattern in a field near Highway A34. Since 1980, hundreds of the circles have been reported in Britain, while similar reports have come from as far away as Japan and the Soviet Union.

BUT THE GREATEST NUMBER of sightings — more than 250 this year alone — have been in the counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire, an area of England already famous for its strange stone formations, as some researchers are quick to point out.

Terence Meaden, an Oxford-educated physicist and the author of "The Circles Effect and Its Mysteries," has evidence of 20 different patterns, including some surrounded by one or more concentric rings. Other forms include a tadpole design of one circle with a curling tail and a Celtic cross of four circles linked to one large ring.

"Most of these reports have been ignored by scientists," the 54-year-old Meaden said in an interview with The Stars and Stripes. "This is a major contribution to physics."

Meaden's book theorizes that the circles are caused by what he calls the "plasma vortex phenomenon," a previously unknown whirlwind of

air similar to the vortices that come off the back of an airplane in flight.

He believes the process begins when a gust of wind, usually from a cold front, interrupts calm hillside air. The result is a mass of swirling air that carries an electrical charge and can produce the sound and light some witnesses attribute to the extraterrestrial.

"I'm talking about a kind of glowing ball which comes down low over a field . . . and it makes a humming noise," he said.

A brisk wind can destroy the vortex, Meaden believes, sending shards of rapidly turning air downward and "virtually screwing (them) into the ground." He suggests that a negatively charged whirlwind will be opposed by the negatively charged Earth, making the air mass appear to hover before petering out.

The whirlwinds can happen anywhere, Meaden said, but the counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire have the right climate and the 200-foot hills needed to create them regularly.

"It is a beautiful mystery," said Meaden, who has heard and read accounts from dozens of eyewitnesses, but has never seen the whirlwinds himself.

Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews advance a decidedly different explanation for the circles in their best-selling book "Circular Evidence."

"I WOULD SAY THAT WE are looking at the result of unexplained energy, possibly (created) by unexplained intelligence," Delgado said. "It is impossible for any form of natural science to create these enormous circles in a field."

Delgado, once a friend of Meaden's, said "there is no way that whirlwinds can cause this" and noted that Meaden has come up with several explanations for the circles over the years.

"What is it going to be next year?" asked Andrews, an electromechanical engineer who has

been studying the circles for about nine years.

"He is grasping for straws," Delgado added. "I tried to make him see the error of his ways. To say these are charged particle vortices is really stupid. He can't prove it anyway. It is rather a silly thing to say."

In Meaden's defense, the Delgado-Andrews book, although fabulously illustrated, comes up a little short on specifics.

Delgado estimates that it takes thousands of pounds of pressure to make the circles: "The research that we've conducted to date produces a very alarming fact, that there is an enormous amount of unexplained energy here."

Using a method similar to dowsing, Delgado says he can use his palms to detect energy at the sites of the circles. He would like to find a way of harnessing that energy once an answer to the mystery is found.

HIS DISMISSAL OF MEADEN'S explanation aside, Delgado said he doesn't rule out any theory, including the supernatural.

"We are quite open-minded about it," Delgado said. "Maybe the answer is in the paranormal. Who am I to say that it is not?"

For his part, Meaden suggests his research is based on "higher-grade sightings."

"I think a lot of genuine people over the years have thought that there has got to be something behind (the circles) which does not involve creating outer space visits," he said.

Meaden, who taught physics for five years at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, said his research is far from finished. And he plans an announcement on the circles next June that he said will send the scientific community spinning.

DELGADO, WHOSE BOOK has sold some 17,000 copies, said he would like to see an international effort aimed at solving the mystery. "I would like to get some government funding, perhaps make it international," he said.

"A sort of a circular glasnost."

Is this the work of a UFO . . . or a hoax?

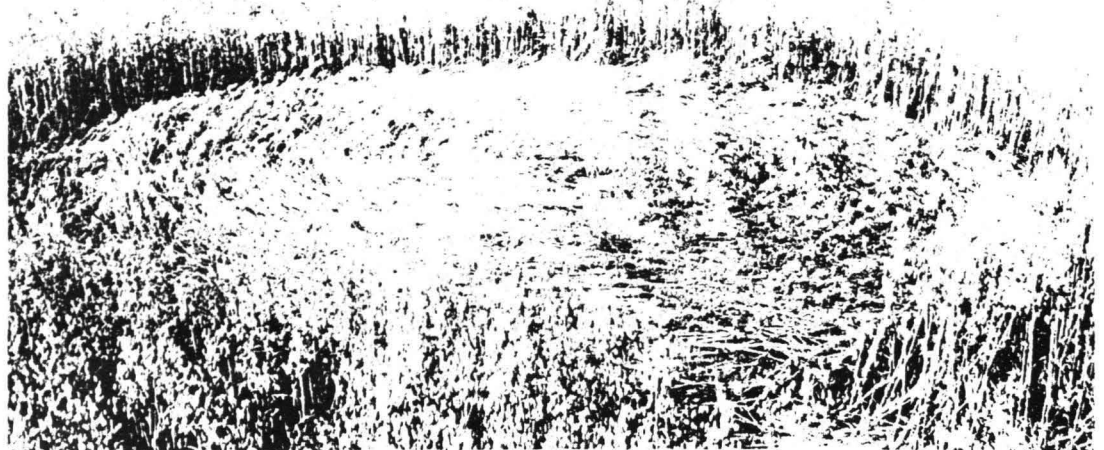
Cornfield circle mystery at Mansfield

Mystery or hoax . . . a strange circle of flattened corn has appeared in a field off Hermitage Lane in Mansfield, leaving experts scratching their heads.

All the corn in the circle is flattened in the same direction, leading to speculation that it could be a man-made hoax after similar corn circles featured in national news reports.

However, the Mansfield branch of the UFO society is convinced it is genuine after calling in corn circle experts, who say it conforms to the pattern of other discoveries.

Other theories are that the circles are caused by the wind, landing UFOs, or even amorous hedgehogs.



Bizarre circle has Martin baffled



Perplexed farm manager Martin Thomas puzzles over what caused the 33ft diameter circle on Lord Carrington's land in Bledlow

Picture by MARKUS KINCH

Mystery hollow appears on farm

By ALEXANDER
STUDHOLME

ANOTHER mysterious circle has appeared in a field of wheat — this time on Lord Carrington's farm in the Chilterns above Bledlow.

The bizarre hollow was discovered last week after a group of five similar circles appeared near Aylesbury.

No one can explain what causes the circles — where crops are pressed down in a uniform swirling pattern, both clockwise and anti-clockwise. They are anything up to 100ft in diameter with crisp, clear-cut edges.

UFO landing pads, strange energy fields, freak tornadoes and even rumbustious hedgehogs are just some of the theories put forward to explain this strange phenomenon.

The Bledlow circle was 33ft in diameter and clockwise in direction. The actual field was harvested last Friday.

Perplexed farm manager Martin Thomas said: "It's either a hoax or a type of whirlwind — they will flatten corn. But if it was a whirlwind I would expect it would be turned and a little bit raised in the middle."

"It's certainly unusual. One theory there's been is that it's badgers making love. All I can say is that they must have enjoyed themselves."

Three books have recently been published on the subject of the circles.

The British UFO Research Association has brought out *Controversy Of The Circles*, by Paul Fuller and Jenny Randles.

BUFORA does not think UFOs are to blame. Vice-president Lionel Beer said: "We think they may be caused by an unrecognised meteorological phenomenon — like a reversed whirlwind."

His opinion is shared by Dr Terence Meaden, author of *The Circle Effect And Its Mysteries*.

