

UFO

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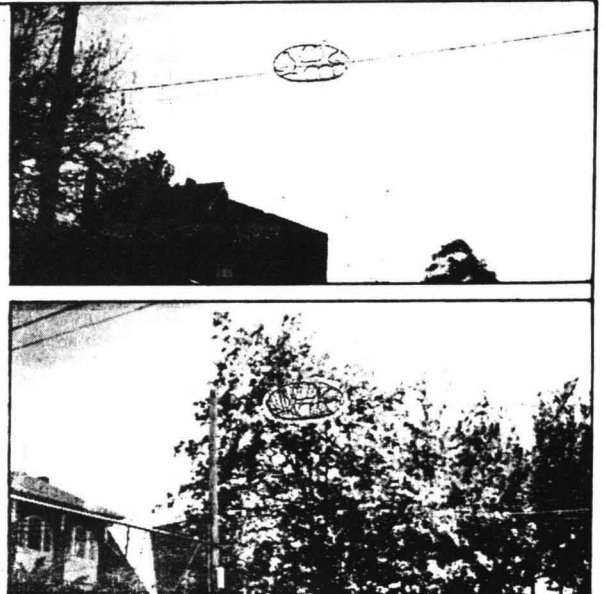
CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
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Evelyn Schurman



ACTUAL SIGHTING location in Squirrel Hill last May of a UFO. The flying object has been superimposed by Evelyn Schurman as described by two witnesses.

The flying object has been superimposed by Evelyn Schurman as described by two witnesses.

Close encounters engross Edgeworth woman

By Tony Soltis

Sometimes things happen in life that can't be easily explained.

Some people are content to call them "mysteries" and then focus their attentions on issues more easily understood. But for others, the unexplained becomes a personal challenge.

Evelyn Schurman of Edgeworth is the latter.

"I'm a skeptical person," she says. "I want to prove it myself. I don't want to take another person's word."

Last year, Mrs. Schurman joined the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU) and became an investigator.

PASU is a volunteer, statewide organization that investigates sightings of UFOs and other types of unusual incidents tries to come up with logical explanations. Among the group are professional scientists, engineers, technicians, medical doctors, former military officers, law-enforcement officers and research consultants.

These volunteers have taken to heart what Werner von Braun, the rocket scientist and space pioneer, said before his death: "It is as impossible to confirm them in the present as it will be to deny them in the future."

Founded in 1961, PASU maintains a historical file with more than 10,000 accounts of sightings on record. Most of these can be explained as bright meteors, planets, aircraft lights or unusual atmospheric conditions.

But the organization has 27 UFO incidents that fall into the unexplained category.

During the day, Mrs. Schurman works as a saleswoman for Document Services. After she showed PASU proof of her qualifications to do research and investigate — she has a paralegal background — she began to attend meetings and be assigned to cases.

Most of her work begins with a telephone call. She decides if sufficient reason exists to dig deeper. Seven times in the last year, she found enough merit to probe.

"I try to remain objective," she

reports, as she explains how one of those telephone calls turned into one of the year's unexplained highlights.

Last May, two women in Squirrel Hill saw an object. They reported their sighting to police, who referred the women to PASU. Mrs. Schurman was assigned to the case.

Here's what she reported: On May 17, two professional women in their late 20s had a late meal at the Eat'N Park on Murray Avenue. They left the restaurant at about 3 a.m. and drove in one car down Beacon Street. Out of the clouds came an object that was flat and elongated, with three large flashing red lights at the bottom.

The object hovered for two minutes, and then seemed to disintegrate. It disappeared, but it did not appear to fly away.

The reaction of the two women was representative of the general public, Mrs. Schurman feels. The one woman wanted to learn more about the object and UFOs in general. The other, after giving her report, said she never wanted to hear anything about it again.

Mrs. Schurman says those reactions are typical. Some want answers; others impose a type of amnesia on themselves.

Learning about Mrs. Schurman's work, some people confide experiences they have had. People often are frightened when telling about unexplainable sights, because they are afraid of being ridiculed or being looked on as a crackpot.

For this reason, PASU never releases the names of those who volunteer information — even if those persons have violated federal restrictions.

Yes, in 1969, the U.S. Congress passed a law that prohibits communication between Americans and extra-terrestrials under punishment of one-year imprisonment and/or a \$5,000 fine. Plus, anyone exposed to an ET can be quarantined for as long as is deemed necessary by order of the NASA administrator.

When asked if she would violate

the law, given the chance to meet with an extra-terrestrial, Mrs. Schurman's cool, research detachment drops: "No, I'd run like hell."

However, others have come to her with their experiences. A story whispered to Mrs. Schurman by Mary, her cleaning woman, remains etched in her mind.

Mary died last February. The day before, she told Mrs. Schurman of a personal close encounter. About 20 years ago, Mary was on Ridge Road Extension in Ambridge. She was walking across a field, when something came out of the sky and hovered above her.

Mary was gripped by fear, frozen where she stood. She thought she was going to be taken away. Inside, she observed two small creatures. They had slight builds, with large eyes and ears.

Mary told Mrs. Schurman she never shared her experience with anyone else except her daughter, and only years later. The daughter corroborated her mother's story.

Mrs. Schurman also tells of a neighbor, a pillar of the community, who witnessed a UFO travelling over the Ohio River. A companion also sighted the object.

This neck of the woods is unusually blessed with sightings, says Mrs. Schurman. In fact, the Chestnut Ridge area — where they have been especially plentiful — has been dubbed "Pennsylvania's Twilight Zone."

The 100-mile mountain ridge that straddles southwestern Pennsylvania has been the location of a number of UFO reports. Strange animal sightings also have been reported: Bigfoot, black panthers and the eastern cougar, supposedly extinct for the last century.

One of the most important UFO sightings in the entire United States occurred in this area back in 1965 in the village of Kecksburg.

That December, thousands of observers in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan saw a fiery object in the sky. It eventually crashed in a wooded area in Westmoreland County. Within a short time, the military set up a command center in the village, roped off the area,

and confiscated the object.

The UFO was officially explained as a meteor, and the crash site was quickly replanted with trees. A few years ago, one of the firemen who was there that night testified he had seen an object made of a strange metal, with some sort of writing on it that resembled hieroglyphics.

PASU has uncovered numerous documents about the Kecksburg case through the Freedom of Information Act, but the government still maintains a veil of secrecy.

Kecksburg has become a personal project for Stan Gordon, founder of PASU. Gordon, an electronics technician, has been studying unexplained phenomena since 1959. In addition to PASU, Gordon founded and directed the Westmoreland UFO Study Group in 1970 and the Pennsylvania Center for UFO research in 1975.

Evidence uncovered in the last few years supports the possibility that a true UFO did crash in the Pennsylvania woods in 1965, he

contents.

Mrs. Schurman hopes to research a personal experience she had some years ago in Utah, her home state. Alongside a wall on which were Indian carvings, she found large three-toed footprints in the wilderness. So far apart were the markings that they would have had to have been made by a creature with a superhuman stride.

Whatever, even if there is a natural, rather than supernatural cause, she still believes something strange is going on elsewhere.

"I am an avid reader. When I read about something that interests me, I pursue the topic. This topic turned into an engrossing hobby. And not your run-of-the-mill hobby, either."

Anyone with information about an unexplained experience can get in touch with Stan Gordon at the Pennsylvania UFO Hotline at 838-7768. The phone answers 24 hours a day.

GASTON GAZETTE, Gastonia, NC - Dec. 31, 1989

Rocket pioneer dies, 95

Worked on V-2 with Werner von Braun

NUREMBERG, West Germany (AP) — Hermann Julius Oberth, a pioneer of the space age who worked with Werner von Braun to help develop Germany's V-2 rocket, died Friday after a short illness. He was 95.

He began experiments on a conical jet motor for the German government in 1930 and developed a model later that year. Oberth worked on the motor with von Braun, who later became the leading scientist in U.S. space flight development.

He submitted a thesis on rocket experiments for his doctorate, which was turned down as too cursory. An expanded version was published in 1923 as the book, "The Rockets to the Planets in Space."

A third publication of the work in 1929, "The Way to Spaceship Travel," is today seen as a pioneering work in rocket research.

CR: G. Fawcett

Mobile couple reports UFO sighting

By KATHY JUMPER
Press Register Reporter

A Mobile couple said they spotted the same fast-moving, metallic unidentified flying object that Mississippi residents saw Wednesday.

"I called my wife and then my neighbor to see it so people wouldn't think I was drunk," Paul Hannie said Thursday. "It was round and about as big as a jetliner. It would turn colors — from a dark color to bright aluminum. It was up about 15,000 to 20,000 feet in the sky. We watched it for about 20 minutes.

"I've been flying all my life and I know it wasn't a weather balloon. Then low and behold I picked up the newspaper this morning and what we saw was identical to what the men in Mississippi saw."

Lee Abide Jr. of Greenville, Miss. said he saw the object three or four months ago and again Wednesday while on his way to work. A Greenville pilot, Bill Kimmel, said he was flying to Memphis two days ago when he saw a round, metallic object that kept changing colors and was flying about 800 to 900 mph.

The local offices of the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Weather Service and the U.S. Coast Guard said Thursday they did not receive any reports of UFOs.

A spokesman at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. said Thursday, "we've been out of the UFO business for years."

"Usually when we have some bright planets out we have a rash of UFO sightings," said Dr. Paul Helminger, a physics professor at the University of South Ala-

bama. "That's usually in the spring or fall when people are out enjoying the weather. Venus has been out early in the evening and so has Saturn. Jupiter is out around midnight.

"And the dark star, Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, comes up in the morning. This could be what people are seeing."

Helminger said he watches the stars and has never seen a UFO. "Our library is full of books from people who have had unusual sightings," he said. "I don't know what people are seeing. But have them bring a photograph in and we'll take a look."

Hannie said he was doing yard work at his Alpine Hills home about 4:15 p.m. when he looked up and saw an airplane fly overhead. "A few minutes later I looked back up and I saw a pretty huge object floating south to

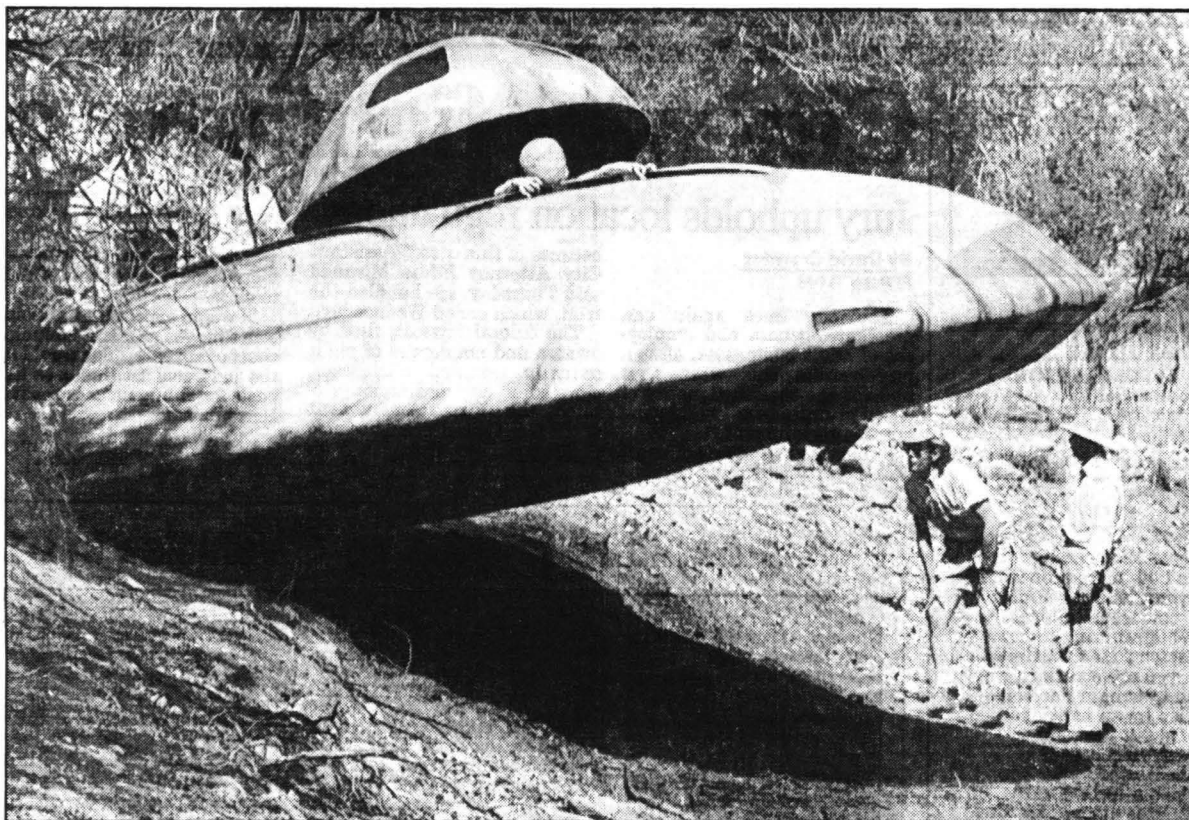
southwest. I thought it was part of the airplane at first. But the plane went on."

He called his wife, Abiline, and his neighbor, Jack Parsons, over to watch it. "We watched it go all the way across the sky until it went out of sight around Theodore area," Hannie said. "I called my sister in Semmes and she said she'd seen the same thing.

Hannie said he believes in UFOs. "And our country does, too," he said. "If they didn't, why would they be sending shuttles to Mars with all kinds of pictures and cassettes? I'm not a fanatic about it. But I was carried away when I saw it in the paper this morning.

"I don't drink and I don't smoke. I did get witnesses. I didn't want anyone to think I was crazy."

Re-enactment with an alien, of sorts



Associated Press

With an alien dummy hanging out the hatch, director Raymond Bridgers, left, demonstrated to Lewis Fitts of Roswell how to study a flying saucer Aug. 8 during the re-creation of an alleged discovery of a spacecraft in 1947 near Socorro, N.M. The re-enactment was staged for the NBC television show "Unsolved Mysteries."

UFO show recalls Roswell limelight days

By Marilyn Hadrill
El Paso Times

Roswell is unlikely to become a major attraction for UFO investigators despite its link in a television report to a story about a crashed flying saucer, a Chamber of Commerce official said Thursday.

Assistant Director Sara Whiting said the incident happened too long ago, in 1947.

"I've had a dozen or so people come in wanting to get more information and look at where the crash site is," Whiting said. "But that was over 30 years ago, and there is nothing to see out there."

The Roswell saucer incident was featured again Wednesday night on a 30-minute rerun of the NBC television "Unsolved Mysteries" series.

The segment originally aired in September, after which Whiting said the chamber received about 100 inquiries.

In the television account, numerous witnesses discussed

"I happen to think there is more than one galaxy out there. At that time, too many reputable people were seeing saucers."

Art McQuiddy
former newspaper editor

an alleged U.S. Air Force cover-up of a crashed flying saucer and four alien bodies recovered in a remote area about 75 miles northwest of Roswell.

The subject in recent years has been featured worldwide in books, articles and television documentaries.

Art McQuiddy, director of the Roswell Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitors Bureau, was editor of the Roswell Morning Dispatch when the story broke.

He said the military, after initially announcing July 8, 1947, that a flying saucer had been recovered, retracted the story about an hour later with a report that it had been only a weather balloon.

"I spent the whole afternoon on the telephone. I talked to London and Paris and Tokyo and Hong Kong and Rome. I never talked to so many foreign newspaper guys in my life. Everybody in the world was interested, if not concerned, if not excited," McQuiddy said.

McQuiddy said he, like witnesses close to the story, believes the military covered up the truth to prevent panic.

"I happen to think there is more than one galaxy out there," McQuiddy said. "At that time, too many reputable people were seeing saucers."

Walter Haut, a Roswell retiree and art gallery owner, was a military spokesman at the time of the incident. He said Thursday he was ordered

to write the original release saying that a flying saucer had been recovered.

Haut has been featured in most accounts of the incident. When he was mentioned in a book, "The Roswell Incident," released about a decade ago, he said he received about 1,000 calls.

"That's when it started," Haut said. "It continued on not only during that year, but kept on for a couple of years. Several hundred people came to my gallery or my home. After a while, when you have them standing in line at the gallery waiting to talk to you, you kind of scratch your head."

Haut says he, too, believes the weather balloon story was a cover-up because of extraordinary military secrecy around the incident.

Haut said Canadian UFO researcher and physicist Stanton Friedman will be in Roswell Feb. 1-3 to collect information from anyone having knowledge of the event.

FLAGLER TRIBUNE, Bunnell,
FL - Dec. 13, 1989

UFO expert is speaker

By HELEN RUTAN

PALM COAST — Col. William Coleman, an expert on unidentified flying objects, was guest speaker at a dinner meeting of the Flagler Palm Coast Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars Nov. 27, at Champions Restaurant, Pine Lakes Country Club.

Introduced by his longtime friend, Ernie Moore, Col. Coleman has worked with Rod Serling, Jack Webb and Merv Griffin on the production of movies for television. He said the Air Force may be considered the leading authority on the subject of UFOs. The government does not investigate a single sighting but does research all multiple sightings of the objects. Coleman said he has knowledge of the earth's galaxy and keeps an open mind on the subject.

The preamble was read by Shirley Kruse, adjutant and Tony Koenings gave the invocation.

The Christmas dinner dance will be Monday, Dec. 18, at Champions.

DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton
Beach, FL - Jan. 3, 1990
WALTON

UFO reports blamed on weather balloon

SEAGROVE BEACH — A Walton County sheriff's deputy is dismissing reports of a UFO that was seen by more than 50 south-county residents on New Year's Eve.

Deputy Carl Hilgenberg said Tuesday he thinks the two wandering lights he saw about 11:45 p.m. may have been attached to a weather balloon or some other kind of balloon.

"There were two white lights that were in a vertical line," Hilgenberg said. "They were about 1,000 feet in the air, dropped down near the water and then went up again and drifted out into the Gulf. I really think it was a weather balloon."

Capt. Susan Brown of Eglin Air Force Base's public affairs office said Tuesday the base didn't launch any weather balloons on New Year's Eve and didn't fly any missions. She said weather balloons do have lights, but there are no set numbers or configurations for the lights.

CR: R. Reid

Allen Benz, sitting by an Old Pueblo Club window with a panoramic view of the northern sky, expounds on the relevance of the research his foundation supports.

"It's real, it's serious, it's something that needs to be looked into," he says urgently. "It's one of the most important subjects that a person can get involved in, up there with AIDS and the drug problem. This affects each and every human being on this planet."


Benz glances out the window to the blue sky above the Catalinas. He has a professional interest in what's going on up there. But he is neither a meteorologist nor an aviator.

Benz is president of the Foundation for UFO Research.

The non-profit foundation was organized in 1982 to inform the public of what Benz calls "the UFO situation" and to provide financial support and a network of contacts for UFO investigators.

Strictly speaking, Benz says, UFOs are "flying ob-

UFOLOGY



Story by James Reel
Illustration by Keith Dixon
The Arizona Daily Star

A N I N E X A C T S C I E N C E

jects that remain unidentified after they have been investigated by experts capable of making a common-sense, prosaic identification of the sighted object."

Benz estimates that 70 percent to 90 percent of reported UFOs are eventually identified as weather balloons, satellites or other mundane objects. The remaining 10 percent to 30 percent resist identification by atmospheric physicists, air traffic control tower personnel and UFO investigators. Those are the objects that interest Benz and his foundation.

Tucson has long been a center for UFO research. The Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO), widely respected for its serious approach to documentation, operated here until the deaths of founders Jim and Coral Lorenzen in 1986 and 1988, respectively. Despite APRO's demise, Tucson and Southern Arizona are still home to many independent UFO investigators, or ufologists.

True ufologists are serious about their work, although most of them conduct it part-time. They inter-

do not become so involved that they are convinced of one particular theory. Naturally, the Lorenzens counted themselves in this small class.

Whatever their class, good UFO researchers, according to Benz, share "a low tolerance for doo-doo" and a determination to dig through to the truth. Some researchers are attached to government facilities or universities, Benz says, but unless they're sure of their job security they don't like to discuss their work.

Among investigators Benz knows are three physicians, a retired research psychologist, a counselor, a nuclear physicist, and a man with a doctorate in optical physics.

Most of these highly educated people have concluded there's more than swamp gas and weather balloons in the sky. But they are outnumbered by skeptics who explain UFO sightings as misunderstood natural events or psychological aberrations.

Of course, there's a Freudian hypothesis for UFO sightings, as there is for every other human action, emotion and secretion. UFO witnesses and investigators are victims of the Freudian breast/penis syndrome, say the theory's proponents. That explains UFOs' usual saucer and cigar shapes.

Carl Jung was one of the few leading psychiatric experts to have addressed UFO sightings with any depth. In his 1959 book "Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies," Jung wrote extensively of archetypes — basic unconscious images we all share. The ancient world's archetypes were gods; today's, according to Jung, are UFOs.

Jung offered two hypotheses. According to the first, sighting a strange, unknown phenomenon forms the basis for an accompanying myth. People see odd things in the sky, and UFO stories develop. According to the second hypothesis, an archetype creates a corresponding vision — an unconscious fantasy invades the conscious mind. "Even people who are *compos mentis* and in full possession of their senses can sometimes see things that do not exist," he wrote.

Jung did concede that "either psychic projections throw back a radar echo, or else the appearance of real objects affords an opportunity for mythological projections."

He concluded with a proposal: "UFOs are real material phenomena of an unknown nature, presumably coming from outer space, which perhaps have long been visible to mankind, but otherwise have no recognizable connection with the earth or its inhabitants." In modern times, however, people have assigned meaning to those phenomena: visitors from outer space.

In 1983, American psychiatrist and ufologist Berthold Eric Schwarz addressed this argument in his book "UFO Dynamics: Psychiatric and

Psychic Dimensions of the UFO Syndrome."

Schwarz denied that UFOs are seen chiefly by emotionally disturbed people or that UFOs are the products of mental illness.

He interviewed many non-patients describing UFO contact who showed no clinical evidence of emotional illness, excessive fantasizing or lying; nor did they seek notoriety from their reports. He concluded that "UFOs, indeed, do seem to be real," but he would not go so far as to suggest what they might be. Interpretations of real encounters, he pointed out, are often "complicated and uncertain."

Serious, levelheaded ufologists — unlike opportunists out to make a few quick bucks with books and speeches purporting to explain UFOs — often resist revealing what they think UFOs might be, unless they're sure they have a sympathetic listener.

It's easy to see why. Benz cautions that we can only speculate about the intentions of extraterrestrial visitors, but he is willing to discuss their possible sources, including parallel dimensions. This is the sort of thing that makes the average workaday physics professor snicker.

Other ufologists are more outspoken than Benz. One local investigator is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel who demands anonymity so he can quietly continue his work. And perhaps he doesn't want to alert casual acquaintances to his unusual ideas.

"The Earth is being visited by hundreds of different ET (extraterrestrial) races," he says. "They all have different spacecraft, different technologies, different physiological appearances — although they are generally similar to humans."

"And they have different objectives, including biological experimentation that has resulted in hundreds of human-ET hybrids living among us now."

He says this with the conviction of 40 years of ufology experience, begun immediately after World War II as an Air Force investigator of what were then called Unidentified Foreign Aircraft.

Retired since the early 1960s, he now travels around the world interviewing UFO witnesses, measuring odd impressions in the ground and inspecting provocative photographs.

Then he returns to his Tucson home, which is cluttered with UFO books, terrestrial and lunar maps and UFO paintings. There he compiles what he calls "journalistic reports in a dry military style," has them printed and sells them by mail.

"UFO reporting has changed over

the years," he says, "but the ETs haven't changed, and their nature and varieties haven't changed."

