

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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## UFO researcher: 'They are here'

### Speaker describes encounters, abductions of couple

By Jim Haviland  
Journal staff

HUDSON — "They are here — whoever they are!"

That's the message from researcher Bruce Maccabee about Unidentified Flying Objects that have been sighted throughout the world, including the Hudson Valley.

A civilian employee of the U.S. Navy in physics research, Maccabee described his investigation of "The Gulf Breeze UFO Case" near Pensacola, Fla., when speaking Thursday night at Columbia-Greene Community College.

Maccabee's talk centered on the UFO encounters and abductions of a Pensacola, Fla., couple

near their home on the Gulf. Others in the Pensacola area also said they saw UFOs.

He showed several photos taken by Ed and Frances Walters — some of which were published in the Gulf Breeze Sentinel newspaper. Maccabee said the photos taken by Walters, a contractor, indicated rotation of the object in the sky.

"When you look inside it, you can't tell what it is or explain what's going on or how it is powered," he said.

"When Walters went into the road outside his house to take photos he was engulfed in a blue mist as he raised his camera to take a photo," said Maccabee. "He reported feeling like he was frozen in concrete and couldn't move."

Walters said he heard a "humming noise like

mechanical winds heard mechanical words which said 'don't be afraid, we won't hurt you.' " Maccabee said.

Maccabee said Walters fell down in the street when hit with the blue beam, then was released. Walters estimated that he had been in the blue beam for about 10 seconds, and when he looked up saw nothing in the sky.

Maccabee said Walters spoke about smelling a strange odor and explained that it had penetrated his nose while he was in the blue beam. He described it as a cinnamon-type odor.

Walters said that he had felt sucked into the beam and wanted to alert the community so no children would be sucked into it and disappear, Maccabee said. That prompted him to write a

letter to the local newspaper about the UFO photos he had taken.

When the photos were published, a others in the community also said they had seen a similar object in the sky.

Maccabee said Walters told him that after the first experience he would hear a humming noise in his head just before he saw another UFO.

"When the UFO came back," said the investigator, "Walters received a communication in his head. They said they had come for him, and that he should step forward and he would not be hurt."

Maccabee said Walters and his wife had more experiences with the blue beam from the UFO when they again took photos. Once, Walters

claimed the blue beam immobilized his leg while he was on a screen porch taking photos of the UFO.

Maccabee said that Walters later saw an alien outside his home and had been abducted by the aliens with "missing time" involved.

He said that under hypnosis Walters discovered he had been abducted several times by aliens at the ages of 11, 17, 25, 33 and 42.

Walters had UFO sightings in Gulf Breeze in 1987 and 1988, with the most recent one Sept. 12, 1989.

Walters never got a photograph of one of the aliens. "The only photo taken of an alien that I know of was taken in England in 1986," Maccabee said.

Maccabee said many people believe all UFO reports are hoaxes. Some UFO reports are actually other objects in the sky that have been misidentified. Venus often is mistaken for a UFO, he said.

But Maccabee said there are other "hard core reports," such as Wal-

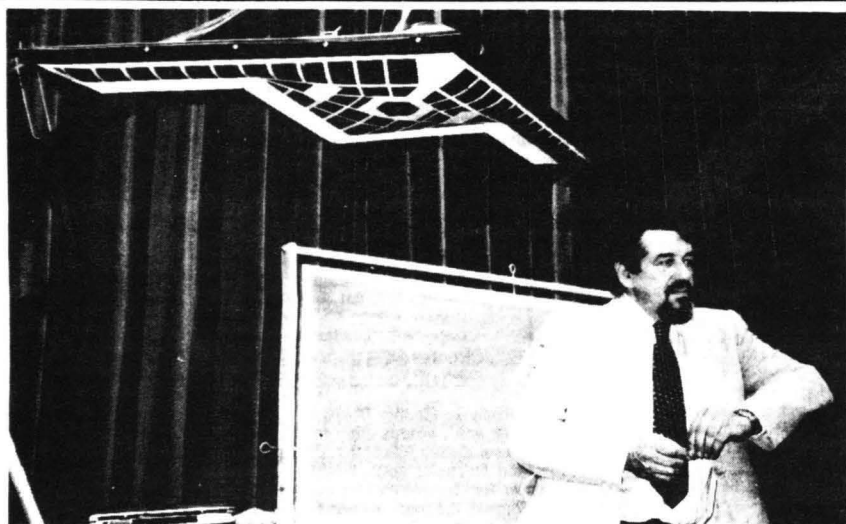
ters', when people describe structural things seen in the sky.