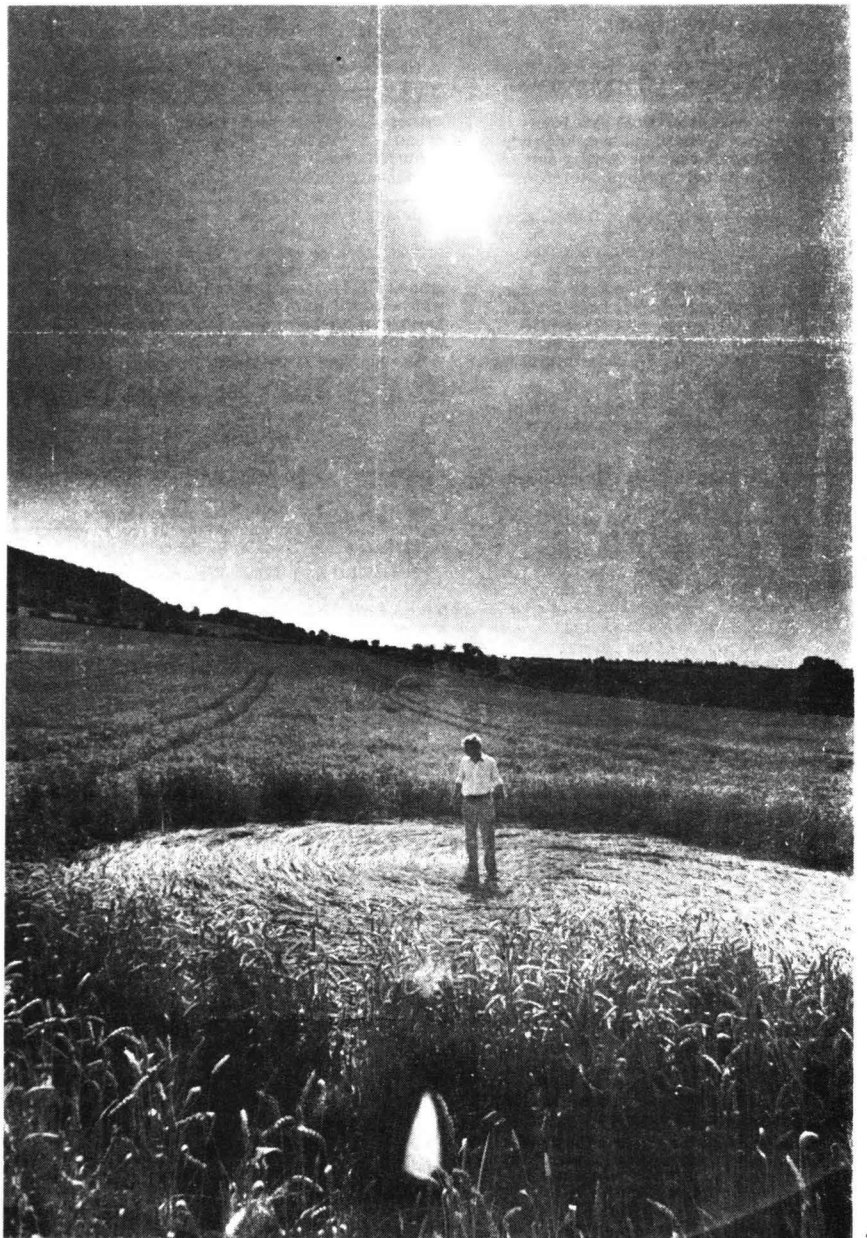
He said: "Roughly 100 to 150 examples are recorded each year. I would say that 12 of these have been hoaxes."

"The locations are very far out; the swirling effect is very difficult to reproduce; the corn continues to keep on growing — all these factors rule out hoaxes."

"I am quite sure they are formed by a ball of electrified air speeding past."

Barry Parker of the National Meteorology Office in Bracknell commented: "The air would have to be completely static to form perfect circles in this way. This seems highly unlikely."

Joint-author of the third book, *Circular Evidence*, Pat Delgado said: "The earth forces and atmospheric forces creating these circles seem to be manipulated by a higher intelligence."



Some people think UFO's or even badgers making love cause the mysterious hollows

UFO caught on film

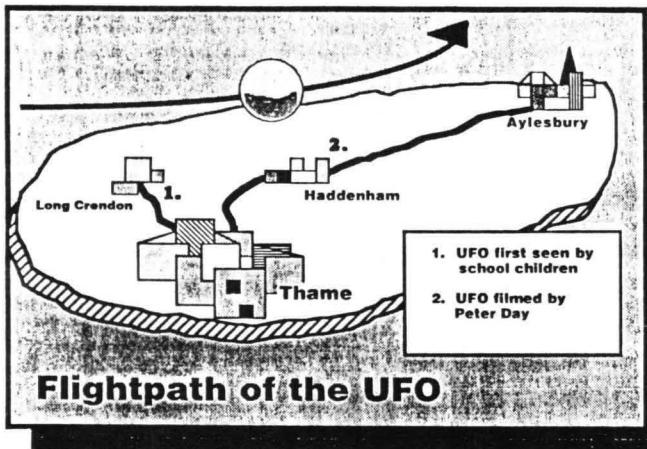
THIS is one of the most important UFO cases in the world.

That sounds an outrageous claim, but it is a sober statement made by Britain's foremost UFO researcher Jenny Randles. She has studied thousands upon thousands of claimed sightings of UFOs but declares that the one seen flying near Thame in 1973 is of paramount importance. Why? Primarily because one witness actually filmed it.

Peter Day, a building surveyor, was driving from Thame towards Aylesbury when he saw an orange ball of fire travelling low across the horizon. Fortunately he had his movie camera in the car and stopped to take some valuable seconds of film.

Since that date the film has been examined by experts from all over the world and the conclusion of Jenny's report is that this orange ball is a genuine "UFO."

Of course, that literally means it was simply an



Unidentified Flying Object — not necessarily little green men from Mars. Perhaps one day, Jenny states, the object will be identified, but for the moment it is a UFO.

Did UFO cause jet crash?

ONE of the most intriguing aspects of this case is that one the same morning that the film was taken an F-111 plane crashed at North Crawley near Bletchley. An immediate conclusion jumped to by police was that the film simply showed this burning plane in its last fateful seconds.

However the film was taken at 9am (corroborated by the school children who also saw the UFO just as they went into school) but the plane crashed at 9.46am.

Experts have considered whether the film could show dumped airplane fuel burning up or some other connected incident but the report concludes against this.

The report's compiler, Jenny Randles, does however seriously consider that the two events are in some way related. The jet first began to suffer problems at about 9am — the time the UFO was sighted. And while the report goes against the UFO being the jet in trouble a connection is considered.

Could, for example, the UFO have caused the jet to crash?

UFO ANALYSIS

Description: Orange ball of light travelling low in sky

Height: 1800 feet

Diameter: 64 feet

Speed: 140 mph

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England - Sept. 29, 1989

UFO gazers in puzzle

WHILE eager UFO buffs listened to a lecture on their favourite subject in the Bullseye public house, a spaceship was spotted hovering over the town centre.

On September 15, at about 9.5pm, four people were sitting in a car at traffic lights when they spotted the round, ball-shaped object which was white with multi-coloured lights. They watched it for about two minutes before having to move on.

Now members of the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association want to know if the sighting was purely coincidental or whether their meeting was being observed from afar.

They think it is possible the UFO had been hovering since their meeting started and that other people in the town centre at the time may have spotted it.

A report of a similar object was recorded over Canvey at about 9.15pm the same night.

Anyone who may have seen this object should call the UFO hotline on 0268 286079.

What the film shows...

PETER Day had pulled into the turning to Cuddington to take the film. He picked up the camera and rested it on the wound-down window. The film, lasting 23 seconds, shows the pulsating orange ball of fire moving low across the skyline, passing on a couple of occasions behind trees. There was no sound. Then the light vanishes — literally. One frame it is there, the next it has gone.

COPIES of the report, *Fire In The Sky*, are obtainable from BU-FORA, 37 Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 0UP. It costs £1.50 including postage and cheques should be made payable to BU-FORA Ltd.

JEWISH TELEGRAPH, Manchester, England - Oct. 6, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFOs are for real, insists US expert

FLYING saucers are are a very real phenomenon, according to an eminent American nuclear physicist, lecturer, broadcaster and member of Mensa.

Stanton Friedman spent many years in the design, development and testing of a wide variety of high performance nuclear and space systems.

He recently received a \$16,000 grant from the Fund for UFO Research to pursue leads on UFO sightings.

Lecture

And to try to prove his belief, he will give an illustrated lecture at Radcliffe Civic Hall, Thomas Street, on Sunday, October 29 (7.10.30pm).

The event has been arranged by an eminent British UFO-logist, Sale solicitor Harry Harris.

Tickets, priced £4, are available from him on 962 6240 (day), 973 9949 (evening) or 44 Reading Drive, Sale.

Mr Harris tells the story of a remarkable UFO incident which he learnt of last year in a conversation with former US fighter pilot Milton Torres at London's Cumberland Hotel.

According to Torres, on

May 20 1957, two USAF F86D Sabre fighter planes belonging to the United States 406th Fighter Interceptor Wing were scrambled from RAF Manston and ordered to intercept a UFO which had invaded UK air space.

As lead pilot, Torres was ordered to fire a salvo of 24 live rockets at the object which outran him at a speed of two digit mach numbers within ten seconds of the order to fire being implemented.