"At one time it was not acceptable (to the public) to report UFO occupants," he explains. "Once we passed that reporting barrier, we began to hear of human-appearing occupants."

"Those were first reported as coming from Venus and Mars. It doesn't appear the ETs were lying to us; they used Venus and Mars as control names because they were more acceptable to witnesses in the 1950s than places beyond our solar system."

"There was a time when we reported most UFOs over reservoirs and military installations. Now the current reporting wave is on abductions for genetic experiments. That's nothing new; abductions have been going on all along. But now it's acceptable to report them."

It is not only acceptable, but fashionable. The producers of the new film "Communion," recounting writer Whitley Streiber's apparent abduction by what appeared to be aliens, have even established an interactive 900 number phone program, the "Communion Hotline."

By dialing 1-900-860-4UFO (and paying the resulting charge on your phone bill), you can hear Streiber and others tell of their encounters with unknown beings, and then leave a recorded description of your own visitation.

Such exploitation only rankles UFO skeptics further. Extreme skeptics categorically deny that anything odd is going on. UFOs, when not hoaxes, are invariably natural occurrences like meteor showers, ball lightning or light refraction, they say.

UFOs cannot be extraterrestrial vehicles, they insist, because their high speeds and sudden changes in direction violate known laws of nature.

This argument supposes we've identified all the laws of nature. If our scientists can't make something happen, skeptics reason, 4-foot, bug-eyed fetal beings from the Pleiades can't do it, either.

Other doubters, like planetary astronomer William K. Hartmann of Tucson, feel there simply is not enough documented evidence to indicate these events have anything to do with extraterrestrials.

Hartmann was a photographic analyst for the University of Colorado UFO Project and a contributor to the Condon Report.

"I went into the investigation with the feeling that we might find something dramatic and unknown," says Hartmann. "But in the end I felt we didn't find any evidence for anything physically extraordinary."

"I guess we were all waiting for a landing on the White House lawn."

Many of the purported UFO photographs Hartmann examined were obvious fakes.

"Some people have an interest in getting attention, or in some cases it's just a practical joke that gets out of hand," he says of the faked photographs.

Still, Hartmann feels most UFO witnesses — and most don't happen to be carrying cameras — are sincere.

"But you can't assume that everyone's a perfect observer," he cautions. "You have to remember there's a difference between perception, which is what you actually see; conception, which is what you think you see; and reporting, which is what you tell someone else and what they think it is."

"When somebody reports something strange, it means something did happen, but not necessarily as it's described. Somebody perceives something, but their conception of it may be wrong."

During the Colorado study, he says, a Soviet satellite re-entered the atmosphere over the Eastern United States, breaking into five pieces burning in the night sky.

Dozens of sightings were reported to the researchers. Different observers described the same group of objects as:

- a possible satellite re-entry;
- five objects flying in formation;

(continued on page 4)

Most of these highly educated people have concluded there's more than swamp gas and weather balloons in the sky. But they are outnumbered by skeptics who explain UFO sightings as misunderstood natural events or psychological aberrations.

view UFO witnesses, establish the witnesses' veracity through discussions with their friends and neighbors, comb through whatever police reports may have been filed on the events and, if they arrive soon enough at alleged landing sites, take careful measurements and abundant photographs.

The Lorenzens, APRO's co-directors, identified three classes of UFO investigators.

First are those who after conducting research come to believe that the objects are physical, interplanetary phenomena. Benz and probably the majority of local ufologists belong to this class.

Second are researchers who believe UFOs are hallucinations or misunderstood natural phenomena. This was the attitude of many members of the U.S. Air Force-sponsored UFO project conducted at the University of Colorado from 1967 to 1969.

The project summary, known as the Condon Report, concluded that 21 years of UFO study had added nothing to scientific knowledge and further study was probably not worthwhile. Internal memos and comments from dissident researchers indicated that was the general attitude when the project began — an attitude project directors were determined to prove valid.

The people in these two categories — true believers and virulent skeptics — are operating from "emotionally derived convictions," the Lorenzens warned, and those convictions color their research.

The third class of investigators consists of people who undertake serious, well-documented studies but

- a black cigar-shaped object with five lights on it;
- a black cigar-shaped object with five windows.

Two people reported that the object had come so close they could see riveted plates on the "vehicle" and people through the "windows."

People on both sides of the UFO question are prone to expressing themselves with righteous indignation.

Benz, for one, is furious with the government for its refusal to coordinate a public UFO inquiry or even to acknowledge that unusual, inexplicable things — no matter the source — do sometimes flit through the air.

"What are we paying these fools for?" he asks. "Why lie? If there's nothing to this UFO thing, and everybody who gets involved in it belongs in a little rubber room, then why all the mystery? And if something can come in undetected, and it's hostile, then we're in deep doo-doo."

The chief UFO "problem," perhaps, is that the phenomenon is not taken seriously by a sufficiently large segment of the scientific community. Thus begins a vicious cycle: The lack of accredited investigators leaves the field open to both serious amateurs and nuts. Few scientists will have anything to do with amateur efforts, and without scientific participation, ufology lacks public credibility.

Many people who claim close UFO contact also report psychic experiences like haunting and telekinesis. Are these people unbalanced? Or are they tapping into something no one yet understands, trying to fit their experiences into a more comprehensible — if fantastic and ultimately irrelevant — framework?

Ufologists are dealing either with mass hallucination or a genuine sensitivity to some aspect of the universe not accommodated by current scientific theories.

In either case, say investigators, scientists are ill-advised to continue shrugging off UFO reports. They need to determine what's wrong with the witnesses, or what's wrong with mainstream theories.

Straight science

I found "Ufology: an inexact science," (Nov. 19) to be generally well written. There are two items mentioned in the article, however, that I would like to clarify.

One of these concerns the three classes of investigators. The other concerns the matter of parallel dimensions and the snickering of physics professor(s).

I hope neither the Foundation for UFO Research, a corporate entity, nor I, as an individual, operates from "emotionally derived convictions." While both "truly believe" that something is happening that needs investigation, neither the corporation nor myself is bound to any particular theory of UFO origin or causality. In reality, we are much closer to the third class mentioned in the article. If I did not make our position clear on this point to Mr. James Reel, then I am in error and would like to correct the problem.

Second, the snickering physics professor(s) should stop snickering long enough to read "Timewarps" by Cambridge astrophysicist John Gribbin, "Space Time and Beyond" by physicist Fred Alan Wolf and the article on "strange matter" in the November 1989 issue of Discover. None of these works mentions anything about UFOs. It's all "straight science."

Allen Benz
President
Foundation for UFO Research

Video Dave gives us UFOs on tape

Dave Aaron has a tantalizing proposition: "real" UFOs on videotape.

Aaron, a Yucaipa, Calif., tape editor and video writer who goes by the name Video Dave, put out the call in May 1988 for camcorder owners who have filmed unidentified flying objects to send their tapes to him.

His UFO Audio-Video Clearinghouse now has hundreds of entries in its catalog; submissions have come from around the world.

I called Aaron and asked him to put together a sample reel of his best shots.

I watched the tape with Larry Bryant, 51, a federal employee at the

HOME
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Pentagon who in his spare time sues the government to release classified UFO material; and Rob Swaitek, 36, a physicist with the U.S. Patent Office who also serves on the executive committee of the Washington-based, non-profit Fund for UFO Research.

Bryant and Swaitek are longtime UFO investigators who were anxious to see what Aaron's clearinghouse had to offer.

The dozen taped clips Aaron sent were rough-hewn, obviously shot by amateurs — and probably copies of copies of copies.

It took a minute to get used to the quality, but Bryant and Swaitek seemed enraptured from the start.

Avid readers of UFO reports, they were thrilled to see taped footage to accompany the familiar documenta-

tion, and they preceded some of the clips with enlightening background comments.

They knew the names of the sightings — the ones at Great Falls, Mont., Tremonton, Utah, the Colorado desert, Guatemala City and from a plane over New Zealand — and filled me in with details.

"These are the best films we've seen," Bryant said at one point.

The best was yet to come. On a separate tape Aaron sent his newest clip, a 15-second sighting shot in Japan by a couple testing a new video camera.

An oblong object, red on the bottom with a white light at the top, is seen rising over a ridge not far from the camera. The object rises above the trees and gradually glides out of the frame.

UFO buffs will enjoy the tapes most; skeptics will continue being skeptical.

Aaron custom-edits each videotape in VHS or Beta formats based on your selections from the catalog; each two-hour tape goes for \$30, postage paid. Audio tapes are \$9.95.

To get a catalog, send \$5 to UFO Audio-Video Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 342-JN, Yucaipa, Calif. 92399-0342. If you have footage you would like to donate, call Video Dave's 24-hour number at (714) 795-3361.

UFO evidence abounds, author claims

Even government knows, book says

Gannett News Service

At first blush, the whole idea seems insane, a nightmare from the supermarket tabloids.

But suppose, just for a moment, that Linda Moulton Howe's theory about the ongoing animal mutilations is correct.



Suppose Howe is right when she concludes in her new book "An Alien Harvest" that — after a decade spent investigating the phenomenon — she found "an accumulation of human testimony that suggested the presence of extraterrestrial mutilations."

Or as she states more forcibly in interviews: "There isn't any question in my mind anymore that there is an alien life form that intrudes on this planet for reasons I don't yet understand."

She and other UFO investigators also believe the federal government knows of these intrusions and has aggressively covered up its knowledge for decades.

Other researchers have documented eyewitness sightings by high government officials including the first director of the CIA, astronauts, pilots, air traffic controllers and thousands of ordinary citizens.

Documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act have revealed even more sightings and investigations the government has previously denied conducting.

"But, for people to deny it won't make it go away."

What won't go away are the thousands of mutilations that since 1967 have occurred in nearly every state — including recent incidents in Idaho, Oklahoma and Nebraska — and on four continents.

In Bannock County, Idaho, 12 to 20 cases are reported annually.

Mutilations, mostly of domestic stock, first hit the headlines, especially in the West, in the mid-1970s. There were 90 cases

Author has tips on where to find information on UFOs

Linda Howe, author of the new book, "An Alien Harvest," recommends the following books as excellent sources for recent UFO information. All can be ordered through bookstores or are available at most libraries.

■ "Above Top Secret," by Timothy Good (William Morrow).

■ "Aliens from Space: The True Story of Unidentified Flying Objects," by retired Maj. Donald Keyhoe (Doubleday).

■ "Clear Intent: The Government Coverup of the UFO Experience," by Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood (Prentice-Hall).

■ "Intruders: The Incredible

Visitations at Copley Woods," by Budd Hopkins (Random House).

■ "Light Years: An Investigation into the Extraterrestrial Experiences of Edward Meler," by Gary Kinder (Atlantic Monthly Press).

■ "Missing Time," by Budd Hopkins (Marek).

in Idaho alone. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation spent 1,557 man-hours trying to solve the mystery.

Fifteen years later, the pattern of the killings remains disturbingly similar, no matter where they occur.

Somehow the blood is drained completely, and there are never any footprints or tire tracks near the carcass.

The animal itself usually has an ear missing, one eye is carved out in a perfect circle, flesh is stripped from one side of the jaw, the tongue is taken from deep in the throat and long strips of stomach hide are removed, as are sex organs.

Howe had studies done privately at the University of Colorado Medical Center. The verdict: The mutilations were done by a pinpoint heat source and took only about two minutes.

To duplicate the cuts with current laser technology, Howe discovered, would require equipment weighing 550 pounds and take up to two hours.

In the 1970s, public investigations were launched and rewards were offered by several Western states.

Satanic cults and UFOs were on the list of suspects, but the conclusion reached by investigators in Idaho and Colorado was death by natural causes and mutilation by predators.

An ex-FBI agent named Kenneth Rommel was hired by the federal government and in 1980 wrote a 300-page report. He concluded that, without exception, the deaths and wounds were of natural origin.

Howe dismisses Rommel's report as "an obvious, paid-for whitewash" that "didn't even deal with the real cases."

The government's explanation still didn't hold water with

a lot of people, inside or outside of the law.

Lou Girono, now sheriff of Las Animas County in Trinidad, Colo., has investigated 100 mutilations over the last 13 years. "I grew up on a farm, and I know what a predator does. They grab, tear and gnaw," he says.

"I've never seen coyotes act like that," he says. "Like everyone else, I'm trying to come up with an answer."

This was the debate Howe found when she began to investigate the story in 1979.

The turning point for Howe came six months into the investigation when she filmed a woman named Judy Doraty who was put under hypnosis to help her recall an incident that occurred in Texas in 1973.

Obviously terrified, Doraty relates on film how she was abducted by the aliens and witnessed a mutilation.

"That really got me," Howe says. "I said, 'My God! It must be true!'"

"A Strange Harvest" won Howe an Emmy in 1980, but she continued to collect material on the mutilations and other UFO phenomena.

Eventually, she combined old and new information into "An Alien Harvest," which she published privately last year.

It cost her \$45,000 to print 1,250 books, but she chose that route so she could control the content and use a large format to display important photos.

The material she gathered came from scores of interviews with eyewitnesses and government officials who told her amazing stories, despite their fear of ridicule and retribution.

There are documents. In 1983, Howe was invited to

Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque by an Air Force investigator. Inside a secure room she was shown — but not allowed to duplicate — a document titled "Briefing Paper for the President of the United States of America."

The paper, she says, detailed UFO sightings that go back tens of thousands of years and claimed manipulation of DNA on Earth's primates.

Recent encounters began in the 1940s, she says, and the paper listed dates of UFO crashes and details of live and dead aliens recovered by the government.

It all, Howe acknowledges, sounds fantastic beyond belief, and she realizes her information poses many times more questions than it answers.

"All the hard questions you would like answers to, I would like answers to, too," she says. "I don't have definite answers, and I don't know anyone outside the government who does, and they're just sitting on it."

TIMES, El Paso, TX

Jan. 21, 1990

CR: I. Torres

UFO Photographed - Then followed by helicopters

Ed's Story

After two years of searching the skies over Gulf Breeze and printing scores of UFO sightings — **Duane and Dari Cook** — alas — witnessed a disk shaped UFO hover and dart for 20 minutes below the dense cloud layer on Monday, Jan. 8. Likewise, **Buddy Pollak** never gave up his hope to finally see the illusive Gulf Breeze UFO and he too was rewarded on that Monday night with a sighting complete with a red 'power ring' and the disk shaped Superstructure.

Ed Walters reports: "On Monday evening at 6:28, **Frances** and I were walking along Fairpoint near the Methodist Church. We noticed a red glowing object beyond the Church in the direction of Russ Dr. We ran back home, phoned in the sighting to MUFON agents, called **Duane Cook** and **Buddy Pollak** and then returned with my camera. **Duane and Dari Cook** and **Chip Holston** arrived as I set up my 35mm (with 400mm lens) on a tripod. Clear to the naked eye was a large black disk with a throbbing red bottom circle. The UFO hovered below the clouds in silent flight. Within a

few minutes **Brenda** and **Buddy Pollak** arrived. I continued to watch through the 400mm lens when suddenly a circle of small lights was visible around the black disk. I hit the shutter and said, "Hey! Look! I see portholes! **Chip Holston** aimed the camera and also saw the portholes. He took the next photo. A few minutes later the red glow disappeared from the underside of the black disk but the disk remained with its distinct outline blocking the clouds beyond. At about 7:04 the disk ascended into the clouds and out of sight.

Only moments after the disk departed, two large helicopters swept directly over the area, and again later another helicopter hovered near the Church with its floodlight searching the area. It would seem that our military was looking for the flying disk that we captured on film.

As an interesting note: The following morning 'Good Morning America' reported hundreds of sightings being called in from across North Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

What follows is every body else's version of what they saw Monday evening in the sky over the Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church.

Laura's

It was about 6:30 and I'd just gotten out of the shower when my mom called me to come see something outside. When I looked up there was a red object with a glowing bottom that seemed to be floating high in the sky. I ran back into the house to get binoculars but

they didn't help much. It was still fuzzy and I couldn't keep the binoculars steady. I ran upstairs and tried to get a better view from there. When I caught sight of the object again, it was no longer red, but black. Then it disappeared.

France's

When Ed and I first saw the light it was bright red and easy to find at a sharp angle overhead. I had to tilt my head almost straight back to see it. By the time Ed had left with the camera and our daughter **Laura** and I went outside, the light seemed dimmer but was still clearly visible.

During the time **Laura** and I watched the light through the binoculars, it dimmed even more so that it was difficult to find again

if you looked away from it. Also occasionally clouds would cover it for a few seconds.

I stayed at the house with **Laura** until the object disappeared then I walked over to the church where Ed and the others had gathered. We waited awhile to see if the light would reappear but didn't see it again. There was, however, what seemed to be an inordinate amount of helicopter traffic in the area shortly after the sighting.

Duane's

BY DUANE COOK

About a quarter to seven Monday evening, **Chip** and I were watching TV and waiting for **Dari** to get dressed for the Quarterback Club banquet. The phone rang. **Chip** answered it and offered it to me. It was **Ed Walters**. Ed said, "There's a big red light in the sky over the Methodist church. Come on down if you want to see it.. and bring your camera."

I said, "We'll be right there," and hung up.

I told **Chip** what Ed had said and asked if he wanted to go.

He said, "Sure!" and started for the car.

I hollered the same message to **Dari** upstairs and she said she'd be right down.

When we reached the church, Ed was there with his 35mm camera with a 400mm lens on a tripod. He had the camera aimed almost straight up and was pointing in the same direction.

We all jumped out of the car and peered into the dark overcast sky. At first, we couldn't see anything, and Ed was about to panic because he was looking right at it.

Turned out, it was just a matter of waiting for our eyes to adjust to the night sky. **Chip's** eyes adapted first and he pointed at the now faint red light standing still high in the sky.

After staring for a minute in the direction **Chip** was pointing, I could see a steady red light in the middle of a small black area high in the clouds. Then I heard **Dari** say, "I see it!!" with such excitement in her voice I knew she was seeing it too.

At this point, I wasn't too impressed. A single unfamiliar light in the sky never did constitute a printable UFO sighting to me. And I certainly was not about to say I'd seen one myself based on what I was looking at now.

About this time, **Brenda** and **Buddy Pollak** drove up and got out to look also. Ed had called them too in an effort to gather as many witnesses as he could.

There was a lot of excited chatter about whether it was moving or not. I couldn't say for sure because each time I blinked, I lost it for a few seconds and had to relocate it against the fuzzy background of clouds.

Then suddenly, it was gone, or at least it seemed so to me.

I don't know who among us first saw it again and directed our attention a little lower in the sky. But this time, it didn't have any lights and it seemed to have a definite oblong or circular shape. It was either black or very dark grey.

I heard **Chip** in the background say he was looking at it through Ed's 400mm lens and could see portholes. I thought to myself, "That's just wishful thinking." Then Ed said he could see the portholes too.

Chip asked Ed if he could take a picture to which Ed, of course, replied in the affirmative. I heard the shutter click and thought to myself "Too bad it's so dark. That picture doesn't stand much of a chance of coming out.. even if they push process it the way we do to our night football game film."

Ed said he was going back home (next door) for his video camera and asked me to keep an eye on his 35mm. He had it aimed at the object now clearly visible to all of us. I looked through the camera to see what it would look like on film.

It was too dark to see anything, so I gave it up and went back to staring at the small dark circle in the sky with my rapidly tiring bare eyes.

Brenda and **Buddy** were beside me talking about how much closer it seemed to be than earlier when it had the red light.

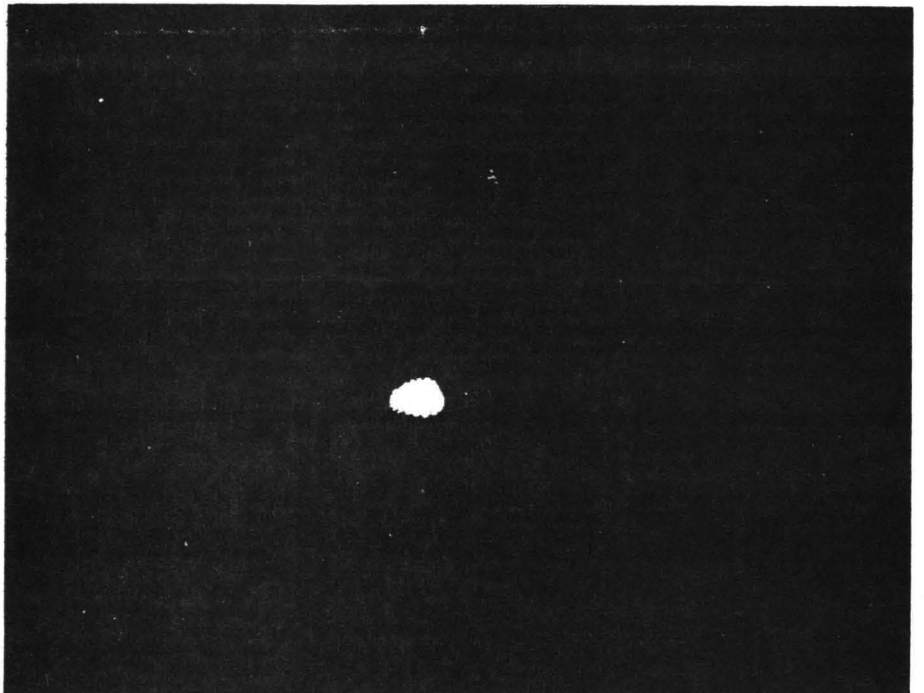
Then suddenly, I realized I couldn't see it anymore. I don't know whether it went behind a cloud or what happened to it. I kept looking where it had been in case it was just a momentary lapse in concentration. But no luck.

Nobody else could see it anymore either in spite of the crowd that had gathered to see what everybody was looking at.

About that time **Chip** and **Dari**, remembered we were now late for the Quarterback Club banquet, so we left the crowd still looking up in wonder at what we had seen.

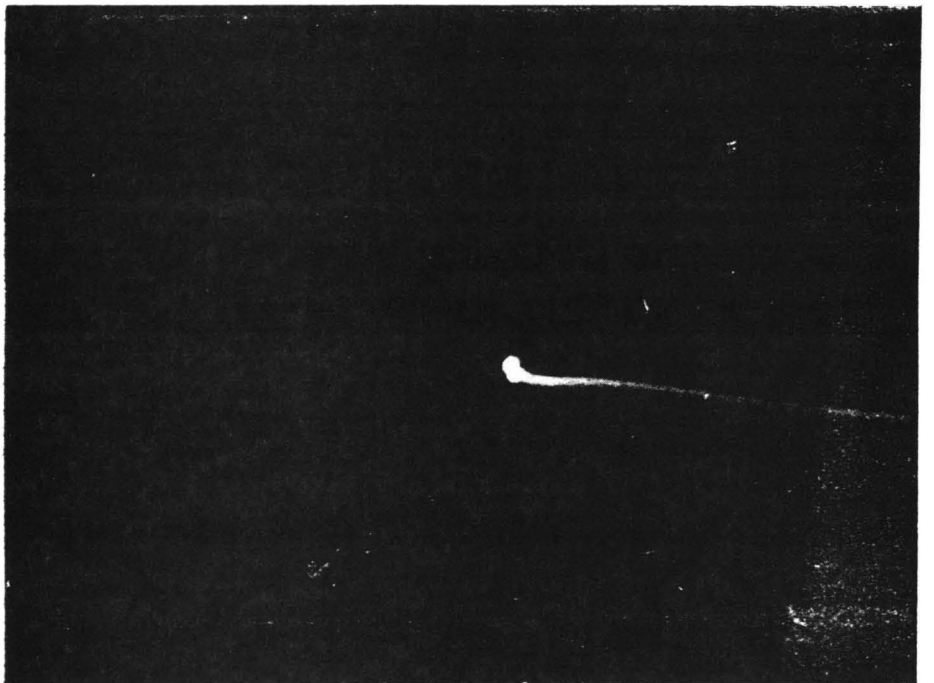
Dari was ecstatic at having finally seen the UFO and told everybody she saw about it. I wasn't so sure. I just wished it had come closer so I too could have seen the portholes.

(continued on page 6)



This photo of the UFO was over-exposed with a 4 sec. shutter speed and a 1.8 F stop, but still shows the bottom glow. Also the circle of outside "portholes" can just barely be seen.

PHOTO BY CHIP HOLSTON



This photo was also taken with a 4 sec. shutter speed. The UFO was stationary for a moment and then raced off to the right.

PHOTO BY ED WALTERS

Brenda's

BY BRENDA POLLAK

Last night (Monday), as I was cleaning up the kitchen after dinner, Buddy called me to "get the camera and come quick!" Ed Walters had called to say that he and Francis had seen something strange hovering in the vicinity of the Methodist Church, and if we came right away, we might get to see it too.

Immediately, I grabbed the camera bag and a coat and off we headed. In Buddy's car, I took the camera out of the bag and checked the settings. I noticed that the time on the data bank said 6:39 p.m. as we were pulling out of our driveway.

We drove straight up to the church, where we saw Dari and Duane Cook, Chip Holston, Ed and

Francis looking skyward and pointing. I saw a red light darting about, changing directions rapidly and erratically, then hovering at times, and moving very fast at times. The light did not have sharply defined edges like a normal aircraft light would; it was more like a fuzzy glow, bright enough to be clearly visible, but dim enough to be missed if you weren't looking for it.

There was a thick cloud cover at the time, and the object we were watching was below the clouds, but I couldn't guess how high it was. It made no sound at all. (Later in the evening, we saw both airplanes and helicopters flying about, and the noise of their engines could be heard from great distances, because it was a very still night).

While the red was still visible, I

tried to photograph it, but I found it impossible to get it into view because it was darting about so rapidly that I would lose it (I was using a 100-300mm zoom lens).

After a few minutes, the red disappeared, but the object was still visible as a round black dot, about 1/4" in diameter, moving about against the backdrop of the clouds. It was still below the clouds at first, but either it began to ascend, or the clouds became lower, because after a few minutes there began to be periods when it would be obscured by the clouds and then reappear. It continued to move rapidly, then hover, then move and change directions very abruptly. Once it even appeared to come slightly lower for a short time. Eventually it disappeared in a cloud and never

reappeared. I would estimate that the total time it was visible to me, in the red and black stages combined, was 15-20 minutes.

While it was hovering in the "black dot" state, I tried to photograph it, but my camera malfunctioned; it's never done that before. It's working perfectly today.

I have tried very hard to find some logical explanation for what we saw. It definitely was not a plane or helicopter. A weather balloon or a kite -- do they have lights, or move so fast, or change directions so abruptly? I think not. I know it was not a cloud or a bird or a blimp. If you have any other possible explanation, I'd love to hear it!

Dari's

We arrived around 6:40 on Russ Dr. next to the Methodist Church; Ed was setting up his camera.

We looked up at the dark sky and could not see anything.

I asked if it was gone, thinking we probably missed it.

Ed looked shocked that we couldn't see it and pointed up to the sky.

Finally our eyes adjusted and we could see a red object with a bright red light or ball at the bottom - it looked like it was a black background with a red haze over it.

It moved around in a zigzag pattern and if you blinked you had to refocus to find it.

It was ragged around the top and seemed oblong and was dark red, almost burgundy, not as bright and clear as the red light over the water tower on Fairpoint.

Brenda and Buddy Pollak arrived and we pointed to the object. Brenda looked at it through her camera. We were excited, Buddy was finally getting to see "something", also.

The object seemed to be tilting around slowly - finally all the red was gone and it was totally black. It was easier to see now that it was black.

About 6:50 we had to leave to go to Chip's football banquet.

When we arrived at the Church Monday night, we saw Ed fixing his tripod and camera.

Ed said, "Do you see it? It's up there."

We looked and we couldn't see it until our eyes focused in because of the clouds.

After a few seconds we could see a red light on bottom and an egg-shaped black outline above it.

We watched for about 15 minutes. I looked through the camera and could see the red light and white portholes. I asked Ed if I could take a picture and he said, "Shoot!" After a few minutes you could not see the red dot, only the

black outline.

I would estimate it to be 20 feet wide and 40 feet tall.

Then we had to leave and pick up Gretchen to go to the football banquet.

Tuesday night

I was on the beach with my father, Hal Holston at Santa Rosa Dunes, visiting Linda Butler. We went outside and saw a big, bright white light over Shoreline Park at tree level. We saw 6 helicopters coming towards it - as soon as a helicopter got over it - it blinked off.

We counted over 10 helicopters in the sky at one time.

Chip's

UFO sighting reported in area

By WAYNE QUESENBERRY
Staff Writer

The sighting of an unusual object in the sky between Pulaski and Dublin was reported about 7 p.m. Saturday.

State police report contacting the Federal Aviation Administration which had received reports from as far north as New Jersey and far east as Chesapeake Bay. Officials have ruled out the possibility it was a small plane in trouble. They believe it was a relatively large meteor.

The sighting was reported by two deputies among others in the counties of Scott, Smyth, and Pulaski.

The Southwest Times was called by an unidentified woman, who reported seeing "a cigar shaped object with bright lights on its front and back."

She said the object appeared low in the sky and made no sound as it seemed to disintegrate, sending lights into several directions.

Bill Guthrie and his son Joe also reported seeing "a bright green light moving north to south" as they drove toward their farm off Route 100 about the same time as the woman said she saw the object.

Guthrie described the object as circular and close to the ground. He said it moved north to south for about three seconds and appeared to "burn itself out" with sparks flying from its center.

"It was nothing like a shooting star. It didn't have a tail," he added.

Dispatchers from the sheriff's department and the state police acknowledged "a few calls" about the sighting. They offered no further information on the sightings.

SOUTHWEST TIMES, Pulaski, VA - Jan. 29, 1990 CR: D. Gordon

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Jan. 26, 1990 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Villagers in English Bay report eerie UFO sighting

The Associated Press

ENGLISH BAY — Winter nights tend to be pretty uneventful in English Bay. But Monday was nothing of the sort for a few residents there.

UFOs don't often visit the tiny village.

The encounter actually started about four miles away in Port Graham. Edward Anahonak was hauling some firewood on his 4-wheeler to a friend's house at about 7 p.m. Monday when he saw an odd set of lights hovering above Bob McMullen's house. McMullen's home is on the western edge of the village.

Anahonak, who lives in English Bay, thought it was a helicopter, but the lights were wrong and it didn't make a sound. He said it had red and blue lights and "looked yellowish in the middle." It also had a spotlight "that lit up the trees pretty good."

It was shaped like a wing, he said, hovering over McMullen's house. Still he thought it was a helicopter. Anahonak watched as the lights — about 150 yards away — moved slowly toward the beach. "I wasn't scared," he said Wednesday in a telephone interview. "I thought it came in for an emergency or something."

"I thought it was landing," he said. "I ran down there with my Honda. When I got there, there was nothing."

Meanwhile, in English Bay, Herman and Annie Tanape were out for a drive. English Bay is a village of about 180 people, nestled on a hillside overlooking lower Cook Inlet.

The Tanapes often take short jaunts around the village to combat cabin fever. It was a nice evening for a

drive: windy and clear, after weeks of clouds.

It was about 7:40 p.m. They were a half-mile from their home, near the beach airstrip, when Annie told Herman she saw a strange light. He didn't think much of it — until he turned back toward the village.

"At first, you know, I thought they were stars," he said. "They were real bright."

He drove closer to the lights, which he said were hovering no more than 50 feet above the ground. He said one was red, the rest were white. As he closed on the lights, they began to move away.

He said the lights seemed to be responding to his movements. Every time he moved closer, they moved farther away. There was no sound.

When they got within about 700 feet, he said, the lights turned and darted away.

"It took off out to the ocean. Like a jet," he said.

Again, there was no sound; and that's what puzzled Tanape the most.

"If it was a chopper or a plane, we would have heard it. Even if it had a Honda engine, we would have heard it."

The object — at that point appearing as a single red light — hovered at a distance over Cook Inlet. The Tanapes went to tell Vince Kvasnikoff, the village president.

Right away Kvasnikoff spotted a plane moving toward the village. They could hear its engines. Then Tanape pointed out the red light hovering low over the Inlet.

"We just saw a little bit of it," said Natalie Kvasnikoff, Vince's wife. "It was red. Flying real low. On a

windy day, the planes wouldn't fly so low. Everybody was too excited to even think to take a picture."

Soon, the light vanished. Vince Kvasnikoff reported the incident to Roy Evans, English Bay's public safety officer. Evans went to the beach and scanned the horizon for about an hour. He saw nothing, but he believes the Tanapes and the Kvasnikoffs did.

"People here are pretty honest," Evans said. "They wouldn't make this up."

Bill Radtke, whose wife, Sharon, was the head teacher at English Bay School for four years, said the residents there would "never" concoct such a story. The Radtkes live in Soldotna now, where she works as the school district's personnel director.

"They are wonderful, honest people," Bill Radtke said. "They are the most trustworthy people I've ever worked with."

Robert Gribble, who runs the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., said he hadn't heard anything about the sighting. But he was anxious to get some details and phone numbers.

Gribble said he knew of no other recent sightings in the Northwest, and very few across the nation. "It's been pretty quiet," he said.

Evans said the sighting has stirred a lot of talk — and some fear — in the village. "A lot of people are worried about their kids being out."

But Edward Anahonak and Herman Tanape said they want to get another glimpse of the object.

"I'm going to keep an eye out for it," said Anahonak. "I'll be watching."

TRIBUNE, San Diego, CA - Jan. 2, 1990

Talk About Mixed Marriages!

Try one of these.

• E.T., have your parents call home.

A San Diego science writer named Anne Cardoza is sending out flyers asking anyone who has given birth to a child by an extraterrestrial to submit a 3,000-word, first-person account.

She's compiling a book on breeding between humans and inhabitants of UFOs. She won't pay for the stories but she promises confidentiality.

CR: D. Clements

Unexplained halo of light over field

By Donna Lee Olson

Gazette staff writer

A glowing halo of light seen hovering over a farm field Monday by a rural Wellman woman is being taken seriously by the Washington County Sheriff's Department as an unidentified flying object, one of two apparent sightings in a month.

Charleen Miller also is taking her Monday night encounter on a country road earnestly. Now she's driving a different route to her Iowa City job, hoping to avoid something she doesn't want to meet alone again in the dark.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy Jack Dillon says he knows of Miller's reputation in the Wellman area as a rational woman with a husband and two children.

Another alleged sighting also is helping collaborate Miller's story. Within the past few weeks the Sheriff's Department dispatchers received an anonymous call from someone reporting a mysterious light in the night sky between Wellman and West Chester, which are about 9 miles apart.

The Sheriff's Department has notified the National UFO Center in Seattle of the incident.

Miller's unwanted experience began at 9 p.m. Monday on her way to work. About two miles north of Wellman, on County Road W-38, Miller sensed a bright light. She turned her head to the west and what she saw was a dark mass, flanked by two beacons, lit by a halo of light.

"It was huge. It was coming down and there were two blue lights" on the sides of the mass at what would be the 8 and 2 o'clock points of a clock. She looked for a few seconds, then turned to the front to make sure her car was on the road. "I looked back at it and as I looked at it, it vanished."

GAZETTE, Cedar Rapids, IA - Feb. 1, 1990

Strange encounters inspire local study group

By Patti Saladino Wampach
Doings Contributor

"Strange Encounters" is featured as a two-part story. Part 2 will run Friday, Jan. 12, in The Doings.

The UFO phenomenon has been an issue that has existed for more than 40 years with the first reported sighting by an American aviator, Kenneth Arnold. Arnold reported seeing an unusual craft flying over the mountains on the west coast of the United States on June 24, 1947. He used the analogy "saucer" to describe the shape of the vehicle that he saw. The news media of that era coined the phrase "flying saucer" when referring to the unidentified flying objects.

Today, when the idea of a UFO comes to mind, images flash through our heads of the fictionalized, saucer-shaped spacecraft, beaming flashing lights and bellowing musical sounds like those from "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Are there really UFOs? Are there actually creatures from a different planet visiting Earth every now and then? Some people say, "Yes." Some people say, "No." Some people say, "You have to be kidding." What do the experts say? Thomas Stults, the Illinois State Director of the Mutual UFO Network, believes that there are UFOs and extraterrestrials.

The Mutual UFO Network is a Texas-based non-profit corporation with local chapters nationwide. It is one of many organizations worldwide dedicated to the science of ufology. Its board of consultants include prominent members who represent the fields of science, technology, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, theology, physics, engineering, astronomy, communications and political science. Because the corporation is a serious organization, membership is by invitation only.

Members in the organization serve as consultants, field investigators, research specialists and amateur radio operators. Members are not given their titles casually. For example, field investigators are thoroughly trained by the organization. They must follow high standards of professionalism, which the group has established. Field investigators approach a UFO investigation with scientific objectivity, and these investigators work solely as volunteers conducting their research at their own expense.

The next meeting of the local chapter will be Sunday, Feb. 4, at Stults' home. Area residents who are interested in becoming a member can phone Stults at 963-4543.

In an interview interrupted numerous times by phone calls concerning the latest UFO sightings, Stults enthusiastically shared his knowledge on the subject. Stults freely talked about the history of ufology, the government's position on the subject

and "close encounters of the first, second and third kind."

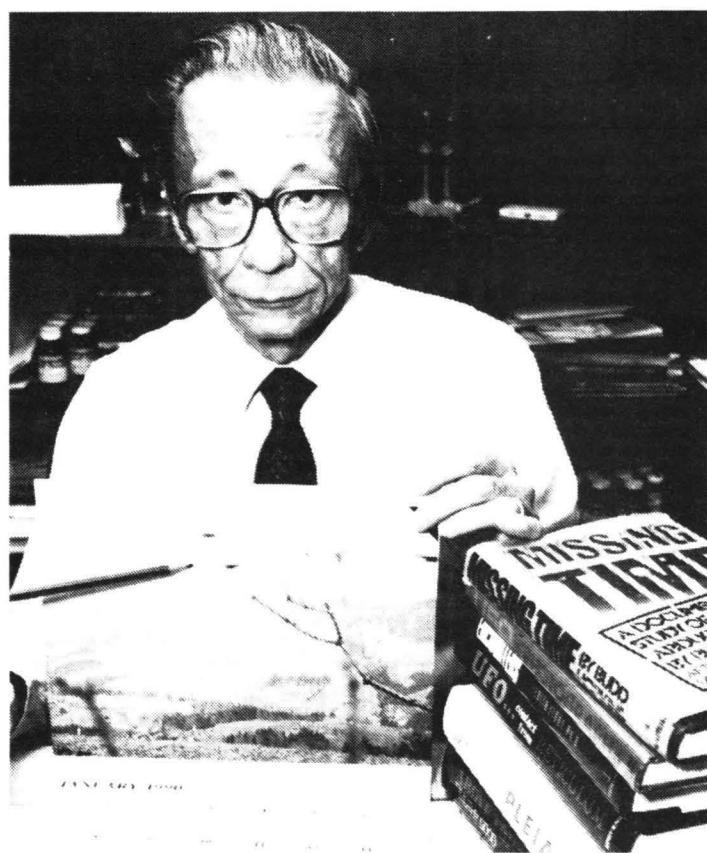
Close encounters of the first kind

Although the network reports hundreds of presumed UFO sightings annually, there is little media coverage of these reports. Although many such sightings turn out to be airplanes, satellites, stars or a personal illusion, many other sightings are unexplainable. These unexplainable phenomena fit into the UFO category. Are there reasons why the media shy away from reporting these UFO sightings?

According to Stults, there are several reasons. "We have to look at the history of UFO sightings, which started shortly after World War II with the Kenneth Arnold sightings. At that time we had just ended a major war. The newspapers were very cooperative with the U.S. government. There was no way that they were going to publish something that was going to be injurious to national security. As we entered the '50s period, this started to wane. Newspapers started to pull away and their tie (with the government) started to end. Now, what the government has done is a very clever thing. They have deliberately planted misinformation. For example, a few years ago there was a report that came out of the wire service that a UFO had landed in a small town somewhere in southern Illinois. The report indicated that the aliens had taken control of the town. The power was shut off. Of course, the newspaper people flocked into the town. However, they found out that it was business as usual. Nothing was wrong. So they (the media) figured that they wouldn't let that happen to them again. There were other stories that they (the government) planted, and the reporters went out on wild goose chases. Finally, the newspapers said that they had enough," Stults said.

Stults feels that the government's method of misinforming the media has its benefits in the long run because the media has been apprehensive about covering any story on UFOs. But the government's secretiveness on this situation has positive aspects. "I do agree that the government should keep much of this information quiet," Stults said.

"In a Harris Poll done a few years ago, 2.5 percent of the people honestly believed that we had never been to the moon, even though we had national television coverage, we had interviews with astronauts, the astronauts brought back moon rocks. And yet, some people thought that it was a hoax. If this is the case, if people can't accept this historical happening, how could they accept being visited by extraterrestrials. Fifty-seven percent of the people believe that UFOs exist; however, 27 percent say that they never existed. This is a significant portion of the population that does not believe. I think that the public could have adverse reactions to the idea. If all the information was released to the public, I could see anarchy taking place," he said.



Tom Stults is shown surrounded by reference materials regarding unidentified flying objects. He is a member of the local UFO study group, which meets in Stults' Downers Grove home. For more information, call 963-4543. (Doings photo by Joel Lerner)

2 more report seeing bright light in night sky

By Donna Lee Olson
Gazette staff writer

A UFO spotter near Wellman was relieved last night to hear she was not alone in her experience Monday night.

Charleen Miller told authorities she had seen a large dark mass, surrounded by two blue beams and a halo of light hover and then disappear above a Wellman farm field.

She was disappointed at the time to learn that no one else had seen it.

Last night, Kurt Maas of Troy Mills said in a telephone interview that he also had seen a

strange, unexplained light shining suddenly in the sky that night and watched as the round beam flashed into darkness.

BOTH SIGHTINGS were around 9 p.m.

Unlike Charleen Miller's encounter however, Maas said the light was farther away in the sky and not detailed. It shone like the sun or moon in the cloudy sky.

Maas and his wife, Karen, were out walking on the Linn-Buchanan Road Monday night when they sensed a bright light, like car lights, coming from the west. Maas turned around in time to see the circle of light overhead before it suddenly disappeared.

"It looked like a flashbulb went off," Maas said.

The whole incident took a matter of seconds.

Karen Maas hadn't turned around fast enough to see the light in the sky, but was aware of the initial brightness behind them.

Later, during the walk, Maas asked a Linn County sheriff's deputy he met in Troy Mills if he had seen the bright light. The deputy hadn't.

YET MAAS, who describes himself as a normal, no-nonsense teacher, admits he now is a little less skeptical about unidentified flying objects.

"From what I saw it could have been space junk," Maas said. "It could have been a meteor, but (then) it was the biggest meteor I ever saw."

He also was relieved to read of Miller's experience in The Gazette on Thursday. "I feel vindicated," Maas said.

Callers Verify Sighting of Strange Lights

By Michael Kaemper
SUN Staff Writer

Some frightened teenage Christmas carolers were not the only people who saw something strange Dec. 14 in the sky over Chimayo.

Several residents from communities to the west and north of Chimayo called the SUN this week to claim they sighted something similar to what the girls described — noiseless lights flying low over Chimayo. Most of the callers wanted to be as unidentified as the crafts flying over the Valley.

A caller from Chimayo said he heard what he thought was wind outside his home at about 8:30 p.m. that night. He said he went outside to check the weather and saw seven lights moving silently across the moonlit sky.

"They were pretty low and it was silent, like the wind, just like (the carolers) said. It looked like a dark shadow," the caller said.

"I just wanted to call to let you know that those girls aren't a

bunch of liars," he said. "My family, about eight of us, saw it too."

Another caller, from Alcalde — about nine miles northwest of Chimayo as the crow flies — said he saw the lights in the sky about 8:15 that night. He said he pulled out his binoculars and saw a formation of about eight jets that looked like they were escorting a Stealth Bomber.

He said he saw the bomber doing maneuvers over the Sangre de Cristo mountains.

"I saw it do a roll. It was definitely a Stealth Bomber," the Alcalde man said. He said all the escort jets had their landing lights on and the bomber had the two big bright lights, like the carolers described.

He said he saw the crafts move west to east and then turn back west. He estimated the crafts were flying at about 2,000 feet.

"You know how the Stealth Bomber looks — it's shaped kind of like a boomerang," he said.

Another caller from Hernandez — about 12 miles northwest of Chimayo — said he, his wife and his mother-in-law saw triangular shaped lights in the sky at about 8:10 p.m. that night.

"We saw four or five big ones surrounded by seven or eight little ones," he said. "They looked like Christmas trees."

He said they saw the crafts flying from the northwest over the Valley toward the Sangre de Cristo mountains. He said the lights didn't blink.

"They made kind of a whooshing noise and they moved low and slow. They were just cruising by," he said.

He said they watched them fly out of sight and then went inside. They didn't see the crafts come back again, but he said his mother-in-law thought she heard the same "whooshing noise" a little later. He said she didn't see them the second time, however.

"Maybe they didn't have their

lights on," he said.

An Española woman who identified herself as Virginia called and said she also saw the lights that night above the Sangre de Cristos:

"It looked like jets. We saw one pass in front of the moon and it looked like a jet. Maybe it was something. We were just amazed at how many there were up in the sky at night."

Jennie Martinez, of Dixon — which lies about 14 miles northeast of Chimayo — said she, her daughter April, and her mother Irene, saw nine or 10 triangular shaped lights that night flying north toward Peñasco. She said they saw them for about 10 minutes between 8:30 and 9 p.m.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Albuquerque said he wasn't aware of anything in the sky above Chimayo that might explain the lights, but said there was a meteor shower the night before.

Hyneck describes strange encounters of many kinds

By Patti Saladino Wampach
Doings Contributor

This is the second part of a two-part series featuring Thomas Stults of Downers Grove, state director of the Mutual UFO Network. The members of the group are dedicated to the serious study of unidentified flying objects.

Many people may think that "close encounters of the third kind" was a concept developed by filmmakers. Actually, this term was given to UFO sightings by Dr. J. Allen Hyneck, consultant for the government's study on the extensive files of the nationwide reports of unidentified flying objects. The study was done in the early '70s and was called Project Blue Book. Upon reviewing the data compiled by the government and after conducting interviews with witnesses of UFO sightings, Hyneck developed a nomenclature for describing the various types of UFO reports.

According to Hyneck the most common sightings are of a distant type, which he put into three categories: nocturnal lights, daylight discs and radar-visuals. Hyneck found the other reported sightings to be of close range. Hyneck titled these phenomena as "close encounters of the first kind," "close encounters of the second kind" and "close encounters of the third kind."

In close encounters of the first kind a person will describe seeing an unusual shaped object flying at close range. In this category there is no physical interaction between the object and the observer or the environment.

Close encounters of the second kind differ from the first kind in the exception of the physical effects on the environment. The flying object might frighten animals; scorch the ground; break tree branches; momentarily deaden car lights, engines and radios; or leave behind a delicate, fine

hairlike substance known as "angel's hair."

In Hyneck's final category, close encounters of the third kind, he describes the experience of individuals seeing occupants of the UFO walking from the craft.

Stults talked about all of these categories. He stated that the network receives hundreds of phone calls a year from people who feel that they have observed UFOs. Many of these reports fit into Hyneck's categories of nocturnal lights and daylight discs. People report seeing cigar-shaped, egg-shaped or disc-shaped crafts in the sky from a distance.