Torres, who is now Professor of Industrial Engineering at Florida International University, was debriefed on landing by a US civilian and threatened with a national security breach if he breathed a word about the event to anyone. The Ministry of Defence and the USAF deny any record of this event.

Action

Says Mr Harris: "Milton, who had seen action in Vietnam, told me the UFO incident had been the most frightening experience of his life. The pilot of the other plane was Dave Roberson of Marietta, Ok-

lahoma.

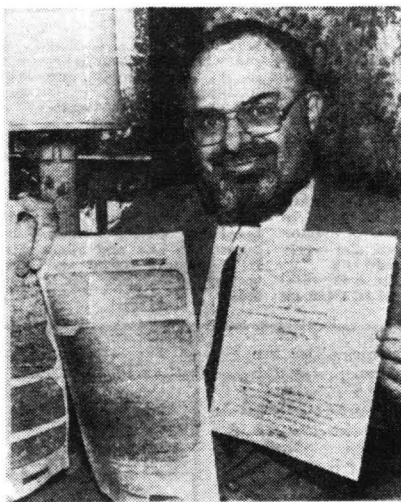
"Milton said he was airborne within five minutes of the scramble and heading out in the direction of the North Sea, just east of East Anglia. He had to rely on his radar as he was flying in thick cloud.

Radar

"Ground control informed him they had been observing for a considerable time a radar blip orbiting East Anglia which had very unusual flight patterns — motionless for long periods and defying identification.

"Then came the order to fire. As Milton closed in at a speed of .92 Mach (the fastest his plane could go), the object broke lock from his radar scope and accelerated away from him.

"The real significance is that the activities of these two Sabre aircraft are not, I am told, officially recorded — and are as such lost to history."



□ Stanton Friedman

Budapest skies rife with UFOs

BUDAPEST (Reuters) — Only weeks after reports of little green spacemen in Hungary, meteorologists said they have sighted four large, bright-orange unidentified flying objects.

Meteorologist Gyula Bazzo said yesterday the objects were spherical and 50-100 metres wide.

Bazzo said he and colleagues spotted strange lights close to the Great Bear constellation late Friday night.

TRIBUNE, Tampa, FL - Dec. 9, 1989

UFO sightings abound

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The air force and police are investigating numerous UFO sightings near the border with the Netherlands and West Germany, officials said Friday.

Since Nov. 29, dozens of people and police officials in the northeastern Liege province said they've seen luminous objects in the sky, with some of them describing a fly-

ing platform scanning the surface with three huge searchlights, while others talk of dancing lights.

During the same period, air traffic controllers "found radar blips on the screens that could not be immediately explained," said Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Michel Mandel.

At the time of the sightings there were no authorized low-level flights in the region.

Lone motorist bewildered by strange lights

By BARBARA TANDORY
E.K. News Service

CASTLEGAR - Bright lights lit up the Kootenay sky again last month, bewildering a lone motorist on his way home in rural Castlegar.

On the night of July 26, Carter Willness caught a meteor shower that astronomers say did not take place until July 28. Its strangeness and intensity filled him with dark thoughts.

"I thought, maybe a nuclear war broke out or something," he said recalling the sighting that started with a late-night drive home to East Raspberry from downtown Castlegar. It was 2 a.m. of July 27 morning.

The sky was crystal clear, unlit except for starlight and a crescent moon, two days past its last quarter.

Going over the Brilliant Bridge he saw a flash of light streaking north towards Thrums. At first he thought there was an accident. Then he thought he might be imagining things as the flashes kept coming.

"I kept getting those flashes from behind."

The night show continued for Carter on the back deck of his house. Before he woke up his wife and alerted a neighbor, he saw "at least 10 more meteors," making it about 15 in a short space of time.

The bright streaks were "like meteors going across the sky" but not quite.

"I've seen meteors before," he said, "But nothing like this."

The night display was confused by flashes of diffuse light. The airport weather office subsequently ruled out distant lightning; the instruments recorded basically clear skies the next morning with a visibility of 50 miles.

But Carter, looking east from the deck, reported that "all of a sudden there were flashes coming from over the airport." He described the phenomenon "like somebody taking pictures with a camera."

Darlene, his wife, noted a resemblance to Northern Lights but dismissed that possibility, as a Manitoba native, well familiar with displays of the Corona Borealis.

"It seems like the sky kept lighting up," he said. "It lit up the whole sky, more so than lightning." Awakened from deep sleep by her husband, she also saw "quite a big flash over the airport way."

The Vancouver Planetarium has had no reports of any intense meteor activity that night, although sporadic meteors, observed as "shooting stars" have been seen and would not be unusual since it is a meteor season. The Delta Aquarid shower started in mid-July and peaked on the morning of July 28, but it is a meteor shower without a sharp peak.

Paul Deans, a spokesman at the Planetarium, said the sighting might have been "several meteors" but "Not that intense." The Delta Aquarid does not produce alot of meteors on any given night, and the Perseid shower, starting at the

end of July, has not yet made its mark.

"Had it been in August, it would be more likely," said Deans. "But even with something as good as the Perseids it can't be guaranteed." (Astronomers expect the Perseid to make a big show on the morning of Aug. 12.)

Another Planetarium

spokesman, Carl Harry, said in a telephone interview that there had been no reports of anything unusual received by the McMillan Planetarium and Southam Observatory.

The Willness sighting coincided with an astronomical event of the month, the occultation by the moon of the constellation Pleiades, making it a safe bet

that astronomers were watching the sky that night.

Both Carter and his wife said they knew nothing about earlier sightings in their area when a number of independent witnesses, all residents of the neighboring community of Thrums, saw and described bright star-like objects travelling in erratic courses over the

same landmarks - the Brilliant Bridge, the Castlegar Airport and the mountain wall behind it. Those earlier sightings in late February and March, were also accompanied by flashes of daylight-like intensity and coincided with power disturbances.

There was again a power failure in Castlegar next morning after last month's sighting but this time West Kootenay Power found a clear culprit: a bird got stuck in a power in-

stallation causing a power outage in North Castlegar. The WKP local office had no knowledge, however, of a brief power outage in the south end of town.

WILTSHIRE TIMES, Trowbridge, England - Aug. 18, 1989 CR: T. Good

Eyewitness account of corn circle being formed

BRADFORD physicist Dr Terence Meaden has found an eye-witness to back up his theory that the mysterious flattened circles which appear in Wiltshire fields each summer are caused by Vortices.

Mr Ray Barnes saw a circle being formed in a field at Bere's Mere Farm near Wellhead Drove in Westbury.

Mr Barnes wrote to Dr Meaden in January, but the account of his sighting of the formation of a circle has only just been published, along with Dr Meaden's comments, in the monthly Journal of Meteorology.

Mr Barnes, who was walking his dogs along Wellhead Drove in July 1982 when he saw the circle

formed. A 'wave' at first appeared to run through the standing crop, which was either winter barley or oats, and formed a line which then went round in a circle.

Mr Barnes says he clearly heard the corn hiss and rustle as it fell into a circle of about 150 feet in diameter.

Dr Meaden, who has fought to prove his vortex theory against opponents who believe the circles are caused by unnatural forces - some people even claim UFOs may be responsible - says the sighting proves meteorologically that the vortex effect works.

He claims that the unusual topography around Westbury and along the line of the Plain escarpment is responsible for the vortex effect, as it combines a scarp, a concave hillside and a valley below.

STANDARD, Southend, England - Sept. 15, 1989 CR: T. Good

A visitor from space?

STRANGE lights in the sky from a mysterious airborne craft have been puzzling people in South East Essex.

East Anglian UFO Association chairman Ron West said he had received a number of calls after a report last week of a dome-shaped flying object with red, green and white lights. It was seen hovering in the sky between Clacton and Leigh in the early hours of September 6.

A Hullbridge man walking his dog at 10.15pm on

September 4 saw similar red, white and green lights in the sky, circling and flashing.

He thought the lights were about 2,000 ft up. After two or three minutes they moved towards Burnham.

At 12.15am the next day Mr Bob Hoskins from Billericay saw a long, rectangular object shoot across the sky and stop. It had white lights and was going towards Basildon.

At around the same time a Southend woman saw a big circle of white moving across the sky.

A few minutes later Mr Barton from Southend saw an object hovering over the airport. He described it as huge, with red, white and green flashing lights. It moved on in the direction of Basildon.

And again near midnight Mr and Mrs Robinson from Canvey saw a shape like three light bulbs in the sky.

It had green, red and white lights and eventually descended beyond the horizon.

Three hours later Mr and Mrs Jones from Basildon were woken up by a humming noise and saw from their window a long object with bright, white light.