"Many UFO reports that we get are not really UFOs. It's just misidentification. We get a lot of UFO reports that are nothing more than aircrafts coming in and out of O'Hare," Stults said.

Stults estimated that during the last two years about 50 percent of the reported sightings were apparent UFOs. "At least we cannot find natural explanations for them. Mutual UFO Network researchers are not able to apply other phenomena to the happenings. The organization gets hundreds of calls a year. But you must remember that about only 10 percent of all sightings are actually reported a year. Most people fear being ridiculed or laughed at and they just don't want to get involved," he said.

Could some of the reported sightings, which cannot be readily explained, be military crafts? "Some UFOs I believe are military aircrafts. There is no doubt in my mind about that. But not all of them. The military does not have aircraft that can fly at 50,000 miles per hour, do abrupt stops and right angle turns, go straight up and straight down. It doesn't exist," Stults said.

Stults gave examples of close encounters of the first kind. "Many airline pilots have seen UFOs. However, back in 1953 the airlines were put under a special, government secrecy memorandum that all UFO reports would go directly to the government

and would not be released to the press or anything else. I have talked to 25 or 30 pilots and only two or three said that they have never seen them," Stults said.

"There have been classic airline sightings that have been reported. For example, prior to the government's memorandum to the airlines, an Eastern Airlines plane was flying over Tennessee at night when this huge, cigar-shaped object went right by their plane, I mean within a hundred feet. That did get national attention. There are many examples like that. Passengers have seen them, too," he said.

Stults also offered an example of a close encounter of the second kind.

"Military people have seen them, too. Probably one of the most famous cases around here was the Coyna experience in 1980, near Cleveland, Ohio. He (Coyna) was piloting a military helicopter, and he had a copilot with him. He was flying at 1,700 feet when he observed this light. It was coming toward the helicopter. As it got closer and closer, he panicked and he put the chopper into a full-dive position. As he dove the UFO

"Many UFO reports that we get are not really UFOs. It's just misidentification. We get a lot of UFO reports that are nothing more than aircrafts coming in and out of O'Hare." Thomas Stults

passed and stopped over the helicopter. The whole helicopter was covered with a greenish glow. All engines went out. The gyro went crazy. The compass went crazy. The pilot had no control over the helicopter. All stood still for about 20 or 30 seconds and then suddenly the UFO disappeared. They also had the chopper on radar at the local air force base. Two witnesses have come forward who were on the ground who were awakened by the chopper noise. They saw the greenish glow in their house. They could see this greenish glow coming out of this white object and the glow came all the way down to the ground. This is a pretty classic case," Stults said.

There are volumes of UFO reports recorded. People from all walks of life have observed these crafts — astronauts, pilots, fishermen, housewives. UFOs have been sighted worldwide. Numerous books have been written about close encounters of the first, second and third kind.

Area residents who are interested in becoming a member of the Mutual UFO Network, or would like to attend the next meeting, call Stults at 963-4543.

TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, UT - Feb. 3, 1990 CR: M. Bieseke

UFOs Aren't Alien to Insurance Game

I took out a \$10 million insurance policy the other day, much to the shock of my family and friends. But the way I look at it, one can never be too cautious when it comes to dealing with curious aliens from planets in faraway galaxies.

In the event that I am ever "beamed up" by strange space creatures and can prove it, I will be awarded \$10 million by the UFO Abduction & Casualty Insurance Co. in Altamonte Springs, Fla. — a 3-year-old corporation managed by a man named Mike St. Lawrence, who has never even seen a UFO, let alone been kidnapped and taken for a ride in one.

Although Mike hasn't had a UFO experience, he figured there was a market for UFO insurance after reading a couple of books by people who claimed to have had close encounters with aliens against their wishes. Upon calling Mike in Florida, I learned that his company's policy used to be "UFO Abduction Insurance — Don't Leave Earth Without It," but was recently changed to "Beam Me Up — I'm Covered" because American Express officials, presumably people who have never seen the movie "E.T.," and have never desired to spend a night or two with an alien, didn't find the motto amusing.

"You definitely have to have a sense of humor in my line of work," said Mike, who works as an accountant when he isn't busy writing unidentifiable, "foreign" policies. "I decided to start this company after I checked my homeowner's insurance and discovered that there was no coverage for being abducted by aliens. Now, I'm not a UFO buff by any means, but I thought that writing UFO abduction policies would be a fun 'tongue-in-cheek' sideline."

"Personally, I'm not sure that UFOs exist," he said, "but I suppose it is possible. Maybe the reason so few people have seen UFOs is because the aliens are looking for signs of intelligent life and haven't been able to find any yet."

Forming UFO Abduction & Casualty was an intelligent move on Mike's part — so far, he has sold more than 1,500 policies for \$9.95 each. My own policy edged in gold and embossed with my personal, official number — 434769033 — arrived on a Wednesday afternoon in a large white envelope with a clear, plas-

tic cover.

"\$10,000,000 UFO ABDUCTION INSURANCE," it read in large type. "This is to certify that the UFO Abduction & Casualty Insurance Co. agrees to indemnify or pay to Cathy Free (hereafter referred to as the abductee) the sum of \$10,000,000 in the event of the abductee's departure and return to planet Earth."

In smaller type, I was informed that the policy was subject to several conditions, including the limitation of "sarcasm coverage" to immediate family members. There was also a section titled "Double Indemnity Coverage," entitling me to \$20 million instead of \$10 million if the following things happen:

- Aliens refuse to practice safe sex.
- Encounter results with the offspring being referred to as "The Missing Link."
- Aliens refer to the abductee as a nutritional food source.

The fine print also required that I submit a claim form after my abduction, with answers to questions like, "Are you a frequent flier?" and "What is your year-to-date mileage?" If kidnapped by another life form, I will also be required to get the signature of an authorized alien, along with the tag number of the spacecraft, and I will have to determine whether the aliens are "Type A," "Type B" or "Other."

If I can submit all of the above, then Mike will pay me \$1 a year for 10 million years, and if for some reason I do not return from my galactic journey, the sum will be paid to my beneficiary. In my haste to order the policy, I had neglected to name one, so Mike provided one for me. If I am ever sent permanently into outer orbit, basketball player World B. Free will receive my big payoff.

"Because you have the same last name, I thought it would be appropriate," Mike told me. "I've had people name their dogs, mother-in-laws, even their pink flamingo lawn ornaments, as their beneficiaries."

Since he first announced his alien service, Mike has sold policies to every walk of life imaginable (at least, on this planet), including a group of Greek monks and Shirley MacLaine.

I was surprised to learn that "out of body, out of mind" Shirley hadn't attempted to claim her \$10 million. "So far, nobody has said they have proof except a man in Albany, New York," says Mike. "He sounded pretty serious over the phone — I may just have to pay him."

He could also be hearing from Shirley MacLaine, sometime soon. In addition to the UFO insurance, Mike offers \$10 million reincarnation insurance, with double indemnity if one comes back as a lower life form. But UFO abductees are out of luck. Complete "karma" coverage is limited to Earth.



Freestyle

By Cathy Free

REGISTER GUARD, Eugene, OR - Jan. 15, 1990

UFO ALERT!

UFO alert! Honors for the first potential extraterrestrial sighting of the year go to Sherrill Bower and a group of about 20 other attendees at a Eugene New Year's Eve party.

"It was shortly after midnight, and the whole group of us

was outside," Bower said. "There were these five lights in the sky that moved around together, formed patterns and figures and sort of danced for about 20 minutes or a half hour."

The party was at 15th Avenue and Moss Street. The lights came up over nearby Williams Bakery, just off Franklin Boulevard, Bower said.

They moved slowly, in seemingly coordinated patterns. "I thought maybe they were on hang gliders or ultralights because of the way they moved," she said. "But you'd have to be pretty crazy to hang glide at night with lights."

Or without 'em, for that matter.

Bower called the National Weather Service and the tower at Mahlon Sweet Airport a couple of days later, but neither had other reports of light sightings or theories on what they might have been. And Williams Bakery owner Tom Williams said there were no unusual occurrences — such as exploding cinnamon rolls — at the bakery that night to create lights in the sky overhead.

"I'm really kind of disappointed," Williams said. "I've been a UFO freak for 40 years. If they came to visit the bakery and didn't visit me, I'm kind of ticked."

The partygoers had gone outside to set off fireworks, but the lights weren't associated with those, Bower said. I asked, as diplomatically as possible, what the guests had been consuming prior to the sightings.

"Nothing unusual," Bower said. "We considered mass hallucination, but there wasn't even any punch for somebody to spike."

CR: L. Bartsch

CR: S. Parker/COUD-I



A sky suddenly full of saucers

Boise businessman Kenneth Arnold was flying lazy circles around Mount Rainier on June 24, 1947, hoping to sight the wreckage of a light plane believed to have crashed on the snowy slopes the previous winter.

Suddenly he saw what appeared to be nine shiny objects that flew flat, sideways and upside down at "fantastic speeds," he estimated at about 1,700 mph. They were circular, he would say later, and the centers pulsed like fireflies.

When he landed in Pendleton, Ore., Arnold told his story to a United Press reporter, describing the objects as flying erratically "like speedboats on rough water, or as if you skipped a saucer on water." From Arnold's words, the reporter coined the expression "flying saucers."

In later years, Arnold said the objects were "more like a crescent or half-moon with a slight polliwog tail and a pulsing-type thing in the center," he presumed was their power unit.) Newspapers containing Arnold's report hardly had hit Pacific Northwest porches when UFO sightings from Tukwila to White Salmon, from Woodland to Bellingham were reported.

A state official in Olympia saw bright objects in the sky "going like the devil." A mother and her young son in Bremerton saw two objects, "very shiny, that seemed to be fluttering in the wind."

Two Tacoma patrolmen chased

"a red-and-silver-colored fleet of flying saucers."

In the next 25 years, according to a Gallup Poll, millions of people around the world would claim to have sighted UFOs, some as pulsating discs, others as cigar-shaped devices with flashing lights. Fifty-one percent of the American public would say they believe UFOs exist.

On the 36th anniversary of his sighting, the one-time University of Minnesota football player and unsuccessful Republican candidate for lieutenant governor and congress in Idaho, told The Seattle Times he was tired of having UFO-sighters treated as if they had lost their senses.

Since his original sighting, he said, he had seen UFOs seven more times. Twice he took in-flight movies of them. Each time,

he said, he noted similarities: a center spot in the UFOs that gave off pulsations, "as if it were alive," the incredible speeds (1,000 miles an hour or more), and the swift and erratic maneuverings.

But the most remarkable thing about the UFOs he saw, Arnold said, was their apparent ability to change density at will, like jellyfish in the sea. While photographing them over Lassen Peak, he said, "a pine tree on the ground shows right through one of them." And yet, he added, moments later they all appeared to have solidified.

Finally, Arnold said, all the flying saucers he saw were in groups — the largest, 23 or 24 in a string, resembled a flight of birds. Unlike regular military aircraft formations, the "leader" always was higher and the others followed in a descending pattern.

Arnold never claimed to have seen any little men on the UFOs — "I leave that to others." Nor did he believe that he was the first to sight them, saying they were mentioned in the Bible (Ezekiel) and that the logs of English sea captains hundreds of years ago contained detailed notations and even drawings of UFOs.

Unexplained incidents in Westmoreland County not so unusual

By Mary Gallicchio

Courier Staff Writer

Stan Gordon has long been fascinated by the idea of extraterrestrial life form, especially by sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO).

In 1981, he founded the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU) in Greensburg, as a clearinghouse for others with similar interests and/or who may have had a UFO experience.

PASU is an all volunteer, non-profit agency which exists to attempt to find answers to the reported incidents, exchanging data worldwide with other responsible researchers and organizations.

In a recent press release, Gordon noted PASU has on record thousands of strange cases from the Keystone State. Included are low level UFO sightings,

creature reports, unusual animal killings, unexplained photographs and a variety of other anomalies. When the case warrants, PASU attempts to send investigators to the scene of an incident at any hour to gather

first hand information and physical evidence for study.

Gordon noted that UFOs and creatures such as Bigfoot are reported annually in Pennsylvania. PASU takes no stand as to the nature and origin of those reports. It goes on record that after having investigated thousands of these incidents over the year, a high percentage can be logically explained.

Every year, however, the release noted, there are well documented incidents which occur that remain unexplained. Anyone can report unusual incidents to PASU without fear of publicity or ridicule. The UFO Hotline number is 412-836-7768, and operates 24 hours a day.

Last Year's Highlights

Some recent area case highlights from 1989 which were reported to and investigated by PASU included:

➤ May 17, 1989 — Squirrel Hill (Pittsburgh suburb). At 2:57 a.m., two professional women watched an object that was flatter and more elongated in shape than a blimp hover with no sound. The object appeared luminous, and had three large

UFO sightings reported

flashing red lights at the bottom. The object moved back and forth then suddenly seemed to vanish. The women were so shook up that they filed a police report. The object they reported was similar to many other UFO cases reported in the state.

➤ During the year, three UFO cases occurred where observers reported that the objects were being pursued by military jets. On the night of Aug. 31, UFO sightings were reported in several counties within a short time. Just after 9 p.m., observers near Butler observed a bright mushroom shaped light that emitted two smaller objects as it hovered over a field. Within a short time after the object departed, military jets were circling the area. Also on the night of Oct. 28, near another area of Butler County, an unusual hovering light picked up speed as numerous military jets in single formation chased it out of the area.

➤ April 20, 1989 — Donegal. At

12:15 a.m. a fisherman and his dog were startled by a rustling sound from behind them. The man was shocked to see a seven-foot-tall, broad shouldered, hair covered upright creature similar to many other Bigfoot reports from that area. The creature made three loud shrilling sounds that frightened the observer, before it moved back into the woods.

There were a number of UFO incidents where multiple objects or formations of objects were reported. During the afternoon of Sept. 3 near Sharpsburg in Allegheny County, four silver discs were observed traveling from east to west. Multiple triangular shaped objects were observed flying close to a power station in Warren County on the afternoon of Dec. 23. Once again, as has been seen in other years, these objects seem to be attracted to energy sources of various types, and several sightings occurred near power plants in the state.

➤ May 21, 1989 — near

Ligonier. A piece of ice fell from a clear sky and was obtained by a resident. PASU went to the site and received the sample for study. A laboratory study of the matter, found that it contained lead, iron, cadmium, arsenic, aluminum and zinc. The high metal content seemed to indicate the possibility that the ice may have originated from a high altitude aircraft, yet weather data for that area at the time indicated a low chance for icing conditions.

Looking Ahead

PASU will work on three additional projects in 1990, in addition to conducting regular research on current cases.

➤ Searches for old newspaper accounts concerning UFO sightings and strange events from the state.

➤ Further investigation into the annual mysterious events that occur around the Chestnut Ridge area, where many people report UFO and Bigfoot sightings on a regular basis.

➤ Continuous investigation into the Dec. 9, 1965 UFO crash case which occurred at the village of Kecksburg,

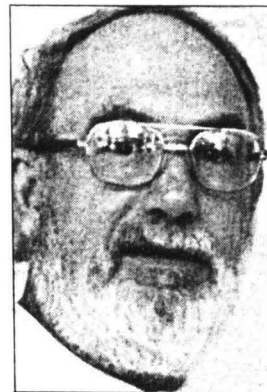
Westmoreland County. On that day thousands of observers in many states saw the fiery object which crashed in a wooded area in this Pennsylvania community. Within a short time, the military set up a command center in the village, roped off the area, and confiscated the object. To this day a veil of secrecy remains on the case from the government. PASU has uncovered numerous documents through the Freedom of Information Act and has gathered a large body of evidence indicating that an object of undetermined origin did indeed crash.

PASU urges anyone with information on any of the above events, or other sighting (s) to contact the agency confidentially.

PASU officers for 1990 are Stan Gordon, founder and director of operations; George E. Lutz, director of information (former Air Force officer and pilot); Steve Pelles, research (electronics field engineer), and John Micklow, director of field investigations (retired police officer and former military intelligence officer).

UFO landing site sparks dreams, but not funding

Elmwood, Wis., was eyed as a haven for research scientists and extraterrestrials



Tom Weber
Proposed landing site

By Bill Gardner
Staff Writer

Any aliens who put their spacecraft down at Elmwood, Wis., will find the accommodations are not nearly as plush as some earthlings had hoped to make them.

First of all, Elmwood has no motels. Much of the terrain is hilly and wooded, somewhat unsuitable for a UFO landing. The flatland is dotted with cow chips.

But it could have been so much more.

Tom Weber, who owns a metal finishing company in Chippewa Falls, caught the fancy of many people a couple of years ago when he proposed a \$25 million UFO landing site in Elmwood, which is about 25 miles west of Eau Claire and about 60 miles east of St. Paul.

Weber, 51, dreamed of a two-square-mile landing site bordered with lights. Visi-

tors from space would be welcomed by a large pictorial message written in lights, and scientists from around the world would live and study at the landing site.

Weber's proposal was written up in newspapers across the country and even around the world.

Television reporters interviewed him. Geraldo Rivera featured the plan on his show.

Weber selected Elmwood because of its history of UFO sightings and its annual UFO Days celebration.

When speaking of the site two years ago, Weber exhibited missionary zeal as he proclaimed it one of the greatest achievements of mankind.

"The site center would make a bigger contribution to physics than 10,000 physi-

cists with an unlimited budget," Weber told a symposium on extraterrestrials at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

After his speech, Weber passed the hat and urged the audience to contribute.

"If I was a very wealthy man, I would pay for this myself — I would," he said at the time. "If you do not support this, it will not happen."

Now, it seems, it will not happen.

"The thing is pretty well done, and that's the end of it," Weber said last week. "Without a miracle, the project is not going to happen. We did our best."

Weber said he got tens of thousands of phone calls and letters from people around the world, but not many of them offered money. He had hoped to raise \$25 million.

"We raised somewhat less than \$20,000

total," he said. "That would be a good ballpark figure."

Weber and a man from Elmwood contributed about half of that themselves, he said.

"We were looking to raise millions of dollars," he said. "What we found out was a grass-roots thing just wasn't going to happen. What it would take is one or two very wealthy people who thought the project was worthwhile."

For a time the UFO Site Center had an office in Chippewa Falls, but that has been closed.

Weber still thinks the landing area is a good idea, but he said it's time to look at the prospects realistically.

"Right now it's just time for me to get on with my life," he said. "Although my interest is still strong, I'm just facing the harsh realities here."



Rapidly moving light source changed colors 110 times in a few seconds as Brenda was attempting to photograph a dark disk that doesn't show up.

Camera captures multicolored trail in sky while witnesses watch U.F.O.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRENDA POLLAK

"I aimed my camera at the black disk that hovered in the night sky and hoped my 300mm lens would pick up the outline but I never expected the photograph that I got."

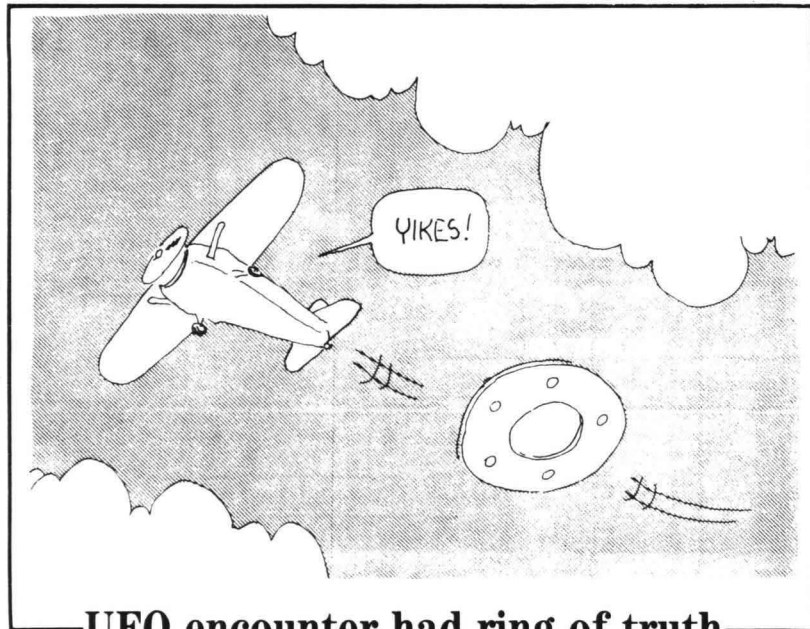
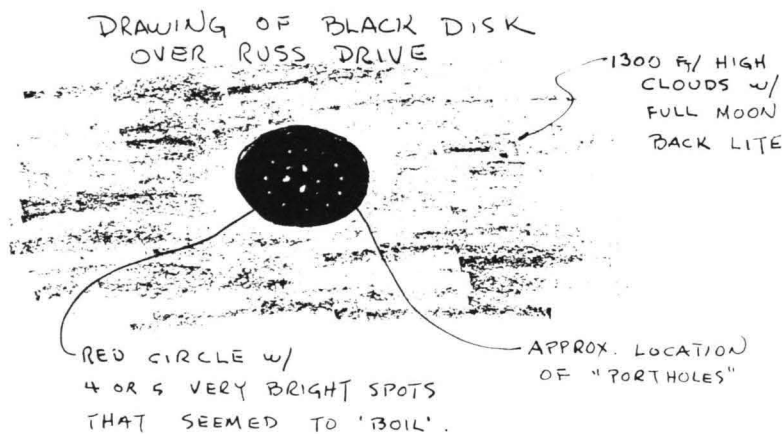
Brenda Pollak explained her amazement at the odd multicolored image that she photo-

graphed as she and eight other witnesses spent about fifteen minutes watching a hovering object on Monday the 8th of January.

The image that Brenda captured with her timed exposure changed color over 110 times during the multi-second shutter time and remains an absolute mystery because the camera was aimed at

the equally mysterious black disk (see drawing) that eventually disappeared into the clouds.

A color print is available for review at the Sentinel office if you have any idea that can explain this multi-colored exposure. Send your ideas to the Sentinel office, 1200 Gulf Breeze Parkway for possible publication.



UFO encounter had ring of truth

A recent article described the experience of Cynthia Vodovoz, who had an encounter with a UFO on Highway 31 in October 1973. She was 12 years old at the time.

Previously, she had recalled nothing of a 40-minute period during which she and her mother were apparently unconscious. (They were 40 minutes late getting to Cynthia's dance class in town.)

Recently, however, under hypnosis induced by her doctor in California, the details of her experience 16 years ago surfaced from wherever they had been buried somewhere deep in her subconscious.

Her story is typical of many other reported UFO encounters.

When I read the story in the paper, I was reminded of a time several years ago when for a period of 10 days UFO "sightings" were being reported from all over Jefferson County and other locations in Alabama.

I recall that for several nights in a row I went out to the airport, got into my airplane with Col. Joe Shannon and flew around for several hours each night looking for UFOs.

I also recall that on one of these occasions we were in radio communication with the fixed

base operator at the airport, who had an open telephone line to the dispatcher at the sheriff's department, who was in radio communication with a patrol car which was at the scene of a UFO commotion out on the highway.

We were vectored to this location where we spotted the rotating beacon on the sheriff's car. We orbited overhead for 20 to 30 minutes. The sheriff reported to his dispatcher that he saw the lights of our aircraft circling overhead. He also reported that we were being followed by another light.

Although I almost stalled and spun in trying to tighten up our turn so that we could find the "light" that was apparently in close-trail formation with us, we never did spot it.

Just out of curiosity, when I finished reading the story about Miss Vodovoz, I got out my log book and leafed back to October 1973. Opposite the dates Oct. 17, 18 and 19 I had inscribed the notation "UFO Search."

Needless to say, I am among those who believe that there really is "something out there."

Albert C. Persons,
1040 Montclair Road.

TRIBUNE, San Diego, CA - Jan. 30, 1990

UFO buffs want to zap earthling

Did a flying saucer crash on a New Mexico ranch in 1947, scattering strange wreckage and four small aliens? Did the government confiscate this "evidence" and store it in a warehouse, where 43 years later it still sits?

Scott Wolfe says yes, and he wants your money to help him prove it.

Wolfe, a self-described "UFOlogist" from Laguna Beach, says he wants to build a "Museum for Inter-galactic Understanding" that will display the alien wreckage and 3½-foot dead aliens once the government ends its silence.

Last night, more than 180 people — mostly diehard UFO buffs — attended Wolfe's seminar on UFOs and extraterrestrials. Many paid a \$10 "donation" that Wolfe claims will someday go toward construction of the museum.

And about a dozen people walked out demanding their money back.

The seminar, advertised in local newspapers and in fliers across town and held in the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley, failed to deliver in the opinions of many people who attended, including the UFO buffs.

The ads promised that those attending the seminar would "hear high-ranking military officials describe their communications with extraterrestrials" and "see live movie footage of real UFOs."

But, in fact, the military officials were not present in person but in the videotape of a television show that already has been broadcast nationally. And the seminar never did show "live movie footage" of any flying saucers.

When people asked to see the footage, Wolfe told them to "come back to the next seminar," scheduled at 7 p.m. tonight. When asked specific questions about UFOs, Wolfe usually

said he'd answer them at the next seminar.

Much of the information, particularly involving the reported crash of a UFO in New Mexico, has been broadcast on "Unsolved Mysteries," as well as on many other documentaries involving UFOs.

"We paid \$10 for something we could have seen for free on television!" Don Waller, 51, of San Diego, shouted to Wolfe as the seminar ended.

"Yeah, show us something scientific!" shouted another man.

"What bothers me is that this subject should be treated with honesty and dignity and what I saw tonight strikes me as something of a rip-off," said Waller, a general contractor. "This only makes people more cynical."

Wolfe, when confronted by the crowd, replied that "this is not about money. First of all, that was a donation. If you want a refund, talk to me afterwards. ... If you're not happy with what we're doing and you don't want to contribute \$10 to the museum, then I'll give you your money back."

Later, Wolfe said many in the crowd were UFO buffs who already had seen a lot of information about UFOs, while his seminar was a "basic UFO course" geared for the general public. "That's why they said, 'Oh, this stuff.' They thought I was going to talk about other things."

Wolfe, a commodities trader, operates his UFO seminars under an umbrella organization called Feedback Unlimited Inc. He said the company is a non-profit group. The fliers and advertisements stated that the seminars were "presented by the Citizens for Scientific Reality," which Wolfe admitted was a group of 10 of his friends formed about three months ago.

Wolfe, when asked what he was going to do with the money raised through donations, conceded that it could be used to cover the expense of holding more seminars. "I can't be sure we'll spend all the money on the museum," he said.

CR: C. Jines

STAR, Anniston, AL - Oct. 13, 1989

DeArmanville residents spot unidentified flying objects

First Veronezh in the Soviet Union, now DeArmanville.

Several days after the Soviet press reported the landing of an alien spaceship in the southern Russian city, numerous DeArmanville residents reported seeing a peculiar flying object Thursday night

No landings were reported, however. One caller, who sounded young, described it as having bright white lights, looking like a flying plate and sounding like a train engine.

"They probably heard a train going by as an airplane was flying overhead," an Anniston police officer said.

A similar sighting was also reported in Weaver on Wednesday night, police added.

'Green lights' probably meteor, officials believe

BY LISA FOWLER
Democrat Staff Writer

It may have looked like a spacecraft "with green lights shooting fire," but the object that soared across Arkansas about 6:20 a.m. Thursday probably was a meteor, officials said.

Calls were made from Jackson to Jefferson counties about the object that brightened Thursday morning's sky, said Philip Doyle, communications and duty officer with the state Office of Emergency Services.

Little Rock radio stations also received several calls, but the Little Rock Police Department reported no calls about the incident.

"We have one report here that it was a multicolored object with large green lights shooting fire," Doyle said. "Most people just wanted to make sure it wasn't a plane going down."

OES officials checked with the National Weather Service in North Little Rock and Scott Air Force Base near St. Louis, Doyle said.

A spokesman with the weather service said they received two calls about the object which was described as a bright object with a tail, moving fast in a northeast direction.

'We have one report here that it was a multicolored object with large green lights shooting fire.'

Charles Hemann, institutional assistant at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Planetarium, said he didn't see the object, but from reports it sounded like a Bolide meteor.

"A Bolide meteor basically enters the atmosphere and then bounces back out like a rock skipping on water," Hemann said.

He said meteors should be thought of as grains of sand floating in space which occasionally get caught in the Earth's gravitational pull.



Staffordshire UFO's not consistent with aircraft says author

READERS of the Newsletter over the last couple of years will no doubt remember the rash of mystery UFO sightings reported in the paper.

The spate of sightings centred around four main periods - August '87 and March, May and August '88 and with 400 incidents nationwide, last year was the highest period of activity since 1981.

It all created such a stir that local Tory MP Bill Cash raised the UFOs with the Ministry of Defence because of the concern they had caused to constituents who were left wondering just what was in the skies above Staffordshire.

Official and conventional explanations fell short of putting the matter to rest, especially when, even after an approach by one of his own party, the then defence minister, Roger Freeman, was only able to come up with "exceptionally high activity at Birmingham Airport" to account for the sightings.

Since then, no satisfactory explanation has been forthcoming from any quarter, including bodies like the British UFO Research Association, but the events of the last two years or so have now found their way into a new book.

The author, Timothy Good, has been involved in UFO research for more than 35 years and he has included some of the Staffordshire events from the Newsletter in his latest tome, *The UFO Report 1990*.

Given the high frequency of sightings, almost exclusively in Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands area, it probably comes as no sur-

prise that August 1987 to the end of last year was actually a period of very high UFO activity world wide.

As mentioned in a round up article in the Newsletter last Autumn, however, the last person to know about everything that has been going on over the last two and a half years, and in fact since the war, is the public.

One only has to telephone the police after a rash of sightings or try to get any kind of real explanations out of the Government or BUFORA to know that UFO information is routinely covered up as soon as it has happened.

This usually leaves a handful of perfectly sane and normal people who have seen them to try and convince newspapers and other people that they are not going mad.

Government

Books like *The UFO Report* and Mr Good's previous one, *Above Top Secret*, a best seller last year, are therefore very valuable since they seriously and methodically round up UFO information, which would otherwise escape the attention of most people, and serve to take the lid off some cover up cases.

While HM government wanted everybody to believe a UFO which burnt a bush last September was really only aircraft lights over Birmingham and BUFORA insisted the May sightings were the Americans test flying their new multi million dollar Stealth Bomber, Mr Good is a bit more honest.

In dealing with a variety of UFO investigators over the last couple of years, I

have been left wondering who is sane and who is not after being told by several investigators that the others I had spoken to either weren't any good or were actually a bit touched.

The scramble for information very clearly takes precedence, both in Government as well as investigation circles.

"As you have noticed, the UFO industry is full of back biting and internal politics just to get the information first," said Mr Good.

"But there were probably thousands of sightings world wide last year, and for every sighting that gets reported, there must be nine that don't for fear of ridicule.

"In the case of the Staffordshire sightings, the design of the Stealth Bomber just is not similar to the reports of triangular UFOs which have been seen.

"Besides that, I would question the intelligence of flying a top secret aircraft over a highly populated area. Some UFOs are actually secret aircraft being tested - I'm convinced the American Government has been testing saucer shaped aircraft for a number of years.

"But the behaviour of those described in the Newsletter and elsewhere is not consistent with aircraft."

One thing everyone agrees on, however, is that they do not know what a substantial proportion of UFOs really are or where they really come from.

Indeed, probably the biggest single reason for most of the cover-ups is that the world's governments really are almost entirely in the dark about UFOs, even though some, with their occupants, are said to have been captured and the

wreckage and dead bodies from others which have crashed picked up.

Nothing is more antithetical, not to mention annoying, to government than something it either can't control or doesn't understand or both and an unknown and probably superior quantity like UFOs clearly comes into this category.

Undoubtedly, there is probably considerable official anxiety about what would become of social control if all the unknowns and their possible consequences became public knowledge.

But although all this is one of Mr Good's main points in his book, he admits to being none the wiser about the origin and nature of UFOs even after 35 years in the business.

"I could not tell you where these things come from or what they are doing here," said Mr Good emphatically, "but sightings do seem to come in waves and then die out again."

"There are also different types and categories of UFOs, some of which are related to extra terrestrial activity. There is very strong evidence that some of these craft are completely solid because they have been recovered."

"But on the other hand, there are UFO sightings which point towards an extra dimensional origin."

Mr Good added that more witnesses were coming forward saying they had been involved in recovery operations of crafts and bodies. One example he cited was a case in Roswell, New Mexico where wreckage made of a metal unknown on Earth was recovered after a UFO crash.

"The police officer in

Strange lights riddle still hovers over town

UFOs 'TOO LOW, SLOW, QUIET AND BRIGHT' TO BE VC-10s, CLAIM EYE-WITNESSES

MYSTERY still shrouds last week's UFO sighting over Stafford. Two strange, triangular objects with a lot of lights were reported by Ellen Ballard near her farmstead home on Monday night. But the week, response from other readers who also saw them and Mrs Ballard's sketches in the Newsletter still disagree on what they were. John Tennale, of Knowle Road Stafford said he thought the

mystery aircraft were no more than VC-10s flying from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. And a phone call to River Norton revealed that two VC-10s did take off from the station at 8.15pm that night, and a spokeswoman said it was possible that they might have flown over Staffordshire.

But another reader who saw the mystery objects, Karl Turner, of George Elliot Close in Litcham, said: "I don't believe they were VC-10s, no way. I would know a VC-10 if I saw it. I often used to go to air displays, they definitely weren't that."

Mrs Turner said the objects appeared over her garden hedge, very low, silent and slow moving with a lot of very bright lights. "They were too low, slow and quiet and the lights were too bright for VC-10s. It might have been a glider, but I would have heard the wind and I heard nothing," VC-10s

are pretty big and heavy," she added. Several other people in the town had also seen it, but had been afraid to come forward, said Mrs Turner. She said she thought they may have been the top secret F-19 Stealth aircraft mentioned last week by the British UFO Research Association. Other readers in Penkridge reported strange clusters of orange and red lights at the same time on Monday night which



It could this be the answer to the mystery of those strange lights - the VC-10s moved quickly from one place to another, going out and reappearing seconds later. Sightings of strange lights have also been reported by people as far

From the Newsletter, May 1988

charge who handled the wreckage said it was extremely light and extremely durable and could not be dented with a sledge hammer," said Mr Good, "and he also said it was covered in strange hieroglyphics."

But the Staffordshire sightings of last May in particular are of the sort which point strongly towards an origin and nature which is non-physical in Earth terms.

UFOs are frequently described as appearing and disappearing unaccountably and an even more common characteristic is that of travelling great distances impossibly quickly.

Triangular

The extra dimensional theory described by Mr Good is one which is perhaps gaining more ground amongst UFO watchers.

Last August, Bill Cash's appeal for information resulted in a report from Joan Acocks and her accountant husband Michael, who live at Hillcote Hollow, Stafford.

Returning from a stroll one night, Mr and Mrs Acocks saw the brightly lit, triangular shapes described by other local witnesses in May.

They had consistently been described as slow, low flying and completely silent, but the Acocks said they saw them disappear and reappear in the same position several times.

"We saw two triangular shapes hovering above some trees," Mrs Acocks said at the time, "they were lit up, but somehow they didn't seem solid objects. I stood there looking and all of a sudden it just disappeared and then reappeared exactly

as before. What struck me more than anything was that it was absolutely silent," she added. Another UFO confronted Reg Morgan and Gloria Hall early in September as they were driving late at night over Cannock Chase towards Stafford.

Just after crossing Wheatman's Bridge, they were confronted with the 30 feet high UFO in a fluorescent gaseous cloud overhanging a hedge. Again it was silent, and again it disappeared and reappeared, leaving the hedge in a burnt and crumpled condition after its departure.

Basically, the extra dimensional theory says some UFOs originate from worlds which exist on a higher energy frequency than our own.

In much the same way that a gas is more volatile than lead, with a greater degree of electron and proton movement in its atoms, so these "higher planes" of physical matter exist at a higher vibrational ratio than the ones we are used to here.

If some UFOs consist of matter at these higher levels, they need not obey the same physical laws as those on Earth and can therefore do things which we consider impossible - like zipping

about and disappearing. "It is quite possible that if these beings are thousands of years ahead of us, they could perhaps manipulate time and matter," said Mr Good, "scientists now postulate the existence of 11 other dimensions just to explain the known universe."

Many sightings have been made by air force pilots all over the world and Yorkshire Police have been a little more open than most about the many sightings in the county during the early months of 1988.

In America, the Freedom of Information Act has resulted in the publication of thousands of pages of FBI and CIA documents on UFOs and Mr Good's book also investigates UFOs in China and Russia.

So, the mystery goes on, but for those willing to give it any thought at all, and especially for the many people who have seen these mysterious things over the years, reliable research is of great interest.

But until that research goes beyond the level of the interested amateur, no one will know exactly what they saw in the skies above Staffordshire last year.

Barry Heafield



From the Newsletter, September 16, 1988

Hagley visits on UFO agenda — claim



ABOVE: Dr Jan Pajak is pictured with a model of his own spacecraft design in Hagley Park at the site of a UFO landing.

Sceptics may find it hard to believe that UFO's exist - let alone that they may have even landed in Hagley Park.

Dr Jan Pajak of Dunedin not only strongly believes this is fact but was prepared to back it up by pinpointing these landing sites during a weekend workshop held in Christchurch this month.

The free workshop was held in the hope of encouraging new members to join the newly formed Unexplained Phenomena Research Society Inc.

Three branches of the society are already working in Invercargill,

Dunedin and Lawrence and Dr Pajak is hoping a branch will be formed in Christchurch.

The society has been established to try and counterbalance the very negative attitude to unexplained phenomena, Dr Pajak said.

"There are a lot of anti-groups such as the Sceptics Society but there were no groups who had the education and knowledge to give a true picture of unexplained phenomena," he said.

The most common evidence of UFO's is their landing place sites, Dr Pajak said. "These can be easily

found if you know what you are looking for."

To prove his point Dr Pajak took members of his workshop on a walk through Hagley Park and was able to identify four landing sites.

"Because of the UFO's pulsating magnetic field, it leaves a ring of scorched vegetation when it lands. The smallest craft would leave a ring of about 3m with eight burned areas at regular intervals," Dr Pajak said.

The most popular explanation for these markings is that they are mushroom rings.

Dr Pajak does not believe in this theory

and believes instead that the mushrooms are in fact an effect of UFO landings and not the cause of the markings.

"When a vehicle lands its magnetic force sterilises the earth which in turn provides ideal conditions for mushrooms to grow," he said.

Some of the clearest landing sites are to be found in the Weka Pass and Dr Pajak plans to take a group to view these sites on January 28.

As well as conducting workshops on unexplained phenomena, Dr Pajak has devoted much of his spare time

during the past 18 years to designing his own spaceship.

The "magnocraft" bears a striking resemblance to the common view of a flying saucer and is capable of flying in the air, into free space, moving underwater and also flying underground at a normal speed of close to the speed of light, claims Dr Pajak.

These facts are based on contemporary physics and Dr Pajak believes he may be able to get government sponsorship for the development of the craft once he is able to produce a working model.

Additional Magnocraft information is available from Dr. Pajak [116 Rolla St., Dunedin, New Zealand].

UFO sighting to be investigated

A BELTINGE woman claims she saw a UFO in the sky above Reculver on Friday night hovering low over houses and pointing two bright lights.

Mrs Stella Hando, of The Padlocks, Beltinge, had just picked her son up from the Queen's Hotel and was driving along Grange Road when she noticed

an amber light in the sky.

"I was fairly interested by it," she said. "It disappeared, then at the end of Grange Road we saw two big search lights in the sky with long beams which were too far apart to be one plane."

"It stopped just across Reculver Road above the houses and stayed there for a few seconds."

Mrs Hando is convinced the

object she saw was not a plane and even phoned Kent International Airport to see if they had any idea what it might be.

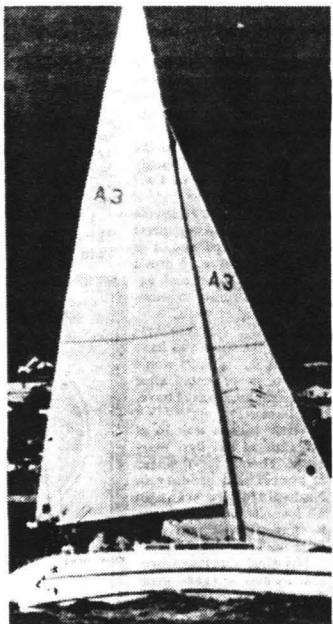
A spokesman for the airport said there could have been an aircraft in the sky at the time which was not necessarily from there.

But he said the matter would be investigated in full by the Ministry of Defence.

Mysterious Bass Strait Triangle

claims untold victims

WAS YACHT SNATCHED?



★ THE Charleston

BASS Strait, between Victoria and Tasmania, rivals the Bermuda Triangle as a "black hole" where ships and planes vanish without trace.

The disappearance last week of sloop Great Expectations with its crew of six is the latest of many to baffle authorities.

The mystery disappearance of Great Expectations which was returning from the Melbourne-Devonport ocean race, with owner-skipper Graham Baldwin, 54, his fiancée Erica Watson, 38, her son Bryan, 16, Robin Regan in her early 30s, Tim Clarke, 26, and Steven Hartley, 26, and a pet dachshund dog, has led to bizarre claims that UFOs could be responsible.

Notorious

Experts claim hundreds have vanished in the stretch of water dubbed "The Bass Strait Triangle".

Throughout this century, many craft and their crews have been lost in what experts describe as Australia's most treacherous stretch of ocean.

Most of these tragedies can be explained in every-

day terms. The Strait is notorious for its rips, gales and sudden freak waves. And some victims have ventured out, inexperienced and ill-equipped in unseaworthy boats.

But a growing number of disappearances seem to defy logical analysis.

The Strait's most famous victim was young pilot Frederick Valentich.

On October 23, 1978, while flying a Cessna to King Island, he radioed that a huge silvery craft, glittering with lights, was orbiting him.

While he was describing the UFO to Melbourne Flight Service Unit, a harsh metallic noise cut across his voice, ending the broadcast.

Despite a massive air-sea search, neither Valentich nor his plane were ever found.

Valentich's horrifying experience made world headlines, but he was not the

first pilot to vanish over the Strait.

In July, 1920, Army captains W. Stutt and A.G. Dalziel set out in a de Havilland 9a aircraft to seek two missing schooners, Amelia J and Southern Cross.

The plane vanished. Neither the pilots' bodies, nor any scrap of wreckage were ever found. The fate of the schooners and their crews also remains a Bass Strait mystery.

Disappearance

Shortly after Stutt and Dalziel's disappearance, several people reported seeing "huge white flares" hanging motionless over the strait.

On October 19, 1934, a new four-engined mail plane Miss Hobart disappeared, in fine weather, over Australia's triangle of doom.

The aircraft — a DH86, fitted with four Gipsy VI engines — was one of the



★ MISSING... the sloop Great Expectations with six aboard.

most powerful planes in Australian service at the time.

The owners, Holyman's Airways Ltd, said that even if two engines had failed, the plane could have maintained height with its full 10-passenger load.

Miss Hobart's final radio message came at 10.20 am when it was 13 km from Wilson's Promontory.

Co-pilot Gilbert Jenkins radioed: "Captain Holyman requests that Captain Haig of the Vacuum Oil Company meet him at Laverton at 11.30 am."

Melbourne newspapers reported that strange phenomena had surrounded the disappearance.

Abrupt

According to *The Age* (October 20, 1934) the sound of the plane's engines had abruptly cut out.

The newspaper quoted two Public Works Department surveyors, A. C. Campbell and R. Henry, who believed they had heard the Miss Hobart making her regular pass beyond Mt Oberon at 10.20 am.

Mr Campbell said he and his colleague had waited for the plane to come into view as it always did. But instead, the drone of the engines suddenly ceased — and the men were confronted by an empty sky.

"We were positive it had been an aeroplane engine, because everything was so still and the sky was clear and sunny," he said.

Two nights later an immense light was seen hovering over Bass Strait.

Collier officer J. Millington (quoted in *The Age*, October 22) said he initially imagined the light was a distress flare.

But then he realised that was impossible — because it was "far too large" and hanging motionless.

Meanwhile, *The Melbourne Herald* recorded that a Mt Best reader had seen a peculiarly-shaped cloud hanging over the ocean, near the plane's last known location.

No trace of the Miss Hobart, her passengers and two pilots was ever found.

Less than a year later — on October 2, 1935 — another airliner, the Loina, vanished in similarly bizarre circumstances over the strait.

The plane left Melbourne's Essendon airport for Western Junction, Tasmania at 8.15 am. At 9.51, the pilot, Captain A.N. Evans radioed that he was about to land at Flinders Island. That was the last anyone heard from the Loina.

The bodies of the pilot and five passengers were never found. The plane seemed simply to have vanished from the sky.

Then, late in the day, the searchers discovered wreckage that astonished and puzzled them.

From south-west of Settlement Point they retrieved three mangled chairs and a petrol tank — so incredibly telescoped that it suggested the plane had dived at a terrific rate, shattering almost to splinters on impact.

Explanation

The managing director of the De Havilland Company, Murray Jones, told *The Age* (October 3, 1935): "There is no explanation."

In May, 1942, the Bass Strait mystery deepened. A startled RAAF crew reportedly told their superior officers that a silvery globe had pursued their Beaufort bomber for five minutes over the strait.

While the object hovered and darted around the plane its radio and direc-

(continued on page 13)



★ PLUMBER Roy Manifold fluked this startling photo of an object soaring above Bass Strait. The picture was taken on October 21, 1978 — just 20 minutes before Frederick Valentich, who was two kilometres away, disappeared. INSET: Missing pilot Valentich.

STANDARD, Southend, England - Nov. 3, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFO buzzes pier

A BRIGHTLY coloured UFO hovering over Southend Pier has been seen by a family living on the seafloor.

Barbara Gay and her parents Ernie and Anne Fisher spotted the strange shape hovering opposite their Eastern Esplanade home last Wednesday evening at about 6.45pm.

Barbara, 32, has never seen a UFO before and protests vehemently: "I'm not a crank."

"But I can't believe what we saw and I want to know if other people have had similar experiences."

It was mum who first spotted the UFO in an area which experts say is a corridor for visitors from other worlds. Barbara said: "She said: 'look at

that' and I said: 'that's a big star'."

"Then we got the binoculars out and we all looked and agreed it wasn't a star. We held the glasses really close to the patio doors and saw it change its shape and its colour."

The bizarre object floated for about an hour, in the same position to the right of the pier, before flying off.

(continued from page 12 - TRUTH, Melbourne,
Victoria, Australia - Jan. 20, 1990)

tion-finding equipment refused to work. They resumed operation when the object sped away.

Next plane to vanish in the strait was a Fuji light aircraft, returning from King Island to Moorabbin on Christmas Eve, 1969.

The pilot radioed that he was losing height, but hoped to make it to the mainland. No wreckage or bodies were found.

As far back as 1870 there have been baffling reports of ships vanishing without trace.

In 1870, the Harlech Castle with 23 crew disappeared at the eastern end of Bass Strait.