It hovered in the air for about 10 minutes and then shot off towards Southend.

East Anglian UFO Association would welcome further information. Their hotline is 0268 286079.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Dec. 9, 1989

Col. Michel Mandel, spokesman for the Belgian Defense Ministry, said Friday in Brussels the air force and police are investigating numerous reports of unidentified flying objects since Nov. 29 near the border with the Netherlands and West Germany, adding air traffic controllers "found radar blips on the screens that could not be immediately explained."

COASTAL EXPRESS, Colchester, England

June 15, 1989 CR: T. Good

Club lists 892 UFO sightings

THE Essex skies are alive with mysterious objects, according to a UFO spotters group in the county.

In the last nine months a staggering 892 flying objects or strange lights in the sky were reported to the Boxted-based East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association.

And several witnesses claim to have actually made contact with creatures not of this Earth.

Spokeswoman Sheridan Lane said between July 31 and December 31 last year, 532 sightings were reported in Essex.

After the group investigated them, 189 turned out to be aircraft or other every day explicable objects.

But the remaining 343 were impossible to explain, and have been classified as UFOs.

A further 360 objects were

spotted and reported between January 1 and April 30 this year.

Investigations are still going on into 160 of them, while 150 have been classified as UFOs.

But all the incidents are not mere sightings of distant indistinct objects, claims Miss Lane.

Of the recent 360 cases, 270 were from people who spotted bright lights in the sky.

But ten were actual cases of contact with alien lifeforms, with one Clacton woman claiming she was abducted by a spacecraft before having the event erased from her mind.

She later relived her close encounter under hypnosis with the UFO research team.

If you're still sceptical, the team has organised a UFO talk by author Timothy Good, at Cecil Jones School, Southchurch, Southend, at 7.30pm, on June 24.

Mystery light seen in the sky

By Roy Heelas

A MYSTERIOUS large flying green light reported to have been seen in the night sky over Filton and Yate was spotted further afield.

The Unidentified Flying Object was also seen over Yeovil.

Mr John Spencer and his wife Jean of Downend Road, Fishponds, Bristol, noticed it on Sunday evening as they were driving through Yeovil after a weekend at Weymouth.

Amazing

"It was all green, bright green, and looked as if it was coming down. It was amazing. I have never seen anything like that before," he said.

Mr Spencer telephoned the Evening Post about his experience after reading how amateur astronomer Colin Pulsford of Filton and office colleague Brian Stanton, who lives at Yate, had separately seen the object in their own areas.

His sighting coincided with theirs, at about 8.20pm, and, he said, his grandson had claimed to see something similar at Kingswood.

UFO sightings

SAUCER and triangular shaped objects have once again been seen in the Mid-Exsex skies.

The latest sighting in Chelmsford was over the Springfield estate when two people taking their dog for a walk saw a rounded object.

The saucer shape bore red, green and white lights and after about 10 minutes sped off, much faster than an aircraft.

The object was spotted last Wednesday evening.

There have also been various sightings of saucer and triangular shaped objects over Tilbury, Grays, Corringham, Southend, Canvey and Stanford.

A diamond shaped craft was also seen by two pensioners over Southend. There were two tiers of windows and the object was much larger than an aircraft.

The UFO hot line number is 0268 286079.

CR: T. Good 16

HINCKLEY TIMES, Leics., England - Oct. 13, 1989

Strange Sighting

When Mr P. Bailey of Earl Shilton looked towards the heavens in the early hours of last Friday morning he saw what he describes as a "strange phenomenon".

At 4.30am Mr Bailey witnessed a large ring of light moving from east to west over the Leicester Forest East area and he wonders if anyone else who was up at such an unearthly hour saw the unearthly happening.

Apparently after a short while the ring of light turned towards Leicester and quickly disappeared. Was this a UFO or can anyone offer an explanation?



TIMES, New York, NY - Aug. 13, 1989 CR: E. Rager

Dozens of Cats Killed, Fears Spread in Suburb

By ROBERT REINHOLD

Special to The New York Times

TUSTIN, Calif., Aug. 11 — The reports of horrible new nocturnal mutilations come almost weekly, the latest last weekend, when a tiger-and-white striped tabby was found in two pieces. Oddly, no one ever hears any noise, and dogs do not bark. There is never any blood on the ground, just a torn feline carcass lying on the front lawn when the sun rises over Orange County.

Sixty-seven victims have been found in the last three months alone, some of them cut in half with what some say is almost surgical precision, others disemboweled or skinned.

The deaths have touched off an emotional dispute in this area about 45 miles south of Los Angeles, a suburb where a typical home has a dog, a cat, a green lawn and two cars behind bushes of oleander. Pet owners, galvanized by recent reports of ritualistic animal mutilations in California, New Jersey, Florida and other states, say all signs point to something very unnatural, possibly a satanic cult or youth gangs at work. But animal control and sheriff's officers, after necropsies on dozens of cats and consultation this week with a Federal wildlife expert, say the more likely culprits are urbanized coyotes.

A Few Tufts of Fur

Terrified residents have taken to keeping their cats and small dogs inside when the sun sets. But it was too late for Ilse Sommers's beloved lynx point Siamese, Benny, who was found by the next-door neighbor on Kootenay Street here the morning of Jan. 8, cut open down the middle with his organs torn out. In February, Ginny O'Donnell found nothing of her Rusty but a few tufts of fur and a neat pile of intestines on her front lawn over on Laurinda Lane in nearby Orange.

"People will never feel the same again," said Janet Hampson of Tustin, who has begun a personal campaign to pressure the authorities into investigating her theory that human hands are involved. "We always let our cats out. We never had this kind of problem. Why now?"

She cites several factors to support her theory: There is never any blood at the scene, the animals are often dismembered with surgical precision and paws and other body parts are often left on the ground in strikingly similar arrangements. No one ever seems to hear anything, she said, nor do dogs bark during the killing. She believes the cats are captured, taken elsewhere, their blood drained and organs removed, then replaced on their owners' lawns.

Unexplained Hiatus

"There is no indication of the shredding, pulling or chewing you'd expect from a coyote," Ms. Hampson said, adding also that she doubted coyotes, who kill to survive, would leave so many "delicious chunks" of feline flesh. Adding to her suspicion was an unexplained hiatus from May 17 to May 30, when there were no reports of killings. Was the killer out of town, or in jail? she asks.

In an arrangement with Orange County Animal Control, Ms. Hampson has obtained the carcasses of more than 60 cats, which she keeps in food freezers. Five local veterinarians have examined them for her and support her view, among them Dr. Leo Rifkind of Suburban Animal Hospital in Santa Ana. Dr. Rifkind said that he had observed the remains of 26 cats brought in by Ms. Hampson, and that the remains of all but two of them consisted only the head and four legs. "They appear to have been deliberately mutilated," he said.

'Evidence of Animal Kills'

But the authorities disagree. Dr. Nila A. Kelly, the county veterinarian, said Animal Control officials had pathologists perform autopsies on the 67 cats killed between May 5 and the end of July. "They all showed evidence of animal kills," she said. "None showed any evidence of satanic cults, human intervention or hacking." She said the veterinarians who examined the carcasses for Ms. Hampson were not pathologists.

Typically, Dr. Kelly said, coyote kills show puncture wounds from the canine teeth, chewing and splintering of bones, signs of which were found in the autopsies. She added that coyotes prefer the internal organs and can cut a cat in half because they instinctively go for the soft middle section where there are few bones. The lack of any blood at the scene is not surprising, she said, because coyotes kill quickly and the heart stops beating and pumping blood.



The New York Times/Angel Franco

Ilse Sommers with a photograph of her cat, Benny, one of dozens of cats that have died mysteriously in Orange County, Calif.

The owners suspect the work of gangs or cults, not coyotes.

She did not rule out human killers, saying that about 10 cats a year are mutilated in the county, mostly around Halloween. "We are not trying to cover up," she said. "It's not there is no cult activity." But she argued that it is more plausible to find natural causes. "These are domestic cats, kind of fat. Their instinctive survival reflexes have been modified to live in families, with canines. So coyotes probably do not scare them." Still, night patrols by Animal Control have produced no coyote sightings.

Halt to Autopsies

"If somebody is out there killing cats, we want to track them down," said Jack Edwards, director of Animal Control. "But we do not have any conclusive evidence."

As a result, the authorities have stopped doing autopsies on dead cats and returned to routine practice. Lieut. Bob Rivas, spokesman for the Orange County Sheriff's Department, said that his department had accepted the verdict of the Animal Control Division and that the investigation was "at a standstill."