Thirty-one years later, the S.S. Federal and 22

crew headed into the strait and vanished.

Particularly puzzling was the case of the German cargo vessel, Ferdinand Fischer.

The captain, Hans Arfmann, steered her out of Port Phillip Heads on January 30, 1906.

The wheat-carrying ship, with 23 passengers, was never heard from again. There was no wreckage, no survivors.

In 1979 the yacht, Charleston, sailing across Bass Strait to compete in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race, disappeared.

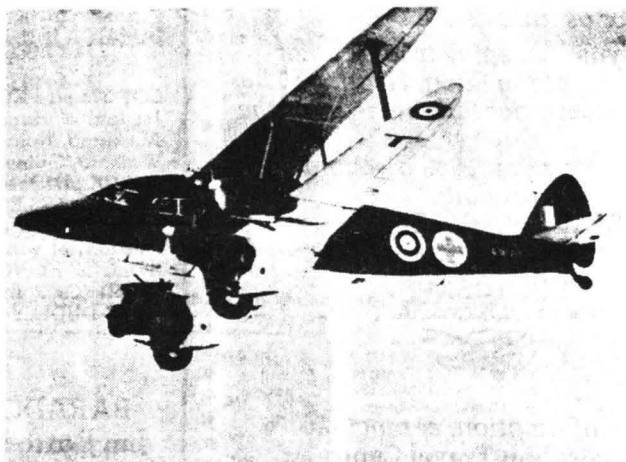
Position

The Hobart yacht ra-

dioed her last position as 40 kilometres south-east of Babel Island in the Flinders group on December 10.

A Japanese fishing boat later reported seeing the Charleston near where she gave her position, but not a single item of wreckage was ever found.

More recent cases include the 7.3 metre yacht Brenda, which inexplicably vanished on her maiden voyage from Stanley to King Island in May, 1982, the trawler Anntek, which disappeared near Mallacoota in August, 1983 and a Bulgarian yachtman who vanished off Wilson's Promontory in February, 1984, during a round-the-world tour.



★ THE Miss Hobart, a DH86 ... disappeared October 19, 1934.

Secret base in depths, says UFO probe man

WAS the missing yacht Great Expectations snatched by UFO aliens?

Quite possibly, according to the theory of expert Colin Norris.

He claims that many boats and planes missing in Bass Strait have been victims of alien kidnappers.

Norris also claims Bass Strait is a secret underwater base for UFOs and could be responsible for many mystery disappearances.

He believes UFOs probably are responsible for dozens of ships and planes vanishing in the troubled "Bass Strait Triangle".

Norris, the director of the Australian International UFO Research Organisation, says: "The Australian Government knows more about UFO kidnaps than it's letting on."

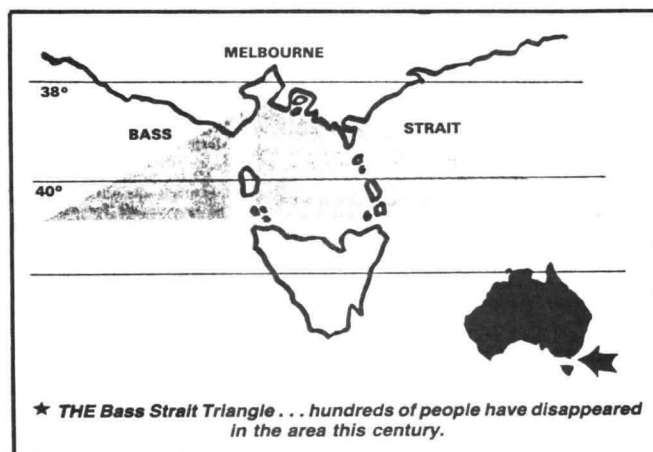
"I believe our authorities are powerless to prevent what's happening — so (in line with governments elsewhere) they put out denials, in the hope of preventing panic."

"I just happen to be someone who disagrees with that philosophy. I think Australians are mature enough — and sensible enough — to be trusted with the truth."

Norris says Bass Strait is only one of several "hot spots" where UFO abductions occur.

"Other bases can be found underground and in the lakes in the USA, Paraguay, Brazil and elsewhere," he says.

"UFOs have a particular affinity for water. The ocean depths seem to suit them — both as hiding places and, possibly, as sources of fuel."



★ THE Bass Strait Triangle ... hundreds of people have disappeared in the area this century.

WESTERN GAZETTE, Yeovil, England - Oct. 26, 1989 CR: T. Good

Yeovil Comment by George Willey

UFOs over the South West?

ONLY one thing is certain about the latest reported sighting of a UFO in the skies over Dorset this week — that it will be officially ignored or dismissed by the authorities.

It will have that much in common with the many thousands of alleged sightings of unidentified flying objects that have come in from all over the world for many years now. The fact that they are so universally written off and explained away as non-happenings by the authorities has itself become a phenomenon.

This week, a Yeovil couple claim, with earnest genuineness, to have seen a glowing UFO in the skies above the giant at Cerne Abbas near Dorchester.

The oblong craft, fluorescent green with a red circular glow towards its rear, was travelling at

great speed over the famous 180 feet long figure carved in the chalk.

It then just disappeared from view, according to the amazed couple who saw it.

Students in this field might find it remarkable that, unknown to this couple, a similar sighting was reported the following night at South Petherton in Somerset. When they plucked up courage to report the Dorset sighting they had no idea there had been a subsequent one.

The couple from Yeovil, who do not want to be named, said they saw the unidentified flying object while travelling on the A352 road near Sherborne.

The woman said: "I thought at first it was a shooting star. But it was too big and the wrong colour. It was only there for a few seconds and then it zipped off."

She said it was travelling extremely fast, much faster than a plane. Her husband who works with aircraft said it was a flying saucer straight away, she said, adding: "It wasn't a plane. He knew it must be a UFO."

She said they did not wish to be identified because of possible public reaction to their story. This adds to the problem of credibility.

Talk of UFOs has gained impetus following the Russians reporting that aliens had landed in their country. But that may not have added credibility.

However, there have been a number of reported UFO sightings in Dorset and in the South West we have particularly encountered the phenomena of the mystery circles — flattened grass in sometimes huge symmetrical circles. No satisfactory explanation has ever been given. Will we ever know?

Saucers light up the sky in new spate of sightings

SOUTHEND-on-Sea is the place to be even for aliens, according to a UFO expert.

Ron West of Essex UFO Watch says he has been flooded with sightings of UFOs over the past month with people from Billericay to Westcliff claiming they have seen strange, unexplained sights.

The latest report comes from two 11-year-old girls on Canvey when their Halloween night out turned into a close encounter as they watched what they described as a flying saucer with red, blue and white flashing lights speed off across the estuary.

Angela Daniel and Hanna White, of Canvey, said: "We had been out for about two hours."

"Suddenly there were three massive lights in the sky which dropped very quickly before speeding off across the estuary."

Mr West said: "This month we have had the largest number of what we call contact sightings I can remember."

Sightings from South Woodham, Billericay, Canvey, Pitsea and Southend all claim to have seen the white oval object surrounded by coloured lights at different times during the month, but all say it hovered for a considerable time before flying off at great speed.

Mr West said: "The news has been dominated over the past weeks by the reports coming out of Russia of aliens landing."

"I really think events in Southend could eclipse that incident soon."

Anyone who wishes to report a sighting is asked to contact the UFO Hotline on 0268 286079.

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England
Nov. 6, 1989 CR: T. Good

Mystery UFO spotted again

THE mysterious UFO which is travelling through Dorset skies at night has been spotted by a Broadstone family.

Mrs Anita Larby (37) of Allenby Road, Waterloo Estate, saw an oblong-shaped flying craft with flashing blue, red and yellow lights on Monday night and reported the event to the police on Tuesday morning.

That was just hours before the Echo printed a report in yesterday's newspaper detailing how a Yeovil couple spied a glowing UFO over the giant at Cerne Abbas.

Mrs Larby, a divorced mother of two, couldn't believe it when she saw the UFO and then read the Echo report. She said: "I was amazed that someone else had seen it. I didn't know about the Echo story at the time."

Police confirmed the call at 10.30am yesterday and that the UFO had been seen between 8.30pm and 8.45pm the previous night.

Mrs Larby said her two children, Danny (11) and Rosie (10), saw the strange object from a bedroom window. Mrs Larby thought they were talking about fireworks until she also cast eyes on the slow-moving thing.

She said: "It was over Poole town centre. It had come from Broadstone and was heading towards Creekmoor. It was hovering and very slow. We watched it for a full 15 minutes."

"It was oblong-shaped and rotating with flashing lights. It wasn't a plane because as soon as it disappeared a plane came over and it wasn't anything like that."

Mrs Larby said she tried to take a photo but it was too far away by the time she got hold of a camera.

She said: "I was not surprised to see it. I believe in UFOs and life on other planets. I am not afraid of the unknown."

She said the unusual sighting would probably be reported to the MOD.



UFO spotters Anita Larby, Rosie and Danny

CR: T. Good



JOHN PINKNEY

INVESTIGATING THE INCREDIBLE

FAMILY IN GRIP OF UGLY ALIENS

UGLY alien beings, which seemingly cause time to run in reverse, are rattling the residents of an Adelaide suburban house.

Victims of the apparent UFO intrusion are "Andy", a 20-year-old electronics apprentice, his student sister "Sue", 17, and their mother, "Jill".

Because they are already under severe psychological strain, the family has asked me not to reveal their real names.

I have referred them to Colin Norris, head of South Australia's UFO investigation group, for help and counselling.

When Andy first contacted me, he imagined the house was being haunted by his dead grandfather's ghost.

I immediately rang him to say that the time-distortions he had described in his letter sounded more like classic UFO phenomena.

But Andy was ahead of me. He revealed that several days earlier two uncanny entities had become visible.

One, which he and his sister call "Grey Thing", is a three-fingered humanoid male, about 1.2 metres tall, which regularly bolts through the house in a blur of speed.

The other, "The Nurse", is a female with huge black eyes, which appears at night to forcibly remove tissue samples from him.

This being also shows him pictures of another world, by tapping his forehead with a copper-tipped rod.

Son molested by grim ghost

Andy and Sue say their unnerving experience began earlier last year, when they were watching a late movie on TV.

"We heard footsteps approaching the front door — and I went out to check," Andy recalls.

"But no one was there.

"Five minutes later, however, we got a horrific fright, when the lounge-room door opened of its own accord — and the room suddenly went cold.

"When this happened we both started weeping, for reasons we couldn't explain.

"After about a minute, the door closed, the temperature returned to normal and we dried our eyes.

"I went into the passage, hoping to discover what had happened.

"To my amazement, it was bitterly cold — and the paintings on the walls were crooked.

"After straightening them, I rejoined my sister in the lounge. We were both really upset.

"But then came the big shock.

"Everything began to happen again, backwards.

"The cold returned... the lounge door opened... we burst into uncontrollable tears... then we heard the footsteps, moving away from the front door.

"Since that night, this back-and-forth phenomenon has troubled us many times.

"A friend also experienced it one night — and was so scared he refused to visit us again.

"Up to this time we assumed everything was being caused by my grandfather, who died back in the '60s, haunting us.

"But then things happened that totally changed our minds.

"One afternoon, in the hall, we felt another intense surge of cold. Then a grey-hooded and caped figure flashed past us at colossal speed. Its face was invisible, but it had long, bony arms.

"It was only in view for a couple of seconds, but our Australian terrier went absolutely apeshit — snarling, whimpering and huddling against the wall.

"After that day, we all saw the figure quite regularly.

"We called it Grey Thing. We took quite a few photographs of it hurtling past — but when they were developed, only blank walls were visible.

"One day, Grey Thing gave my sister a sharp shove while she was taking a plate from the microwave.

"Another time we saw it sitting on the peak of our house roof with its hood pulled over its face.

"As though afraid we'd recognise it.

"Next to turn up was the creature I call the Nurse.

"I'd been sitting up in bed reading a novel.

"At 3.22 am, deciding I should give it away for the night, I turned out the light.

"As I slid down into bed, I suddenly felt very afraid.

"I looked across the room and saw a huge grey being, standing in what seemed to be a shimmering heat haze, staring at me.

"I tried to focus my eyes on her, but couldn't.

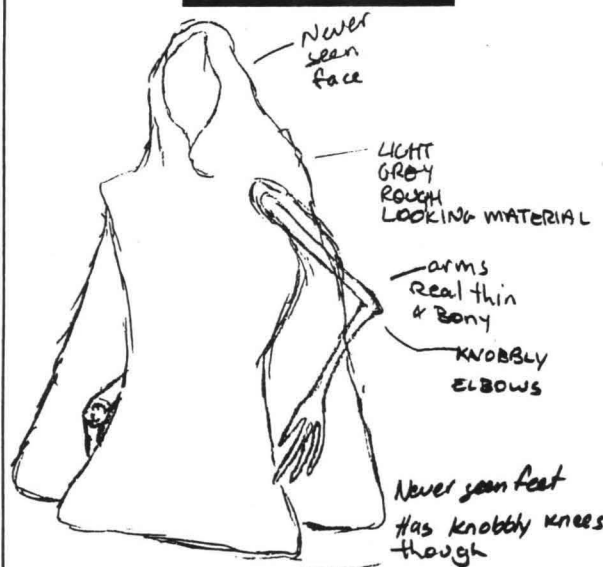
"Then I heard her voice in my head, telling me, sternly but kindly, to roll over.

"I didn't want to obey. But my brain felt disengaged from my body and I did what she wanted.

"Next, I felt two sharp jabs — one in my neck, at the base of the skull; the other in my left side.

"Then she told me to roll

GREY THING



★ HOW "Andy" saw the Grey Thing which bolts through his house.

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England
Oct. 31, 1989 CR: T. Good

The hovering light that wasn't a star

A BRIGHTLY-coloured UFO hovering over Southend Pier has been seen by a family living on the seafloor.

Miss Barbara Gay and her parents Ernie and Anne Fisher spotted the strange shape hovering opposite their Eastern Esplanade home on Wednesday evening about 6.45pm.

Barbara, 32, has never seen a UFO before and protests vehemently: "I'm not a crank. But I can't believe what we saw and I want to know if other people have had similar experiences."

It was her mother who first spotted the UFO in an area which experts say is a corridor for visitors from other worlds.

Barbara said: "She said: 'Look at that,' and I said:

"That's a big star".

"Then we got the binoculars out and we all looked and agreed it wasn't a star. We held the glasses close to the patio doors and saw it change its shape and colour.

"It was a brilliant white in a diamond shape, then it changed to an arrow, then it looked like a spider's web which was like a kaleidoscope of colours."

The bizarre object floated for about an hour, in the same position to the right of the Pier, before flying off towards London.

Barbara added: "We've never seen anything like it before and we've lived on the sea front for 10 years."

She said the experience took their breath away and the light from it was so brilliant it could not have been a plane.

EVENING LEADER, Wrexham, England
Nov. 8, 1989 CR: T. Good

Mystery flier baffles man

MYSTERIOUS bright red lights in the sky left a local man bemused.

Mr John Gillam had just left his home at 3 Pant Glas, Sychdyn, at 8.20pm when he spotted the two very bright lights.

"I thought they were helicopters at first but realised they weren't as they weren't moving.

"By the time I got to Northop I thought it may have been the road's bright lights reflecting."

But he ruled that out as well as he got to Flint, when by this time

there were four lights over the estuary.

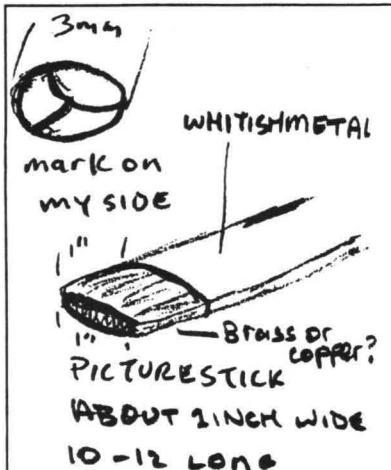
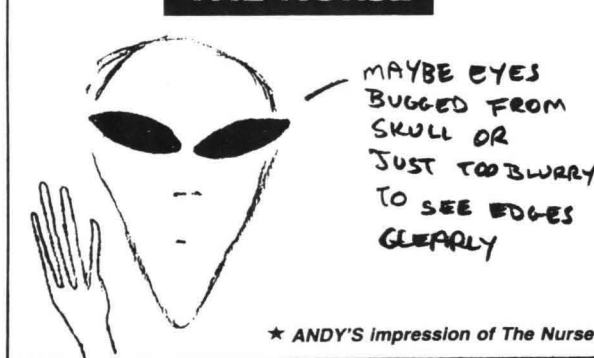
"Quite were no stars so I'm bemused — and they weren't flares."

Mr Gillam, who works at Kirby's of Wrexham, said when he arrived at the leisure centre in Flint quite a few of the people there were talking about the same thing.

"I thought it was odd but I'm sure there's a logical explanation for it."

A spokesman for RAF Valley said there was no night flying on Monday night.

THE NURSE



★ THE picturestick and mark on his side.

"I fell out onto the pavement and lay there for five minutes while my friend tried to get sense out of me.

"I've since found a small mark in my skin, at that spot. It's a three-millimetre circle with a pyramid-shaped bump in the middle."

The strange mark seems to have aroused buried memories for Andy.

"I've begun to feel that this kind of thing has happened to me before," he says.

"I can now remember someone I thought was my dead grandfather visiting my room on the night of my 13th birthday — and lots of other people I didn't know, coming to my bedside over the years.

"I also vaguely recall going into the local park, when I was six or seven, and having a long conversation with

someone I couldn't fix my eyes on. They had the same haze around them as the Nurse."

Andy senses that he is the focus of the visitors' attention — and wishes desperately that his sister and mother could be spared.

"Happily, they haven't been physically molested by these creatures yet," he told me.

"But like me, they've been shoved and stared at and generally treated like cattle."

• Andy's sense of helplessness is shared by tens of thousands of alleged UFO "contactees" worldwide.

In many countries, victims have formed support groups, whose scientific advisors are trying to probe the mystery of what seems to be a subtle, silent invasion.

Share your experiences

- HAVE you:
- Seen or heard a ghost?
 - Spotted or photographed UFOs?
 - Dreamed about the future?

If you have had any kind of supernatural experience, John Pinkney wants to hear from you. Write to him at Truth, 272 Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne, Vic 3003.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - Nov. 14, 1989 CR: T. Good

Green men visit the reds

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

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

Days later, two soldiers on duty at the airport there saw a figure of fluorescent green about four feet tall who beamed himself up into space.

Another paper said a farmer 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."

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

What did she see?

A RECENT television documentary on 'crop circles' has prompted a local woman to recount her experiences of the phenomenon in the early 1960s.

The television programme, "Squaring the Circles," examined the unexplained appearance of flattened circles in cornfields.

Miss Yvonne Adams from Eastwick says that she was hitching a lift from Winchester in a lorry in 1963, at Radley Bottom. "The lorry driver and I saw what we laughingly called a UFO as we went through the barrows looking west before Beacon Hill. The next week the NWN even had a photo of the farmer's field - it may have been near Litchfield, in that area anyway - where there was a mysterious flattened circle in his cornfield with no tracks or marks leading to it.

"Whether the reporter got carried away or not it was said to have a burn hole in the middle and four post hole marks (from flying saucer legs!) on the outside."

She said the circle was not like the 260 reported this year, and pre-dates all of the others by at least 12 years. She said that this was just one of many 'tales of mystery' associated with the Eastwick area.

MID-SUSSEX TIMES, Haywards Heath, England - Oct. 20, 1989 CR: T. Good

TODAY, London, England - Oct. 31, 1989 CR: T. Good

UFO BLASTS TV CREW FROM CIRCLE OF CORN

Couple's close encounter with a suspected UFO

SOUTH WALES WEEKLY ARGUS, Newport, Wales Nov. 16, 1989 CR: T. Good

A PONTYPOOL couple are convinced they have witnessed a UFO after waking in the early hours of the morning to see a bright, hovering light travelling up the valley beyond their home.

And the couple say they were startled to find their nighting was similar to a "flying saucer" seen by three Cwmillery boys last week.

Glyn and Toni Edwards, of Penywaun Street, Pontypool, say they were in their attic bedroom when they saw the mysterious object at around 5am on Tuesday, October 24. Glyn, a 39-year-old music teacher, described what happened:

"I got up to have a drink of water and saw this ball of light moving

from north to south along the valley.

"It was a clear night - we have a view of the whole valley from our room. The thing was travelling at a very slow speed, much too slow to be a plane or helicopter.

"But what was more striking was there was no noise at all, no engine or background. Noise carries a long way in the valley and we would have heard anything - but it was completely still," said Mr Edwards.

Mrs Toni Edwards also saw the light.

"I saw very bright lights like searchlights trained on the trees, it was moving so slowly it was almost static. It was completely the wrong shape for a plane," said 36-year-old Mrs Edwards, who works as an organiser for Gwent county council school meals.

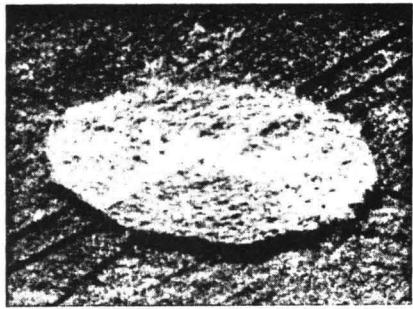
They reported the in-

cident to the UFO Society, who logged the sighting.

The Edwards say they were then shocked to read the story of the Cwmillery boys' frightening experience in last Tuesday's Argus. Lee Holt, Carl Jones and Sydney McLoughlin were playing near Cwmillery Lake when they saw a bright object travelling down the hillside.

"By the description it was the same object, it moved the same way. The only difference was they said they saw it burn up and disappear, whereas ours just passed out of view," said Mr Edwards.

"I have never seen anything like this before and it would take a lot of scientific evidence before I would readily accept it was a 'spaceship.' But I certainly cannot explain what we saw," added Mr Edwards.



PUZZLE: Giant circle of flattened corn

A SUDDEN blast of noise may hold the key to the mystery of flattened circles in cornfields.

It was recorded by a BBC TV crew at the centre of one of the circles, which some people say could be caused by UFOs.

There was no sign of a source for the sound, but the man they were interviewing said he felt an invisible force. Today viewers will have a chance of helping to solve the long-running puzzle when a tape of the sound and film of the drama are played on Daytime Live on BBC 1.

An incredible 270 giant circles, mainly in cornfields, were reported between May and September this year, against only 94 in 1988.

But the sound blast experienced by BBC producer David Morgenstern and his team is the first definite evidence of energy forces at work.

Technicians at Broadcasting House have spent weeks analysing the noise but still cannot identify it.

breakthrough we have been looking for.

"Something beyond our scientific knowledge is going on and we cannot rule out extra-terrestrial activity."

Producer Morgenstern said: "We picked up very powerful radio interference from the centre of the circle, but when we moved out it disappeared."

"BBC crews tend to be very cynical about this sort of thing but we were very taken aback."

"Now we want people to watch the film and ring us in with any information about crop circles they may have."

The team were filming in a cornfield near Silbury Hill, Wilts, site of one of the most ancient monuments in Europe.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - Dec. 9, 1989 CR: P. Noonan

The air force and police in Belgium are investigating numerous UFO sightings near the border with the Netherlands and West Germany. Dozens of people and police officials said they've seen luminous objects in the sky, with some describing a flying platform scanning the surface with huge searchlights.

Interview

The blast happened during an interview with electronics engineer Pat Delgado, co-author of the bestseller Circular Evidence about the mystery.

He said yesterday: "It was so loud the sound engineer tore off his headphones and I felt myself being physically moved by the energy force."

"This could be the

TRUTH, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - Jan. 6, 1990 CR: P. Norman



★ THE Knowles family: (from left) Patrick, Faye, Sean and Wayne.

Close encounters

by Mark Bentley

THE RADAR showed everything was normal, the police reported nothing unusual, people carried on their business. . . unaware that Haywards Heath was being visited by aliens.

After a UFO was spotted in Russia last week, these staff and pupils at a Haywards Heath school claim that they, too, have had a close encounter.

Over half the pupils of St Joseph's RC School, and two of the staff, say a strange UFO appeared above their playground, floating above the trees for several minutes before slowly moving on.

After the UFO had left the chil-

dren of one class tried to draw what they had seen without conferring. The results were remarkably similar.

Melissa Morrison, aged ten, from Centre, described it as three metres wide and two metres high. She said "It was a round saucer with windows all around and dangly things hanging out of the bottom."

Brave Melissa said she could not see through the windows, but she was sure the aliens were very friendly. "They were just passing through," she said.

Teachers Sue Weller, right, and Jo Ferris, left, confirmed that

an eerie object, with grey-peach coloured legs dangling below it, had passed over the school.

"There was definitely something in the sky," said Mrs Ferris.

The teachers believe there must be some logical explanation, and suggested a barrage balloon may have broken free.

But though Gatwick Airport said nothing unusual had crossed their radar screens, Melissa and her friends insist other people may have seen this craft from another world.

"Some people outside Sainsbury's might have seen it," said Melissa.

Also pictured are teacher Mary Wells and pupils Lisa Birch, left and Katie Bright.

'Space dust' seen before

THE shiny black dust found on the Knowles family's car after a UFO allegedly lifted it from the Nullarbor Plain was not the first of its kind.

According to British UFO investigator Jenny Randles, author of the bestseller, Skycrash, similar glittering powder was recovered from a saucer-buzzed sedan in Taos, New Mexico, on July 5, 1978.

"Many witnesses saw the

craft hovering above the vehicle," she writes.

"The powdery residue it left behind was collected in a jar and sent to the Schoenfeld Laboratory for analysis.

"The material was found to be organic in nature, with characteristics similar to

teflon. Spectrometer tests also found potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron and titanium."

A scientist at Melbourne's La Trobe University reported that the Knowles car dust was rich in chlorine.

Jenny Randles adds that similar dust has been found on the hides of cattle, in the wake of UFO incidents.

"The coats of some cattle fluoresced under ultraviolet light, as if they had been chemically marked," she writes.

"When samples of hair were analysed, they were found to have on them a powder which was high in potassium and magnesium."

Unidentified Circles Found



A farmer's wife examines a perfect circle of flattened wheat. Outside the ring the earth is soft but inside the circle it is cement hard as though compressed by a colossal force.

Unidentified circles found December 6, 1989, on a Turriff West property are still mystifying to scientists, these 12 in all circles, 5 of them with the swirl anti clockwise and soil under them like cement, the other 7 have the complete anti clockwise swirl but not solid under them. They commence a short distance from the home dam then in westerly position then a pause, 5 main ones southerly in elbow shape in wheat paddock.

The discovery of these circles climaxes a number of incidents the Turriff West family have endured. Water missing from tank 1987; son awoke to a

CR: P. Norman

very high pitched sound in sky like a jet, could not see anything then a repeat then no more. 1989, a light was seen about 9 o'clock one evening, the sheep were troubled, 700 ewes and lambs in the paddock quite beserk, in panic.

Then the son saw a huge yellow to red light hovering over the paddock at first thought it was spotlights but realised it was far too large for that.

A high pitched noise like a helicopter swishing with a high pitched frequency, never heard a sound really like it.

The family looked the paddock over some 3 hours later. The sheep still very unsettled and in the middle of the paddock an eagle wandering wings out

completely disorientated. It appeared something to do with the light hovering — affected its sense of balance.

Several days after this a mysterious light hovered over the dam of a neighbour. She watched it for some 15 minutes before alarming her husband. When he came out it had vanished.

The U.F.O. activity around these wheat areas definitely seems to be intensifying; mysterious circles carved in crops are now puzzling scientists worldwide seeming to be appearing in growing numbers. Rings neatly carved into British fields are displayed in an extraordinary book, Circular Evidence (Bloomsbury \$39.95).

Engineers Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews present outstanding photos, startlingly similar to the formations found at Turriff West.

These circles have been investigated by Australia's most senior U.F.O. group who are in contact with leading scientists in England and America who are endeavouring to solve the enigma.

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, England
Nov. 29, 1989 CR: T. Good

SKY MYSTERY

IT SEEMS nobody else saw the red cylindrical shape that hovered above me at Maidencombe last week. But several readers were quick to tell of seeing similar objects in South Devon skies.

Others just rang to talk about it and gratifyingly, believed me.

But not all. One woman who must have an equally low opinion of journalists and my eyesight, suggested it was her young son out with his balloon.

UFO claim 'backed by US base'

MYSTERY today surrounds an "enormous" object which appeared to hover over a county town for a full 30 minutes last night.

The man who spotted it claims a US Air Force base backed up his sighting on its high-powered radar system — and they did not know what it was either.

Robert Barnes, aged 32, was walking pet dog, Billy, near his Upton-upon-Severn home at about 6.30 pm last night when he saw the object.

"It was about 500 feet up and towards the north-east," said the unemployed welder, of Riverside Close. "It looked like Venus."

"It looked like a much-too-bright star. At first I thought it was an air-balloon. It was huge — enormous."

"It lit up the ground in a quadrant. It was almost like a beam but it didn't look like the beam of a torch. It looked like a light which wasn't very defined."

"In the end I got bored and walked away and then I returned and walked back into the light."

"There was no sound whatsoever. It did move — but it moved very, very slowly."

Robert insisted he had not imagined the sighting. "I don't believe in ghosts or anything like that," he said. "I'm not that sort of person."

When he got home he immediately got the phone numbers of the RAF base at Brize Norton and the US base at Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire.

"The English people weren't very helpful," he said, "but the Americans were very keen. They said they could see it on their screens but they didn't know what it was."

West Mercia police said today they had received no other reports of the sighting.

And the US base at Upper Heyford was this morning shut down for the American Thanksgiving holiday.

EVENING NEWS, Worcester, England - Nov. 23, 1989 CR: T. Good

SUNRAYSIA DAILY, Mildura, Victoria,
Australia - Jan. 29, 1990

Speed circles made by UFOs says expert

Four perfect circles found in a wheat field near Speed are indications of UFO activities in the Mallee.

Visiting UFO investigations officer Mr Paul Norman made this claim in Mildura last week.

The four circles were discovered on December 6 last year.

Mr Norman first examined the circles in late December. He returned to Speed last week to do more detailed tests.

Mr Norman has been a full time investigating officer with the International Committee for UFO Research since 1976.

"People will try to explain these circles as the work of a whirlwind, he said.

"Whirlwinds could not flatten wheat like this."

"The four circles all have sharp edges and the wheat is bent in a definite pattern."

Mr Norman said soil samples had been taken for analysis. He is convinced this analysis will prove animals were not the cause.

"The soil under the wheat was as hard as a rock," he said.

"When you tapped the ground, it made the same noise as if you were hitting a table."

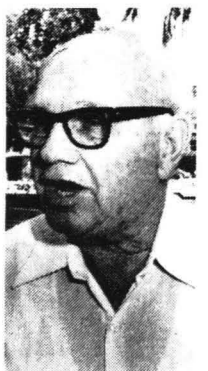
"Four similar circles were found in a wheat field at Beulah in December 1981."

"Investigations at that time proved the circles were not made by man or animal."

Mr Norman was in Mildura investigating claims that water has been mysteriously 'disappearing' from tanks on some farms in the area.

"We suspect UFO's are drawing water from these tanks to use as fuel," he said.

"People don't realise that water, which has a high percentage of hydrogen, could be converted into power for these craft."



● A true believer... Mr Norman is convinced the Speed circles were made by UFOs.

Mr Norman would be happy to hear from any Sunraysia resident who could add to his research.

He is interested in further discoveries in wheat fields, particularly those which have occurred near water supplies.

He can be contacted at Box 43, Morrabbin, Vic.

CR: P. Norman

SUNRAYSIA DAILY, Mildura, Victoria, Australia - Jan. 13, 1990 CR: P. Norman

Lights, marks point to UFOs?

Unidentified Flying Objects and flying saucers in Sunraysia?

Well, according to Mildura Identity Fred Fields their presence in our skies is very real, and he believes he has the photographs to prove it.

Mr Fields claims he has seen numerous "very bright objects" in the sky over the past year which he could not identify.

Five weeks ago, Mr Fields' brother Harold discovered unexplainable "scorch

marks" in a paddock on his property at Yaapeet, near Hopetoun.

The marks were circular in shape, measuring about 14m across.

"Harold was rounding up sheep one morning when he noticed this bare patch on the property. It wasn't there the previous night," Mr Fields said yesterday.

"I had a look at the marks where they landed and you could see where all the grass had been burnt out," he said.

He said similar scorch marks had appeared mysteriously on the property about 12 months ago.

"I have seen big bright lights sail across the sky many times at night, but you are never game enough to say something in case people laugh," he said.

"This latest mark was incredible. The heat must have been great because it just seemed to dry everything."

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 19, 1990 CR: G. Conway

UFOs stir wonder in Eastern Canada

Canadian Press

QUEBEC — Unidentified flying objects seen this week over Quebec City and off the east coast of New Brunswick are a puzzle.

One Quebec City observer, identified by the Le Soleil newspaper only as Christian, 29, said he was walking about 10 p.m. when he spotted eight forms in the sky.

"It was very bizarre. They were like rings, with four white and yellow lights inside. There was no noise," said Christian.

At one point, he said, one of the rings accelerated and moved into

position ahead of the others.

The newspaper said it first heard about the UFOs — circular or spherical in shape — Tuesday night from people who saw them from the streets.

Several people phoned the police, who had no comment.

An airline pilot even reported an inexplicable phenomenon in the air as he landed at Quebec City airport.

But radar screens there picked up nothing unusual.

The response was the same at Dorval and Mirabel airports near Montreal, although Francois Bourbeau, a member of the Ovni-Alerte

UFO-spotting network said nine strange objects flew in formation over Mirabel airport just two minutes before a similar viewing was reported over Quebec City.

"Something that flies that far that fast isn't made by man," Bourbeau said.

And a New Brunswick observer, Charles Roussel of Saint-Pont near Tracadie, said he saw a large ball moving above the trees at great speed.

The ball stopped still for about 40 seconds then disappeared behind the trees. "Many people here said they spotted the same thing a little later," Roussel said.



MONDAY PROFILE

20 years on the trail of elusive Bigfoot

Persistent pursuer has yet to meet his legendary quarry

By **MATTHEW SOERGER**

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Bob Brienzo has tromped through the Louisiana bayous, the forests of the Northwest and up the flanks of Pikes Peak. He's checked out rumors, followed solid leads and discarded out-right lies.

He's searched for more than 20 years, and has yet to come face-to-face with his prey.

Brienzo is still a few steps behind Bigfoot, the hairy, elusive creature of legends and supermarket tabloids.

He thinks he might have seen a Bigfoot once, in North Dakota on the Canadian border, after following 21-inch footprints sunk more than an inch into the frozen ground.

He wrecked a snowmobile trying to catch up to the dark, shaggy, upright animal in the distance, he said.

And he thinks he's heard it once, a chilling sound between a big cat's cry and the call of a woman or a baby.

But Brienzo, for the sake of argument, will grant that Bigfoot might not even exist.

"The Bigfoot motif has been in man's legends for centuries. So I like to play devil's advocate on myself, even though I think there's a definite element of truth in these stories. But if man were going to invent a monster, a so-called bogeyman, Bigfoot would be it...."

But Brienzo has seen too much, heard too many stories, to put aside his belief that if he

could just put it all together he could create a picture of... what? A semihuman creature? A missing link in evolution? Or a creature from another world or dimension?

He doesn't know. "I'm not an expert," he says. "I don't consider myself an expert on something that's not even proven to exist."

Brienzo is 40, a high school teacher in Houston with degrees in physics, education and medieval literature and mythology. As a teen-ager, he scored high on ESP tests, which began his involvement in the paranormal. Soon he focused on trying to prove the existence of Bigfoot.

He now organizes expeditions that strike out after the creature whenever they receive tips that seem solid.

Brienzo has looked in the South, the Midwest, the Northwest and the Canadian Rockies. He's also led four expeditions to the mountains west of Colorado Springs following stories about strange creatures spotted there.

Dan Masias reported seeing two blond, shaggy creatures outside his Green Mountain Falls house on a March night in 1987. Other reports came in after Masias' was publicized.

Masias, who says he has seen strange footprints around his house, theorizes that the creatures live in abandoned mines and limestone caves around Pikes Peak.

Brienzo, meanwhile, confesses to being confounded by the Colorado sightings. Lab



Bob Brienzo

tests of hair left by a creature that stuck a hairy forearm through a screen door a few months later show it to be a primate, close to human, he says. But the footprints are like no others he's seen, and there had been no previous sightings in Colorado.

"It doesn't jibe, to be honest. Even though I believe some of the witnesses are being honest, I'm not sure their stories are right," he says. "I'd be hesitant to label it. But it's definitely something out of the norm...."

Brienzo isn't yet ready to say what a Bigfoot is.

"When you talk about the fringe elements, there are those propounding that it's a non-three-dimensional creature that's broken through some dimensional barrier. And I've heard people suggest UFOs."

Then Brienzo pauses. "When I first heard this, I used to say somebody should shoot me if I say this. But at 80% of the Bigfoot sightings we've gone to, there have been UFO sightings. I'm not saying that's true, but I have noticed there's a definite correlation

— even though it doesn't make any sense."

Brienzo discounts the majority of Bigfoot reports, calling them the work of crackpots, publicity-seekers or simply people mistaken about what they think they saw.

Brienzo has his share of critics, too.

"He's a frustrating guy," says Eric Beckjord, director of the Crypto-Zoology Museum in Malibu, Calif., who complains that Brienzo won't share significant amounts of his Bigfoot evidence with others.

"It seems when he gets something, he's not giving it to the right people," said Beckjord. "My feeling is that these things belong in museums and science labs."

Brienzo doesn't have a solid answer as to why no Bigfoot has even been captured or why its bones have never been found.

"It may not be as simple and dry and clearcut as I like to present to other people. Reality," he says, "has the ability to throw us a few curves."

BOB BRIENZO

Age: 40

Home: Houston

Family: He and his wife, Denise, have no children.

Profession: High school English teacher; amateur Bigfoot tracker.

Quote: "I think I've seen something. But I'm not going to flat out say I saw it.... I think probably the only way to prove (Bigfoot) exists is to bring in the body. But I don't want to be the one to shoot it or encourage someone else to do that."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 30, 1989

Politicians taking Ogopogo plunge

By **MOIRA FARROW**

Sun Staff Reporter

KELOWNA — Politicians plunged into the Ogopogo saga Tuesday as local feeling intensified that the long-laughed-about lake monster could turn out to be more fact than fantasy.

And a group is being formed to protect from violence or exploitation the creature which so many people now claim to have seen.

"There's certainly something out there in the lake — that was a most impressive video," Conservative MP Al Horning (Okanagan Centre) said

after viewing a video of creatures in the lake made recently by car salesman Ken Chaplin of Salmon Arm.

"I think all levels of government must now be concerned to check into this thing scientifically."

Horning said he hopes Chaplin will soon allow him to show a copy of the video to federal cabinet ministers Lucien Bouchard (environment) and Tom Siddon (fisheries).

"As an MP I'm prepared to do all I can to preserve this creature," he said.

Social Credit MLA Cliff Serwa (Okanagan South) saw the video along with Horning and said scientists using sonar equipment should now come in to try to identify whatever is in the lake.

"I've also written to our provincial Environment Minister Bruce Stra-

chan suggesting that an order-in-council could be used to protect the creature but I haven't had a reply yet," he said.

"I think it's now within the realm of possibility that there is a real Ogopogo. The sort of motion by the creatures I saw in the video could not possibly have been faked. It would be incredible for our valley if this turns out to be true."

Fear that whatever is in the lake might be harmed by unscrupulous hunters has spurred Kelowna resident Tauri Atchison to join forces with long-time Ogopogo researcher Arlene Gaal to plan a preservation group.

"We're not formally organized yet because there hasn't been time but we want to monitor any Ogopogo research that goes on here," said Atchison, who described herself as a housewife and mother.

This week she took on her first watchdog job by monitoring the activities of members of the B.C. Cryptozoology Club who spent Monday searching the lake bottom with an underwater video camera — without success.

Garry Sharpe, head of the Okanagan-Similkameen Tourist Association, said his organization faces an extraordinary situation if the "Ogopogo myth which has served us so well" turns out to be reality.

NEWS, Birmingham, AL - Nov. 2, 1989

Arab woman sure she saw a 'Big Foot'

By **Rose Grace**

News staff writer

ARAB — Barbara Demers is taking no chances on another meeting with a creature she called "Big Foot" spotted on Ruth Road last week.

"I will not go back on that dark road anymore," she said. "I never saw nothing like that before in my life."

Mrs. Demers, 49, better known as Aunt Sue, was riding in a van with her nephew when they saw a pair of red eyes larger than a quarter looking up from the roadside, she said. A creature was stooped next to some scattered garbage when the headlights apparently frightened it and it stepped onto the road, she said.

When the creature stood up, it was taller than the van with its swinging arms almost dragging the ground, Mrs. Demers said. The windows were down and she got whiff of a strong odor that she can't describe.

They stopped the van and the creature crossed the road with one step and went into the woods, she said. The creature looked like it would weigh 300 to 400 pounds, and those red eyes looking at her made Mrs. Demers nearly have a heart attack, she said.

People have tried to convince Mrs. Demers that what she saw was a Halloween prank or a bear or maybe a horse, but she stands firm that whatever it was, she has never seen anything like it before.

"There's no way a person could take one step and get all the way across the road like that," she said. "I know I saw something that wasn't supposed to be there."

Archie Anderson, disc jockey at WRAB, said he believes there is something unusual roaming the area. He said a bear had been reported in nearby Morgan City, and a local farmer had a cow with a broken leg and a missing calf that he can't explain.

Arab Police Lt. Danny Harvell said there have been no more reports of a "Big Foot," but he had a call Tuesday of two dogs that had been "savagely attacked" and killed outside the city limits. "That could've been anything," he said, even a pack of rabid dogs.

Anderson said there has been all kinds of things seen and heard, but no good explanations for them.

Mutilation of cats has neighbors concerned

By Joe Tash
Times-Advocate Staff Writer

ESCONDIDO — Humane Society officials are concerned about a rash of cat mutilations that has occurred in a north Escondido neighborhood in recent months.

The society's officers have come across a half-dozen mutilated cats in the past six to 12 months in the Escondido Hills area, which is along North Broadway near Coun-

try Club Lane, said field supervisor Shirley Stewart.

"It's always the same area, it's always the same type of mutilation," said Stewart. Officers have found bloodless cat carcasses with their rear half missing on greenbelt areas in the upper middle class neighborhood.

The culprits may be teen-agers who have read Satanic literature and are mutilating the cats as a "sick prank," said Stewart.

But police, who said they are aware of three of the mutilations in the last month or so, are not so sure who's responsible and why.

"The mutilation of their bodies is suspicious," said Sgt. John Houchin of the department's special investigations unit. Photographs and police reports indicate the carcasses have incisions rather than the bite marks typical of animal attacks.

"It didn't look like predators. It looked like it had to be persons," said Houchin, adding that the reports leave many questions unanswered.

"Who? Motive? Purpose? We don't know," he said. "There's just not enough information."

He said there have been no witnesses and no sign that any sort of ritual was performed. The carcasses have not been arranged in any particular manner.

The incidents don't seem to be linked to the upcoming Halloween holiday because they have occurred over a relatively long period

of time, said Stewart.

The ritual angle emerged in part from an odd visit to the Humane Society. About two months ago, a woman came in because her cat was missing. She said her son attends Escondido High School and that his friends were involved in Satanic rituals, said Stewart.

About the same time, the society found a Doberman that had been dragged by a car around the parking lot at San Pasqual High School. The dog's throat was slit and a pentagram was sketched on the ground next to its carcass, she said.

While county veterinarians think the cat mutilations are the work of coyotes, Stewart said, the society is convinced they were done by humans.

So are the homeowners in the Escondido Hills area.

"The last event was so gruesome, the board of directors decided to alert people," said Jack Shoemaker, an official with two area homeowner's associations.

Fliers warning of the mutilations were distributed to residents, he said. "We suggest that you watch out for your pets' welfare and do not let them out during the night to roam about," the flier said.

Stewart said the mutilations are being taken seriously and could result in misdemeanor or felony charges against offenders. She urged anyone with information about the mutilations to call the Humane Society at 745-4362.

By William Mausteller
The Pittsburgh Press

Ever been just standing around, minding your own business, when all of a sudden — WHAM! — something hits you out of the blue?

Consider, then, the case of Charles A. Chemelli, whose home was not only apparently hit by something out

of the blue — as in sky — but something that was blue — as in toilet-bowl cleaner.

What we're talking about here is the old "blue ice phenomenon," the dropping of high-flying airliners of frozen balls of waste, water and cleaner that have leaked through damaged seals from the plane's toilet holding tanks.

The balls freeze and cling at high

altitudes, but loosen and plunge to the ground as the aircraft descends into warmer temperatures.

And, according to Chemelli, the one that apparently dropped on his Armstrong County home must have been a real humdinger because it left a basketball-size hole in his roof, splattered blue residue on his insulation and cracked his kitchen ceiling.

"That thing must have been really

insulation ... it was pushed down, but there was nothing there."

Chemelli called the state police, explaining:

"I didn't know what happened ... a hole that size pushed into a roof. I didn't know how or why it was there, and I wanted them (the state police) to see it and find out what it was."

"It would take something real heavy and something moving real fast to put a hole in that roof."

He said both he and a trooper searched the yard, looking for material or something that could have made the hole, but they came up empty. He quoted the trooper as saying, "You don't see something like this all the time."

State police, however, provided Chemelli with phone numbers to contact the Federal Aviation Administration at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

His dad, Chuck, called the FAA, said Chemelli, adding, "They came immediately. There were here in two hours after my dad called them. They didn't hesitate, they were right here on the spot."

'Blue ice' from sky crashes into life of Armstrong family

PRESS, Pittsburgh, PA — Jan. 28, 1990 CR: S. Gordon

everything out and couldn't find anything. She even checked outside. We rechecked when I came home.

"Then, on Thursday evening, my daughter (Heather, 16) is lying on the floor in the kitchen, talking on the phone. The light was on, and she says, 'Dad, there's a crack in the ceiling.'"

"I got pretty upset. I got a ladder and went outside. My dad had come

down, and I stuck my head up over the roof and there was a hole up there. I couldn't believe what happened.

"We got a bigger ladder, and I got up there and there was a hole as big as a basketball. I couldn't find anything, no object or anything. But a kind of blue dye, like Sani-flush or something, was splattered on the



Thomas Ondrey/The Pittsburgh Press

Charles Chemelli examines "blue ice" hole in roof of his Armstrong County home

According to Chemelli, the safety investigator told his dad the object that hit his house "came from an airplane."

He said the investigator "took samples of that blue stuff," got an approximate time of when it happened from Chemelli's wife and promised to get back to him.

The investigator could not be reached for comment.

Tomorrow, Chemelli said, his insurance company representative is to arrive.

Meantime, his roof has a hole in it, his kitchen ceiling is cracked and now it's starting to settle.

"You can see where it hit the plaster. It was right above the stove. That was what had me concerned, it hit exactly above the stove. It could have come through. It might really have hurt her."

And, he noted, it could have landed in the yard.