All of this enrages pet owners like Mrs. Sommers. She said her Siamese, Benny, "meant an awful lot to me." "He was like member of my family." She has two other cats, but Benny was special. "I liked him better than the others. He was gentle. He wanted to be petted. He would purr for hours."

'Only a Microcosm'

Whatever the facts in Orange County, experts say there is sharp rise around the country in cult or gang-related animal cruelty, which are a source of mounting concern to humane societies. Detective Patrick G. Metoyer of the Los Angeles Police Department, a consultant on satanic and other religious groups to about 60 law enforcement agencies in the United States, estimates that his section has investigated about 100 cases involving animals in Los Angeles alone last year. "What's occurring in the Tustin area is only a microcosm of what's going on in the United States," he said.

Carl A. Raschke, professor of religious studies at the University of Denver, said several very different kinds of groups have been responsible for the animal killings. "They run the gamut from magical Latin American forms of blood cultism to voodoo, to attempts to bring back what is believed to be ancient German warrior forms of violent cultism that is being practiced by the skinheads," he said.

But no one knows yet whether the cats of Orange County are falling victim to some deranged or driven member of the human species or to the ancient laws and rituals of nature.



'Martian metropolis' MYSTERY



The Phobos: snatched by aliens?

STARTLING pictures of a huge, city-like structure on the surface of Mars are creating a furor among Soviet scientists.

Film of the "Martian metropolis" was beamed to earth earlier this year by Russia's Phobos space probe — two hours before it mysteriously vanished from TV-radio contact.

The now-missing Phobos spacecraft also transmitted baffling pictures of an immense oval shadow, more than 5km long, on the rocky Martian surface. The image was recorded by both optical and heat-seeking cameras.

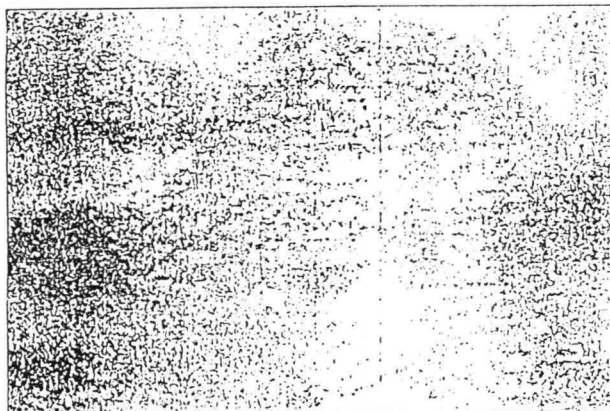
Experts agree that the egg-shaped shadow is definitely being thrown by "something" in the sky — because ridges and valleys are clearly visible beneath it.

Dr John Becklake, of the London Science Museum, said: "There's no doubt it's a shadow — but a shadow of what?"

"The city-like pattern is particularly fascinating. It's 60km wide and could easily be mistaken for an aerial view of Los Angeles."

"The criss-crossing lines on the film frame are about 4km wide. And they show up as infra-red — which means they're emitting heat. That's very

The city-like pattern resembles an aerial view of Los Angeles.



great pyramid of Giza.

● A cluster of huge, perfectly-formed pyramids in the planet's north-east quadrant. These structures, identical to the pyramids of ancient Egypt, showed clean, distinctive angles. Neither erosion nor optical illusion offered an explanation.

● The runway — a long, straight swathe through Martian rock that resembles an aircraft landing strip.

● A pattern of cubic and rectangular cells near the south pole. Geologists are astounded by the perfect symmetry of the cells which resemble Inca cities in Bolivia and Peru.

Was Russia's Phobos spacecraft struck by a random rock?

Or was it deliberately snatched from the Martian sky by beings anxious to conceal their secrets from us?

We may learn the answers to those questions early next century when earthmen walk for the first time on the mysterious surface of our sister planet.

PEOPLE, Melbourne,

Australia — Sept. 19, 1989

Author outlines theory on 'Nessie'

By PAUL DELLINGER
SOUTHWEST BUREAU

TIMES, Roanoke, VA — Oct. 22, 1989

WYTHEVILLE — A lecturer on the hunt for the Loch Ness Monster was concerned Thursday night that his talk might be over the heads of some of the youngsters in his audience.

But it was the kids who posed some of the most challenging questions for Henry H. Bauer, the Virginia Tech faculty member who is author of the 1986 book, "The Enigma of Loch Ness: Making Sense of a Mystery."

For example, he had never before been asked about the possibility that the Nessies — if they exist in the lake in Scotland where they have been reported since 1930 — might hibernate.

"Do they sleep?" asked another youngster. Bauer confessed that he could not answer either question. "I don't even know if fish sleep," he said.

He spoke to more than 70 people who turned out for his talk at Wytheville Community College, and gave his theory about what the

Nessies might be.

"I think there is a tribe of large animals that is related to the plesiosaurs," he said. Plesiosaurs were creatures who lived at the time of the dinosaurs and have been thought extinct.

The descriptions and apparent photographs of the Nessies show large creatures with long, thin necks and possibly flippers, which is how the plesiosaurs looked. Bauer said they might have become trapped in the loch during the last ice age when it connected with the ocean, although he could not explain why none was seen until the 1930s.

He thought he saw one on one of his visits to the area. "One morning I saw this black head come up out of the water and go down again." But he decided that animal was a seal.

Later he filmed what look like a creature emerging from the water three times but, on viewing it, decided it was probably a strange sort of wave on the normally calm lake.

The question of what made the wave remains.

The mysterious Bermuda Triangle

Shadowy zone may have fouled Columbus' compass

By JACK KEASLER
Special to the Express-News

The mystery of the Bermuda Triangle — a 1.5-million square mile area in the Atlantic between Florida, Costa Rica and Bermuda where ships, planes and people seem to vanish under mysterious circumstances — began with Christopher Columbus on his voyage to discovery of the New World.

On Sept. 1, 1492, Columbus wrote in his ship's log that the compass on the Santa Maria malfunctioned and frightened his sailors.

On Feb. 13, 1926 — 436 years after Columbus — Lindbergh wrote in the "Spirit of St. Louis" flight log that his two compasses malfunctioned at night over the Florida Straits (in the Bermuda Triangle) and that he was 300 miles off course and flying in the wrong direction when he determined where he was.

On Dec. 5, 1945, Lt. Charles O. Taylor, pilot of the lead plane in a squadron of five Navy Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers on routine patrol reported by radio to the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station tower that his compass had malfunctioned and said, "We are lost!" The five Grummans vanished, along with a Martin Mariner seaplane sent out to search for survivors. Lost with the aircraft were 27 airmen. It was the greatest peacetime aviation disaster in Navy history.

The legendary evils supposedly lurking in the Bermuda Triangle are too numerous to be listed. One theory is that it's where UFOs arrive and depart, shielding their presence with an electronic wave that plays havoc with compasses.

Some say the area undergoes periodic electromagnetic disturbances, is subject to atmospheric and gravitational aberrations, and connects at times with a "hole in the sky" into which ships, places and people vanish.

Less bizarre is the belief that whole thing is a hoax, like Scotland's Loch Ness monster. This theory is that coincidence has a role in some occurrences, and that everything happening in the area can be explained if all the facts are known.

Does anything explain why, during the last century, 50 ships, about 29



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS

A squadron of five Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers like these shown here vanished in the Bermuda Triangle.

aircraft and almost 1,000 people have disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle?

A Naval Board of Inquiry investigated the theories about the Bermuda Triangle and all the facts about the disappearance of the Grumman Avengers, the Martin Mariner seaplane rescue aircraft and 27 airmen.

The board was told that patrol by the Grumman Avengers was routine and identical to patrols flown daily. Each aircraft was airworthy and carried sufficient fuel.

Evidence indicated that two hours after Lt. Taylor reported to the tower that his compass was malfunctioning, communications faded out completely.

It was then, the board was told, that a Martin Mariner seaplane, capable of landing and taking off in heavy seas, with a crew of 13 and full survival and rescue gear aboard, was sent to search for survivors. The Martin Mariner failed to report by radio at the appointed time, 8:30 p.m., and was never heard from again.

The Grummans and Martin Mariner each carried self-inflating life rafts and all crew members wore life jackets. For a month before the board met, a thorough sea and air search was made of the Bermuda Triangle in the flight range of the missing plane.

The search turned up no trace of the aircraft or crew members — no

wreckage, no debris and no oil slicks.

The board came to no positive conclusions about what happened. Possibilities were that Grumman Avenger crew members had not been adequately trained in ditching-at-sea procedures; also that panic may have developed; and that a sudden drastic wind change (now called "wind shear") could have been the cause. The board concluded that gasoline fumes leaking into the cabin of the Martin Mariner were ignited by a spark, causing the aircraft to explode.

The Board absolved Taylor of any blame. A member of the board is reported to have said, "The aircraft and airmen vanished as though they'd flown to a distant planet."

Then there's the Lindbergh case. Why was he flying over the Bahamas, apparently heading east, when the direct route from Havana to St. Louis was slightly west of due north, and some 300 miles west of the Bahamas?

Did Lindbergh deliberately fly into the Bermuda Triangle to satisfy a curiosity he may have had about the legendary evils lurking in the area? The flight log tells all we will ever know about what happened.

He tells what happened with the longest of all entries in the log — 56 words. In contrast, he used three words — "flight carry mother" — to log the ride he gave Mrs. Lindbergh in the plane.

He left Havana on Feb. 13 bound for St. Louis' Lambert Field. The straight-line distance of some 1,000 miles — would should have taken 10 to 11 hours if flown non-stop.

His flight log reads, "Havana to Lambert, St. Louis, 15 hours 35 min. Earth-inductor compass and liquid compass card malfunctioned over Florida Straits (on the western edge of the Bermuda Triangle) at night. Earth-inductor needle wobbled back and forth, and liquid compass card rotated without stopping. Haze prevented recognizing position from stars. At daybreak 300 miles off course over the Bahamas. Compasses resumed normal operation over the coast of Florida."

Was Lindbergh in danger? The answer has to be yes. Any pilot, lost at night with a spinning compass, is in a dangerous situation. A lesser pilot could have panicked.

Explorer's stone tablets pinpoint King Solomon's mines in Peru

The Associated Press
LIMA, Peru — An American explorer said Wednesday he has found ancient stone tablets in Peru's highland jungle that may prove the area was the site of King Solomon's legendary gold mines.

"We have found something that is going to revolutionize the archaeological interpretation of Peru's ancient civilizations," said Gene Savoy, an explorer and historian. Savoy, 62, is a member of the New York Explorers Club and is credited with discovering 40 lost cities in Peru's remote tropical rain forests in three decades of work.

He said the tablets contain

the first writing found from the ancient civilizations of the Andes and that the inscriptions are similar to Phoenician and Semitic hieroglyphs. Peru's pre-Columbian cultures, which culminated with the Incas, were not known to have written languages. Savoy said he found three tablets, each weighing several

tons and measuring about 5 by 10 feet, in August in a cave near Gran Vilaya, the immense ruins of the Chachapoyas Indian civilization that he discovered in 1985.

The Gran Vilaya ruins are 400 miles north of Lima and 9,000 feet above sea level in a fog-shrouded region of the Andes that Peruvians call the

"jungle's eyebrow."

The hieroglyphs on the tablets are similar to those used in King Solomon's time and include one identical to the symbol that always appeared on the ships he sent to the legendary land of Ophir, which the Bible described as the source of his gold, Savoy said.

"When I first heard about

the possible contact between Egypt and Israel and the Americas, nobody was more skeptical than I was," he said. "I thought it was absolutely ridiculous. They've been talking about this crazy stuff for years."

"But now we've got stone tablets and this cannot be denied."

SUNDAY POST, Dundee, Scotland

July 16, 1989 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

No Nonsense From Nessie

HERE IT IS—the publishing scoop of the century. Scotland's most famous lady has broken her silence to write her autobiography.

Of course, it's none other than, Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster!

She reckons it's time she told her side of the story, after all the nonsense talked by disbelievers in the past.

Let's take a little peep into the lovely lady's diary.

July—I'm to be a film star! The TV people announce a new adventure series about me but it's to be filmed on Loch Lomond. I feel like a

Rangers fan sentenced to watch Celtic for six months!

October—What's this I'm reading in the papers? "Nessie could be facing an unexpected hazard in her lair because radioactive isotopes have been pumped into the loch to measure water flow." I'm assured there's absolutely no danger but I'll still keep a few dozen toes crossed.

It's a fun little booklet, full of daff wee stories, reported sightings of the elusive lady, cartoons and photos of her watery home.

■ Nessie, My Own Story (Lang Syne £2.95)

PRESS AND JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland - July 3, 1989

A monster headache . . .

A SECOND mystery of Loch Ness has been discovered by monster hunters.

For the past six years scientists have been baffled by a large airtight Perspex cylinder containing an unknown white powder which was found in a 680ft. basin near Fort-Augustus.

It was suspended by a chain with a foam float and recovered by a mini-submarine two years ago during Operation Deepscan, the massive sonar sweep of Nessie's lair by a fleet of small boats.

It has been kept at the official

Loch Ness Monster exhibition at Drumnadrochit where Nessie expert Adrian Shine has been trying to solve the puzzle.

But so far he has been unable to come up with an answer.

He said yesterday: "When we first saw it, we immediately thought it was narcotics. We called in the Customs and Excise who examined it and said it wasn't drugs."

"The mystery deepened when it was chemically analysed. It was completely inert, non-radioactive, and it wasn't a silicon gel. We are completely baffled."

"We have no idea what it is or why it was there. We contacted every research organisation throughout the world who has worked on Loch Ness and it doesn't belong to any of them."

Mr Shine suspects it may be a university experiment because the cylinder is simply built.

Alternatively, it could be an elaborate practical joke. He added: "If it is, then the perpetrator has had his money's worth, because we have spent the last two years and a lot of effort trying to find out what it is."

CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

Champ Spotted Three Times This Summer

(ed. note: In a recent letter to the Courier's Richard Cowperthwait, longtime Lake Champlain Monster researcher Joseph Zarzynski reported on Champ sightings so far this year and urged anyone who spots Champ to contact him.)

I have heard of three sightings. There was a sighting on June 8th at 7 p.m. off Burlington. I spoke with a friend of one of the eyewitnesses. I won't know much more about that until this friend convinces the eyewitnesses to talk to me or to fill out and return one of my Champ sighting sheets. Thus, I can't really count it as a sighting until I get much more information.

There was a sighting on July 6th in Mallett's Bay, Colchester. There were 8 eyewitnesses. I spoke with one of them — Renee Chagnon. She said while boating the group noticed a 15-foot-long log on the surface. They became concerned when they thought a nearby boat of fishermen might hit the log. So, they began to motor over to the spot. When they got to within 100 feet of the log it began to move off. First two humps then Champ (by then they knew it wasn't a log) reared its head. She described the head as twice the size of a human head and the head came up

about 12 inches from the lake surface. The sighting was off Clay Point. It then dived and they picked it up on their fish finder. She said it dove to a depth of 53 feet in 83 feet of water. She also noted the captain was unable to freeze frame the fish finder. Champ was black in color. Water surface — calm. No camera on-board. The sighting lasted 5-7 minutes.

The last sighting was on July 8th by Robert H. Hemming. Time — 10:45 a.m. He was at the Crown Point, N.Y. fort location looking across toward Chimney Point, Vt. It was a clear and bright day, but choppy water. Range 1000 yards. He saw "Three tube like humps protruding out of the water 12 to 15 feet in length. No head seen; very dark in color." He watched it for 10-15 minutes.

Should you hear of any sightings please share them with me.

Joseph W. Zarzynski, Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation, P.O. Box 2134, Wilton, NY 12866.

Boo! That thing could be Bigfoot

By Matt Neufeld
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

On May 27 in Odenton, Md., two brothers, ages 11 and 13, were playing on their family's boat, stored near a wooded area in the back yard. It was a day the boys would not forget.

They looked up to discover a hairy "thing" peering at them through a patch of brush. They described the creature as being 3 to 4 feet tall and covered with brownish-black hair, with a lone white stripe running down one leg.

The boys sprang off the boat and watched as the creature ran through a nearby clearing, visible for about 60 to 80 feet. In subsequent interviews with their parents, neighbors and a Greenbelt man who researches such sightings, the boys have firmly maintained the creature was not a deer and that it ran on two legs and had long arms.

The incident has become the latest sighting of a "Bigfoot" creature in Maryland.

Since the 1600s, when Piscataway and Susquehanna Indians of Maryland worshiped giant hairy half-men and painted such creatures on their breastplates, there have been 339 "sightings" in the state, said Mark Opsasnick, 27, the Greenbelt researcher.

In the fanciful Halloween season, when imaginations are piqued by odd phenomena and the supernatural, Mr. Opsasnick strives for reason.