"My kids could have been out there. It could have hit my kids. It's a terrible thing to even think about."

"I'm just glad that if it had to hit something, it hit where it did."

Chemelli said.

"I could never imagine that something like that could happen. The odds are so remote. But I have the hole and everything else to prove it."

That the "blue ice phenomenon" does happen has been confirmed by the FAA which, according to a Los Angeles Times story, estimates that a frozen chunk lands somewhere in the United States on the average of once every two weeks.

There has never been an injury reported from such an incident, the

paper said, although on several occasions, ice chunks have broken off and slammed into engines, causing emergency landings.

"It shouldn't happen," the paper quoted one FAA spokesman as saying, "but it does."

Recent improvements in plumbing technology and more frequent inspections of airplane lavatories have helped reduce such incidents to a small percentage of the more than 7 million commercial flights in the U.S. annually, the paper said.

EVENING STANDARD, London, England
Nov. 21, 1989 CR: T. Good

LONDONER'S DIARY Mystery man of Sumatra found

CONTROVERSY is raging among explorers over the existence of the Gugu, a sort of Yeti which lives in the Sumatra highlands. First Benedict Allen, the adventurer who ate his own pet dog when he was stranded in the Amazon, went on an arduous and inconclusive search for the beast in the summer. Now another young explorer claims she has found it.

"The aboriginal Kubus who live in Sumatra believe this sort of Yeti, or 'gibbering man', lives in the highlands," wrote Allen, aged 25, when he returned from his travels. "I

But an explorer called Debbie Martyr has just returned from Sumatra with what she claims to be the cast of a Gugu footprint. She has no doubts that the weird beast exists.

"I've found more evidence for the existence of the Gugu than has been found in the last 50 years," she tells me. "All the sources I spoke to say the Gugu doesn't make any noise at all, so I think the Kubus have tended to see it as a sort of spirit. The Gugu's more like an orang-utan with a protruding stomach."

One of Britain's foremost explorers, Sir Ranulph Fiennes is yet to be convinced about the Gugu. "In any country where there are areas of wilderness there are sightings of mystery animals," he says. We have our own Exmoor Beast and I've just been to British Colombia where the Sasquatch, an eight-foot giant, is part of their folklore."



Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Benedict Allen

was taken up a volcano by a guide to track the Gugu, which is like a midget with a black mane down its back, but my guide scarpered when he heard all these gibbering noises in the forest. I must confess I never saw a Gugu."

UFOs, conspiracies, weird crimes and mass hysteria, a wondrous publication called the Fortean Times chronicles them all...

Loving The Aliens

WE UNDERSTAND next to nothing about the universe we live in, and people who pretend otherwise are dangerous fools. These include scientists who pretend they can control nuclear power, and leave future generations the legacy of indestructible poison waste; the religious leaders who pretend to know the will of God, a will which generally involves killing large numbers of infidels; arrogant maniacs, all of them.

One man who set out to blast orthodoxy apart, through a mixture of scholarships and ridicule, was Charles Fort (1874-1932), an American who, freed by an inheritance from his career as a hack writer, dedicated the rest of his life to collecting reports of strange phenomena. Anything unexplained, anything which didn't fit into the scientific conventions of the time, fascinated him. He first published *The Book of the Damned* in 1919 - Fortean have been embarrassing the intellectual establishment ever since.

Disappearing people, live toads embedded in rock, UFOs, conspiracies, weird crimes, bizarre illnesses, mass hysteria, stigmata, and fish which fall from the sky... a mere fraction of the wonders which fill the pages of *Fortean Times*, a thick, superbly-produced quarterly, co-edited by Paul Sieveking. Paul works in publishing, and helps run a "clearing-house for unusual information" from 96 Mansfield Road, Hampstead.

The 'scientific' solution to werewolves, sea monsters and phantom odours is simply to say that they don't exist - whatever the evidence to the contrary. Fortean, on the other hand, are guardians of the true scientific idea: "We're sceptics in the positive sense," says Sieveking. "Not like the debunkers, who are just believers on the opposite side of the coin from the cranks. We're different from cranks, because we don't have any axes to grind. We've no interest in perpetuating mysteries, we're quite happy when one puzzle is cleared up - there'll always be plenty more left. Like the *Mary Celeste*, for instance - not much of a mystery at all, really, that sort of thing's always happening to ships."

The *FT* (not to be confused with the daily financial publication) has a circulation of about 3,000 and was founded in 1973 by Bob Rickard. Sieveking met Rickard through a mutual friend and "it struck me that this was an amusing thing to get into - I've been opening letters ever since". There are about

five purely Fortean magazines in the world (*Fate* was founded in America in 1948, "but it's slightly downmarket from us"), and *FT* is recognised as the finest "journal of strange phenomena". This is partly because it upholds the tradition of dipping the arrows of iconoclasm in an invigorating tincture of wit.

The current issue carries a report headed "Taking the Piss", which tells of a pine tree in a Chinese village which "rained mysterious water from its leaves. A paralysed woman was able to walk after she drank it, and people claimed to have seen 32 Buddhas in the branches. Some 40,000 people flocked to the tree, sometimes waiting hours to pray for good fortune. Local police finally cut the tree down, and discovered that the healing 'water' was the urine from millions of insects."

Then there's the German tramp, arrested in Lille in possession of a fortune in gold bars. He was released after proving ownership of the bullion, and telling reporters, "I made my money working as a lumberjack in

Canada, but my ambition was always to be a tramp in France". Depending on your fancy you can read *FT* for an insight into the anomalous ways of the human beast, or just for a bloody good laugh. "Fort's books are very funny," says Paul. "He had a sort of stream-of-consciousness style, a bit like an American James Joyce. He found the world a pretty funny place, and thought that if there was a God, he must be a practical joker."

If you care to invest in some back numbers of the magazine, you can learn about The Chinese Wildman, The Enfield Poltergeist, the Congo Dinosaur Hunt, or even the Canadian Blob Fall. Amidst learned papers on scientific controversies, feral children, and life after death, you'll find Ann Wright, whose fiancé wanted to double-barrel their names, making her A Wright-Nutter; a man charged at Bow Street with impersonating a policeman, who escaped by impersonating a policeman; a photo of a Buddhist cat at prayer; a Lancashire woman seriously injured



when a sign advertising accident insurance, fell on her head; and an expert in 'safe hunting', accidentally shot by another expert in safe hunting, near a town called Pratt. Read about the burglary in Bath - nothing was stolen, but the kitchen floor was littered with empty dog food cans which had been chopped open with an axe. All this, and cartoons by Hunt Emerson.

Nothing is too weird for the *FT* - most things just aren't weird enough. "We're as interested in the initial event as in the perception of it - take UFOs, for instance; they're real because they exist as a social reality. We study the sociological, mythological and psychological aspects as well as the phenomenal." In *FT*'s letters column, one correspondent wonders what happens to all the water in cases of spontaneous human combustion, and provides a couple of columns of detailed mathematics to explain this problem. He ends by noting that, "I have, over many years, surveyed the leathery bar-room folk of north-west London, many of whom consume extremely destructive distillates, but I do find it hard to believe that they are excessively inflammable, and have yet to see any combust at closing time."

Fortean don't actually believe anything: "There's no ideology, just an attitude of conditional acceptance. You don't emotionally invest in your explanations, because you're quite willing to drop them when something better comes along, or new evidence contradicts your position. You keep a distance between yourself and your material." How different from the home life of our own dear Royal Society!

"We don't proselytise at all," Paul insists, "people can make up their own hypotheses. Fortean tend to be individualists bound by a common attitude - a somewhat bemused outlook on the world in general. We simply accept things until they are proved erroneous."

Cryptozoology, which deals with oddities such as the Loch Ness Monster and the Surrey Puma, has a great following within the ranks. Sieveking himself claims catholic tastes, but particularly enjoys "the black humour of it all: ridiculous things happening to people, chains of synchronicity and absurd coincidences." Back in the 1920s, Charles Fort lived for a time in Marchmont Street, near Kings Cross, and spoke at Speaker's Corner about the vast amount of data he unearthed in every field of study. It's a pity he's long gone; his satirical exposure of the exceptions, the anomalies, the things that don't add up, would have made a change from the fascists and Holy Joes who infest Hyde Park now. Since man began, a minority has always realised "it's a funny old world wot we live in." *Fortean Times* acts as a sort of quarterly vitamin pill for the incurably sane; those who grasp the simple truth that admitting you know nothing is the first step towards knowing something.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Oct. 29, 1989 CR: S. Gordon

Bizarre tales: Glasnost or psychosis?

By Alison Mitchell
NEWSDAY

MOSCOW — Last week, the faint of heart, the weak, the sick, or the just plain skeptical could gather around their televisions for an hour of group hypnosis by Anatoli Kashpirovsky, the Ukrainian psychologist whose voice makes people thrash, shake, twist and claim to be cured of their ills.

First came the personal testimonials. As a studio audience of 5,000 hung on every word, an Afghan veteran took a microphone. "I had terrible headaches," he said. "After your session, I don't have headaches at all."

Then came the reading of telegrams, attesting to cures of varicose veins, itchy hands, tormenting pains, lumps in the breast, as well as weight loss of 84 pounds.

"I've been reproached that nothing's been happening to people. They have no reaction at all," purred Kashpirovsky into a microphone. "But that's not true. They just don't show the changes."

Group hypnosis by television is just the start of it. For weeks, the Soviet media has doled out ever more bizarre tales of the fantastic. Several weeks after Tass, the usually staid official Soviet news

agency, sent scientists and journalists scurrying to Voronezh, 300 miles from Moscow, with its report that a landing of giant space aliens had been "confirmed" there, UFO accounts continue unabated.

Last Saturday's edition of the newspaper *Socialisticheskaya Industriya* (Socialist Industry) reported that a strange flying object, like a luminous ball larger than the moon, had hovered over the Siberian city of Omsk, shining spotlights briefly on an airport runway and then speeding off, all the while remaining mysteriously undetected on radar.

Tass moved on to musing about Scotland's Loch Ness monster, asking: "Can Nessie have a twin in Kazakhstan?" Moscow Radio reported on paintings on display in the Ukraine with strange healing properties. *Moskovskaya Pravda* showed a picture of Alan Chumak, another faith healer, blessing the newspaper staff.

And last week an entire conference of believers in "new energy" gathered in the palatial House of Youth for what they called an urgent international session to cope with the explosion of extrasensory potential.

Is Moscow cracking up? Is mass hypnosis actually mass psychosis? Of course this is the land where

Rasputin, the Siberian mystic and sensualist, once held sway at the court of the czar. Still, there hasn't been quite so much recent interest in faith healers since the early 1980s, when Juna Davitashvili, a Georgian woman who says she has a "bio-energy field," was rumored to be treating then Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

Some say the recent supernatural sightings and obsession with parapsychology are an outgrowth of Mikhail S. Gorbachev's policy of glasnost. Now even eccentrics can have their say.

The true believers also say glasnost has helped them by releasing their powers. "It's simply a reaction to a liberated state," said Vasily Lensky of Alma Ata, organizer of last week's ESP convention.

It all has semi-religious overtones in this country where the Communists have tried so hard, so long and so futilely to stamp out faith in another world. In Voronezh, one of the local officials investigating the UFO sighting said it was a "message from Jesus" that only children saw the aliens, a lesson that "we have to be as innocent as children."

The faith healers Kashpirovsky and Chumak have a strong stylistic similarity to America's televangelists. Chumak, who claims to

transmit healing properties to water and creams and baby food placed near television sets, does it all by thrashing his arms about like a windmill, with a grand finale that resembles a long, sweeping sign of the cross.

"I'm a Christian, baptized, but I can't say I'm a real believer. That wouldn't be true," mused the 54-year-old Chumak, who looks a bit like an absent-minded academic. But this charismatic man with warm eyes and an unruly mane of white hair then quoted the Bible and spoke of Christ, love and spirituality, in the course of an hour-long interview. Like someone born again, he even recounted his moment of epiphany.

Chumak said that he set out as a journalist, with his daughter at his side, to unmask faith healers as charlatans. But in a moment of destiny, the healers instead made him face "the internal task I was carrying in myself," he said.

"They suggested I close my eyes and put my hand over a table," he remembered. "And under my hand, the world revived. If a blind man feels under his hand the world, he begins to transform it into an internal world. It was a feeling of delight, like an enlight-

enment."

Chumak said his love is overflowing and that he has the energy to heal thousands. Over the summer, the desperate from all over the Soviet Union began to gather outside his apartment house in Moscow, hoping he would appear for seances on the lawn. "I couldn't just let them down. I went and gave sessions. I couldn't refuse," Chumak said.

Now with the weather turning bitterly cold, he has tried to discourage people from making the pilgrimage by telling his neighbors to say he has gone away on vacation.

When Kashpirovsky appears, police lines are needed. During a seance at the Palace of Youth last week, militia men ringed the building, holding back the parents with crippled children in tow, stoically ignoring the women with tears dripping down their cheeks.

Chumak said he doesn't charge individuals for his service, but takes pay from factories or industrial centers that invite him to appear. Kashpirovsky is more cagey. At an appearance at the press center of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, he dodged the question of whether he is getting fortune along with fame.

"The question saddens me," he said. "If you had a daughter with no hair, you'd shell out a lot of money to get her hair to grow back."

UPTOWN/DOWNTOWN

Outside media go for Ogopogo

A yawner
for B.C.
stirs U.S.

By JAMIE LAMB

THE OGOPOGO story swam to the coast and surfaced in Vancouver this week. In doing so, the real or imagined beastie with the palindrome name has revealed how an old story failed to teach local media new tricks.

Ken Chaplin, the man who has a videotape of what may or may not be Ogopogo, was closeted here in a Gastown office this week with two Fox Television reps who want to buy the rights to the video.

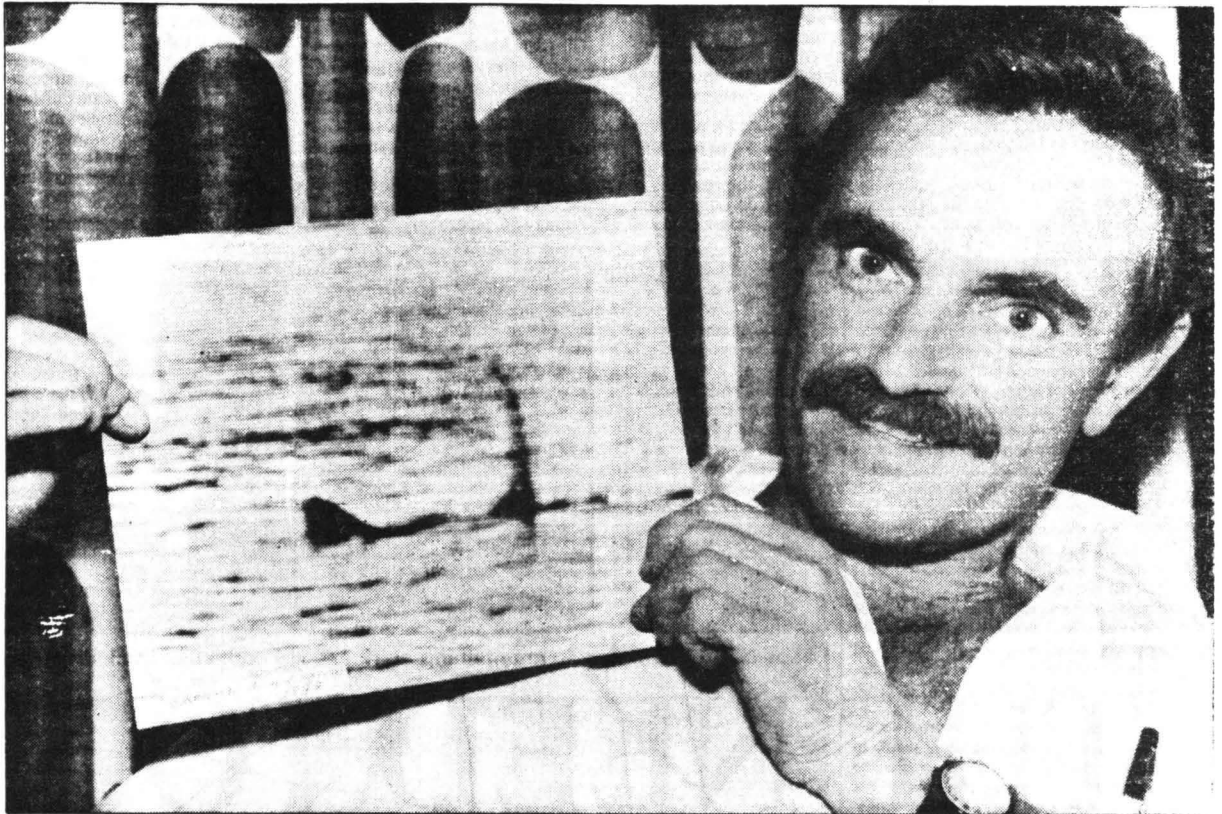
(Last week the Fox execs — attached to the program "A Current Affair" — dealt with Zsa Zsa Gabor; this week, Ogopogo. Apparently the network has a thing for the prehistoric.)

The Fox reps have purchased three still photos from the video, and now other U.S. networks are lining up to have a look-see.

Time magazine ran a small story on Ogopogo in this week's U.S. domestic edition. *National Geographic* is considering an expedition to the Okanagan on the basis of the tape, which it is currently enhancing through a digital process. *Maclean's*, the *Globe and Mail*, and sundry other publications are on the scent and, if Ogopogo proves to be the love child of Michael J. Fox, the supermarket tabs should be arriving soon. *The National Enquirer*, always a champion of scientific research, has already blown into town to see if the video warrants a tattle or two.

And why not? Whether a snake-like creature or creatures exists in Lake Okanagan is, so far as the media is concerned, entirely beside the point. What matters is that this is, above all else, a fun story.

In a region dominated by heavy-breasting stories on property tax and politics and Murray Pezim, here we have a story that says something large and coiled and supery might be lounging in the



KEN CHAPLIN AND FRIEND: Sure, it's a story, and a fun story . . . but it's an old story

murk some place other than the legislature. That's a story that we can all understand and appreciate without the bother and buffer of somebody else — be it pol, pundit, or PR spokesman — telling us what the story is supposed to mean to us.

Is Ogopogo the real thing, some previously undiscovered aquatic lifeform? Is it some animal or watery event that can be explained under the heading of existing biology or known phenomenon? Does Ken Chaplin really have the goods on videotape, or is it a hoax, planned or unintentional?

Nobody knows at this point, but everybody has an opinion. Any news story with that kind of foundation — genuine interest but with no hard information — is a story that will receive mass attention from readers, listeners, and viewers.

Local media, however, are not covering the story in the same fashion. It's not because they don't think it's a good story; it's because it seems an old story. They are used to regular summer Ogopogo sightings and the attendant assortment of cashews who rush out of the vacuum-packed can to explain how this latest sighting fits in with glimpses of Sasquatch, Yeti, UFOs, and Elvis at the Cloverdale Mall.

Thus another Ogopogo sighting rates news coverage, but of the here-is-a-silly-summer-story-for-you variety. You run the story and then get on with the real business of the day, namely what section of the newspaper or broadcast do you include the Pez in today. (Business? Sports? Lifestyle?)

So long as nobody has hard video evidence of the most recent sighting in the newsroom, such a media view is to be expected.

But imagine for a moment if Ogopogo popped up in a pond near New York. The *Post* would have a phalanx of reporters and photographers crawling through the muck to get the beast. And if Ogopogo poked a head above the waves of Lake Ontario, the *Toronto Star* would dispatch SWAT teams to comb the waves, and the national media — based in Toronto — would be leading the broadcast with the item.

It shouldn't therefore be a surprise that Chaplin's video is causing a bigger media stir outside B.C. than within.

All of which only proves that Vancouver and B.C. are not yet world-class media locales. If we were, some news organization would have taken the Ogopogo story over as its own, bringing in a covey of specialists to review the evidence, hosting contests, and

generally promoting the living daylight out of the beast until it was proved real or imaginary.

Which, if you live in Kelowna, is exactly what you'd like to see happen. Kelowna residents get rather tired of being the butt of jokes about people who see odd things in the local waters. Either prove the thing is real or prove that it's a fake: whatever the outcome, Kelowna people can get on with their lives.

But unless Ogopogo swims up to a local resort demanding a cigar, a spritzer, and a guest spot on Geraldo, this is unlikely to happen.

Me? I'd like to think Ogopogo is real. I agree with Kelowna resident Gail Horan who says, "It would be nice to know there's a little magic left in the world."

Providing it doesn't run for government office, of course.

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Son of a wildcatter goes after the legendary abominable snowman

By DENNIS STACY
SPECIAL TO THE POST

HOUSTON HAS ITS Roy Hofheinz, New York its LaGuardia. Even Fort Worth had its Amon G. Carter. Most major metropolitan areas, in fact, have one mother or father figure who more than any other shaped that city's contemporary character or landscape.

The case for San Antonio, however, is not quite so clear cut, once you eliminate the collective heroes of the Alamo.

Ask most citizens there today what their most visible legacy is, and the majority would probably answer that left by charismatic former mayor Henry Cisneros. However, outsider Loren Coleman, a social science research associate from Maine, argues persuasively in a new book with a schizophrenic subject that San Antonio honors should go to adopted son Tom Slick, a native of Clarion, Pa.

Slick was born in 1916 to a wandering wildcatter soon to strike oil in Texas and Oklahoma, where the family eventually built homes. But it was San Antonio that

TOM SLICK AND THE SEARCH FOR YETI

By Loren Coleman. Faber & Faber. \$11.95, paperback.

clearly captured Slick junior's fancy and caused him to settle there shortly after World War II. Slick senior died prematurely, as would son Tom, at the age of 42, leaving the latter financially secure for life with an inheritance estimated in the tens of millions.

Young Slick seemed anything but a spendthrift. Indeed, he established three local institutions that thrive long after his own brief life: the Southwest Research Institute, the equally influential SW Foundation for Research and Education, a pioneer in medicine and biochemistry, and the Mind Science Foundation, one of the few respectable labs in the world presently delving into creativity, human potential and parapsychology.

Slick also wrote two books promoting a

personal proposal for world peace. In his spare time, he chased after the so-called abominable snowman, the legendary yeti of the high Himalayas.

Stories of a gangly, 8-foot-tall creature inhabiting the upper regions of Tibet and Nepal began circulating widely in the West with the opening of Mt. Everest to mountaineers in the early 1950s. The snowman, far more reclusive than abominable, made for good copy, whether it existed or not.

Coleman's own sympathies rest with the first possibility. In fact, one of the first expeditions to hike the area specifically in search of the elusive creature was funded by England's *Daily Mail* newspaper, a search characterized largely by pomp and propaganda.

But it was the much lower-keyed Slick, spurred by his own sense of science and outdoor adventure, who first lent the subject respectability. Slick's first expedition to Nepal, in 1957, returned with suspected hair samples and plaster footprints.

A second venture the following year, co-funded by Ft. Worth oilman F. Kirk John-

son Sr., resulted in the discovery of several yeti "relics" closely hoarded in remote monasteries by the local monks. One of the most promising of these, a purported finger bone, was later smuggled out of the country by Johnson's friend, the actor James Stewart.

By that time, reports of a similar creature, the Bigfoot or Sasquatch, emerged out of the Pacific Northwest, and Slick soon turned his considerable attention closer to home. The local avenue ended abruptly in 1962, when Slick and pilot were killed in the crash of his private plane while returning from a Canadian bird hunt.

No other comparable figure has appeared to take Slick's place on the snowman scene, while the yeti itself remains one of the few pursuits he failed to corral. Like his equally evasive quarry, Slick's own accomplishments have mostly lapsed into obscurity.

Coleman makes a sober and straightforward attempt here to resurrect both.

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