He has carefully researched and filed Bigfoot sightings in the state—and elsewhere—while attempting to remain objective amid reports of hairy, smelly monsters.

"When I get involved in this, I don't try to convince people Bigfoot exists," said Mr. Opsasnick, a social worker with the Montgomery County Department of Social Services.

"I'm merely trying to increase public awareness that monsters like this are allegedly seen, they could exist and, more importantly, they play a large role in Maryland folklore. All I'm saying is, people allegedly see these things, and reports do come in."

And come in they do. Perhaps no other unexplained phenomenon has been more widespread in Maryland and the country than Bigfoot-type creatures. In Maryland, the sightings have been reported in all the state's 23 counties except Queen Anne's, Caroline, Kent and Talbot.

"Bigfoot has allegedly been seen in every state except Rhode Island and Hawaii," Mr. Opsasnick said. There is no explanation why Rhode Island has missed out on the fun. But the widespread sightings, he said, "show how much American consciousness has been affected by this. It's an important part of our popular culture. I'm more interested in that than going out and 'finding Bigfoot.'"

Sometimes Bigfoot finds him. After Odenton residents called him about the incident in May, he did some checking, finding "there were dozens of sightings in 1968 a few miles south of there."

The Indian beliefs are mentioned in early accounts of explorers. There are Maryland newspaper accounts through the decades, including reports of Bigfoot sightings in Frederick County in the early 1960s—when it was called "Dwayo."

In a 1976 Baltimore County case, "dozens" of residents in the White Marsh area reported seeing Bigfoot during a three-week period. A bit of credibility was added when six Baltimore County Police officers were among the witnesses.

A woman called Baltimore County Police "and claimed a giant ape was tearing her dog apart," Mr. Opsasnick said. An officer arrived "and found her German shepherd torn in half, totally mutilated."

In another account, a man named Ronald L. Jones encountered a Bigfoot in the Tracy's Landing area of Anne Arundel County. Mr. Jones claimed to fight with the thing, and said he hit Bigfoot "with a tire iron." Mr. Opsasnick said. Investigators had trouble believing him.



Most scientists and anthropologists doubt that a long-lost race of Bigfoot creatures, half-man and half-ape, exists anywhere.

"Mainstream science says, 'No, there are no monsters,'" said Mark Chorvinsky, a fellow strange-phenomena researcher who lives in Rockville and is considered an authority on unexplained creatures. He is the publisher of "Strange" magazine, a director and writer of short films and the owner of the Dream Wizards store on Rockville Pike that specializes in the unusual.

"Scientists will never consider anything as evidence unless a Bigfoot is caught," Mr. Opsasnick said. "Everything until then is considered soft evidence."

People have made plaster casts of so-called tracks, but they could be fake, both researchers said.

They also acknowledge that many "sightings" could be animals such as deer, bears or dogs; an ape or gorilla that escaped from a traveling zoo, circus or research lab; hallucinations due to alcohol or drugs; or just elaborate hoaxes. Mr. Chorvinsky noted that some sightings in the early 1900s were actually hairy or shaggy men.

As development eats up wooded areas, the men doubt Bigfoot will be seen as often as in the past.

"There's not enough open land," Mr. Opsasnick said. "Something like a Bigfoot creature would require 10,000 to 15,000 calories a day. You're talking about something that's 800 pounds."

DAILY TRIBUNE, Columbia, MO - Nov. 20, 1989

Sky-born green ice block shatters convent window

ROME (AP) — Nuns in a Roman convent were startled when a block of green ice shattered one of their windows yesterday. Authorities said the ice apparently fell from an airplane.

After the 2-pound chunk of ice crashed through the window, the nuns called the police, claiming they had been struck by meteorites, the Rome-based daily Il Tempo said. They then put it in the freezer.

Firefighters carrying Geiger counters rushed to the San Felice da Cantalice convent in central Rome, followed by an expert from the National Center for Research, who determined the green ice was emitting no radiation, the daily reported.

MONSTER '89

Creature sightings increase

By MARK WOOD
Staff Writer

LAURENS — A variety of varmints deck the walls of Crenshaw's store on U.S. Highway 221 just outside of Cold Point.

Fish, foxes, deer and ducks are arranged throughout the Laurens County store that caters to those just passing through, and folks out for a day of fishing or turkey hunting.

But there's one creature that's not stuffed and mounted in the little roadside shop . . . yet.

It's the "Cold Point Creature," the latest in Palmetto State non-human upright-walking enigmas—the Lizard Man of 1989, you might say.

"I've had, I guess, 75 people in the past three days come in here and ask about that," said Claudette Hughes, 35, a clerk in Crenshaw's store.

Ms. Hughes keeps a small cardboard sign propped up on the counter when her boss is not around that reads, "No, we have not seen any creatures!! (Other than our regular customers.)"

"The nuts are coming out of the woodwork," she said, adding that one man came over the weekend from Georgia, dressed up like a member of a S.W.A.T. team.

As a local comes into the store yesterday afternoon to pay for a few gallons of gasoline, Ms. Hughes quips with a grin, "The creature hasn't bit you yet?"

"Nope," the man replies.

Ms. Hughes said she's not one to believe in monsters, but she's sure that those claiming to have seen the reputed hairy, grayish-black giant saw something.

Martha Tollison, 57, of Laurens, was the first to report seeing the creature back in April off of Indian Mound Road. She was driving to her job in Clinton at about 5:30 a.m.

"I slowed down at first, but when I saw how big and tall it was, I took off," she said. "I just went by and it just kind of turned and went back in the woods."

Mrs. Tollison said she told her friends at work about the creature, and they all just laughed. Her husband dismissed it as a stray cow or bull that had wandered to the road's edge.

WHO OR WHAT IS IT?

Based on more than 300 reported sightings of the creature in Maryland, here's a profile.

Eye color: The predominant color noted by witnesses is red, followed by yellow, white, green, black and orange.

Hair color: The predominant color is black, followed by brown, white, silver, gray, tan and even green.

Height: Anywhere between 4 feet, 1 inch to 10 feet.

Odor: Bigfoot has been described as smelling sulfurous, musty, or like a cesspool.

Tracks: Three-, four- and five-toed footprints have been found.

SIGHTINGS

(from 1600 to 1989)

The creature has been reported seen in all but four of Maryland's 23 counties, including:

County	Number of times seen
Baltimore	61
Harford	54
Carroll	50
Prince George's	49
Frederick	30
Charles	20
Anne Arundel	13
Montgomery	9

Source: Bigfoot chronicler Mark Opsasnick



The Washington Times

Illustration by Alexander Hunter
The Washington Times

HERALD-JOURNAL, Spartanburg, SC - Aug. 1, 1989



MARK WOOD PHOTO

Daisy Derrick of Laurens shows off the "Cold Point Creature" T-shirt she designed.

It wasn't until she was driving home from church with a friend a couple of months later that she learned she was not the only person who had seen something.

Daisy Derrick's niece, Arlene McCall, is another of about nine Laurens County residents claiming to have seen the beast. Ms. Derrick, 55, of Laurens, insists her niece is not a fibber. Mrs. McCall wasn't available for comment.

Ms. Derrick, a local artist, designed 100 T-shirts bearing her rendering of the creature, based on descriptions from her niece and others who allegedly have seen it. The black on white shirts say "The Cold Point Creature," and are selling for \$10 in Crenshaw's store.

"They say it doesn't look like a bear," Ms. Derrick said, "so it's got to look like a person, gorilla or something."

"When this creature is sighted, it immediately turns and walks away," she said. The exact same thing happened when Mrs. McCall saw it lingering on the shoulder of Indian Mound Road.

Weekend reports of the monster brought real-life ghostbusters Mike McCurry and Gene Taylor to Cold Point from Asheville yesterday searching for footprints and any other evidence of the creature.

"We're down here trying to get a story on it and see if we can make a

connection between it and the Lizard Man," said McCurry, referring to a large reptilian creature reportedly seen by several people last summer near the Scape Ore Swamp in Bishopville, a small town in Lee County.

"We've noted a lot of similarities," McCurry said. "As soon as the publicity started, they announced they'd started selling T-shirts, just like this one."

"You've got two small towns that looked like they could use a boost. You've got to note all aspects of it," he continued.

McCurry and Taylor featured their first piece of the paranormal in a new Asheville publication called Carolina Senior Citizen, a monthly newspaper. The story tells of the supposedly haunted Old Calvary Episcopal Church in Fletcher, N.C.

"We came down here to see if we could find a footprint. One footprint would clear up the whole bear thing," he said referring to speculation that the creature may be a roaming black bear.

Ms. Hughes jokingly said she'd like to see the beast added to the mounted menagerie in Crenshaw's store.

"We're gonna stuff him when we catch him, and then I'm gonna make a T-shirt saying, 'I stuffed the Cold Point Creature.'"

Commissioners set liquor hearing, hear mutilations complaints

The commissioners planned a public meeting to hear input into a proposal by local tavern operators to allow liquor to be sold New Year's Eve, although it falls on a Sunday. In a separate proposal they will hear input about allowing liquor to be sold any Sunday.

They also heard concern from a delegation of ranchers from the Nounan area about as many as 20 cattle mutilations that have occurred, among other business in the regular meeting of the county commissioners held Monday.

The commissioners set Nov. 22 as a day to hear input from the public to allow liquor to be sold on New Year's Eve at the local taverns after Jerry Hunzeker and Dante Pierandozzi requested the council approve an ordinance allowing them to sell liquor on that date.

Dante Pierandozzi also requested that sales of liquor be extended to all Sundays.

The public meeting to hear input is open to all members of the public at the Allred Center at 7 p.m. Mr. Hunzeker and Mr. Pierandozzi noted that if their taverns are closed for that evening that many would travel to Wyoming where sales will not be restricted. Mr. Pierandozzi said he does not particularly want the New Year's Eve ordinance as he has already planned to cater a New Year's Eve party at the Allred Center, but is more serious about a general Sunday opening.

The commissioners felt that public in-

put would help them with their decision.

The two proposals, one for New Year's Eve and one for Sunday in general will be considered separately.

A delegation of very concerned ranchers met with the commissioners to see if a concentrated effort could be made to stop the cattle mutilations that have taken place in the Nounan area. They reported that there are about 20 cases of mutilations. The sheriff's department reported four cases where the mutilation has been confirmed by a veterinarian. He said that there had been ten calls for cattle mutilations in the month of October and that there had been one more call this last weekend.

The ranchers say that they have lost about \$10,000 worth of cattle. The ranchers are asking the commission to help provide more help to the sheriff's department, in the way of expert investigators, night surveillance equipment, and money generally to help solve the problem.

Sheriff Brent Bunn asked that the ranchers be very aware of the problems and that they report instances immediately so that investigation can be conducted within a few hours of the animal's death. He said he is finding forensic experts to do analysis when possible, and that an expert investigator has been contacted and will be in the county. He is following leads from a number of sources.

The commissioners suggested some steps that might first be taken: that

ranchers be especially aware so that a fresh animal might be provided for autopsy to gather evidence, that night vision equipment be obtained, that some state help and expert investigators be found and brought in and that cattlemen be informed about what to look for so that they can collect evidence themselves.

Brent Bunn suggested that there are so many rumors going around that it is difficult to separate fact from rumor, but that he needs all the information he can get to track down leads.

Ron Law said that people are very nervous about the problem, and added he would not want an innocent person to be hurt.

Dwight Cocran said that evidence of cause of death needed to be obtained to confirm the mutilations.

The ranchers said that a variety of tissue had been cut from animals. The animals are generally female with one ear completely removed, the early mutilations included tail removal, and the genital areas had been cut out, and in some animals the ovaries had also been removed. The cattlemen have provided for a \$5,000 reward through the Sheriff's office.

Ranchers suggested that some people may be afraid to provide information because they fear retaliation by those involved. Cult activities or Satanism has been suggested but Brent Bunn said he has not had evidence of such cult activity in the county, but didn't preclude someone coming in from outside the area, or that cults may exist.

Aug. 17, 1989

Bigfoot: Seven report sighting in The Dalles

by Scott Olson

It's been years since the last known reports of Bigfoot surfaced around The Dalles. But on the evening of Aug. 8, seven individuals reported seeing what they thought was the elusive creature.

Two who reported seeing the creature were Jesse Spears and his son Steve. Their home, located in the 3000 block of W. 2nd St., has a perfect view of the rocky hillside near Eagles Point, located in the Chenoweth area. It was about 7 p.m. when the two spotted the dark creature which they estimated to be 8-10 feet tall. They watched as the creature appeared on

the hillside and seemed to be looking off into the distance, then continued heading west along the big ridge before it disappeared over the bluff. After the creature disappeared, Spears and his son went to the Wasco County Sheriff's office to report the incident. While Spears and his son went to report the sighting, a family of five, with which he had no prior contact until after the incident, said that they also had spotted the object during the same time. In fact, they told Spears that the object reappeared and was heading north. After Spears had reported the incident, the

sheriff's office contacted Bigfoot expert Peter Byrne, who now lives in Parkdale, is the author of the book *Search For Big Foot Monster: Myth or Man*, and the former operator of the now defunct Bigfoot Information Center, which was located in The Dalles. Though he has given up his research of Bigfoot, Byrne still goes out and looks over an area where there has been a Bigfoot sighting. Byrne gave Spears a call. Byrne and Spears set up a meeting Aug. 10 at 7:30 a.m. in The Dalles, and the two men went up on the hillside where the creature was spotted. But neither one could find any footprints, blaming a downpour of

rain the night before. "It rained heavily, so any foot prints that would have been created were washed away," Byrne said. "We could faintly see some imprints from kids that had been playing in the area." What they did find was a boulder which had been moved from out of the ground. The boulder appeared to have been about eight inches into the ground, before being overturned. According to Spears, there is no way the boulder could have been moved by a human. Byrne estimated the distance at which the seven people saw it was about 1,000 yards

up on the rocky hillside. "This Bigfoot sighting was in a completely different location than the ones that had been reported in the past at Crates Point and Strawberry Hill," Byrne said. Sightings over Bigfoot around The Dalles go back to 1810, when the first was reported. In recent years, there were three sightings about 20 years ago, and two sightings within three days in 1972. All of the sightings occurred around the Crates Point area. "I'm convinced that they did see something," Byrne said. He still doesn't know if it was Bigfoot or man.

McCURTAIN CO. GAZETTE, Idabel, OK - Oct. 4, 1989



These 22-inch tracks were photographed at Cattle Crossing in June by Holly Schachle of Haworth.

Tracks Photographed

A Haworth woman and a friend were fishing in late June near Cattle Crossing east of Goodwater when they happened across the tracks pictured above. The tracks are about 22 inches long.

Holly Schachle said she and a friend were fishing for catfish using "Catfish Charlie" stinkbait about 11:30 p.m. the last Saturday in June. They had been shining a flashlight on the ground to watch for snakes.

They walked a short distance to a pickup so it could be backed up

nearer the waterback for ready access to tackle. When they returned, these tracks were in the dirt where they had been before.

Ms. Schachle said the tracks just suddenly stopped. There were trees nearby, she said, but no further tracks.

She thought they appeared so strange that she returned the following day to photograph them.

"I don't know if they're from a Bigfoot or what," she said, "but they sure are strange."

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - May 12, 1989

Planes linked to icy falls

News Services

WINNIPEG — Leaky airline lavatories are creating an ice-storm of controversy.

Four times in the past six weeks there have been reports of large chunks of ice falling from passenger jets.

The latest incident occurred last weekend when a large chunk of ice fell from a jet landing at Winnipeg International Airport and crashed on a playground next to some kids playing baseball.

"Anyone could have been in that exact spot, it's a well-used ball-field," said Penny Miller, who was playing catch with her son when the ice smashed into pieces near second base, leaving a metre-wide crater.

Jerad Barnett, 10, caught a glimpse of the falling ice and said it looked about "two feet square and about six inches deep."

The jetliner couldn't be identified, but the incident is similar to others that appear to be occurring with increasing regularity.

Three homeowners living near airports in Calgary, Toronto and Portland, Ore., have also recently reported chunks of ice crashing through their roofs.

Brian Stratton of the Canadian Aviation Safety Board suspects leaky lavatories are causing urine and water to freeze on the outside of planes at higher altitude.

When the planes descend, the ice starts to melt and falls off.

Stratton said cracks in the seals of the outside hatch to the lavatory were often to blame.

CR: G. Conway

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Nov. 2, 1989

Ogopogo video sold to American network

The controversial video of an unidentified creature in Lake Okanagan filmed in July by former Salmon Arm car salesman Ken Chaplin has been sold to the NBC television program *Unsolved Mysteries*.

"It's a very satisfactory deal," Chaplin said in a telephone interview from Kelowna Wednesday. But he refused to state the price.

His video contains three minutes and 43 seconds of a creature in the

lake filmed on four different occasions last July. It has been shown to several different audiences of biologists and zoologists, some of whom claimed the creature was a beaver or a river otter.