He described the encounters with aliens that Whitley Strieber, author of "Communion," reported at his Ulster County home near Accord. "Whitley was concerned over what happened to him and loads his books with his own speculation," Maccabee said.

Strieber concluded "that there are visitors and that they do nasty things to people," Maccabee said.

Maccabee also described the UFO investigations of Bud Hopkins, who wrote the book "Missing Time." He said Hopkins has a different approach and believes aliens are using people as guinea pigs.

"There is speculation that there are genetic experiments, and maybe inter-breeding going on with the aliens trying to learn something about our mental states," Maccabee said. "We do not know what it all is for. But it is not particularly amusing."



PAUL DELLINGER

Tony Gonsalves with model of what he believes has been mistaken for a UFO

## UFO sightings attributed to secret U.S. aircraft

By PAUL DELLINGER  
SOUTHWEST BUREAU

WYTHEVILLE — Several people who viewed a pattern of lights hovering above their heads in a darkened Wytheville Community College room agreed that it looked like an unidentified flying object they had seen in the skies of Southwest Virginia.

They were not seeing a flying saucer containing little green men, but a model of the radar-eluding Stealth B-2 bomber that Rhode Island businessman Tony Gonsalves had constructed.

Gonsalves, 47, visited Wythe County earlier this month because it had been a hotbed of UFO sightings in recent years. He said similar sightings have been reported in Hudson Valley, N.Y., and Fayette, Ala.

"I believe there's a secret government aircraft flying around that the public hasn't been advised about," he said.

Gonsalves is not talking about the Stealth aircraft that was rolled out for public view in 1988, one of six that reportedly have been built. Those would make noise, he said, and the boomerang-shaped aircraft spotted across the country in recent years have been silent.

Referring to recent debate on what happened to \$22 billion of the money allocated to developing an airplane that can avoid radar detection, he said: "I don't think it [the money] disappeared at all. I think they built some airplanes."

He suggests that the money went into Stealth craft powered by "UFO technology" — in his view,

some sort of antigravity field generated by nuclear energy.

"Now, where did they get it [the technology]? That's another story, but in my opinion, they have it," he said.

One possible source, he said, would be a crashed flying saucer that the government recovered and kept secret.

"I am a firm believer that this planet is being visited by aliens. I think they've been coming here for a long time," he said.

Whether they agreed with him on that, at least five of the about 75 people attending his talk at Wytheville Community College agreed that the Stealth shape is what they saw.

What convinced the group was a quarter-size model of the aircraft, built by Gonsalves, based on what data has been released about the secret plane.

Using his experience as a jet mechanic on U.S. Navy aircraft carriers, Gonsalves said he placed lights on his 4-foot model in a pattern that would be logical for landing purposes or illuminate the ground for a low-flying, slow-moving plane.

With the meeting room in Fincastle Hall darkened, he showed how using different lights on the dark craft could make it seem to have different shapes in night skies. A number of people agreed that the lights defined shapes of objects they had seen.

Gonsalves said he came to Wytheville to talk with people who might have seen an experimental-Stealth aircraft. He is compiling the information for a book.

GLOBE, Boston, MA - Feb. 23, 1990 CR: B. Greenwood

## Looping fireball dazzled observers in Northeast

By Richard Saltus  
GLOBE STAFF

Reports of a fireball that blazed through the skies over the Northeast on Sunday, changing colors and even executing a fiery loop before vanishing, have been filtering into local agencies, a Museum of Science official said yesterday.

Observers from Nova Scotia to New Jersey reported the spectacular fireball, which they said was visible for more than 10 seconds at 7:50 p.m. Sunday in the southeastern sky.

One witness on Cape Cod "said it descended at an angle and changed from white to green to orange, which is not unusual," said Walter Webb, assistant director of the museum's Hayden Planetarium.

"It went into a cloud and lit it up like a sunset," Webb said the observer reported. "Then the thing went up vertical and came down again in a closed loop, leaving a glowing trail behind it."

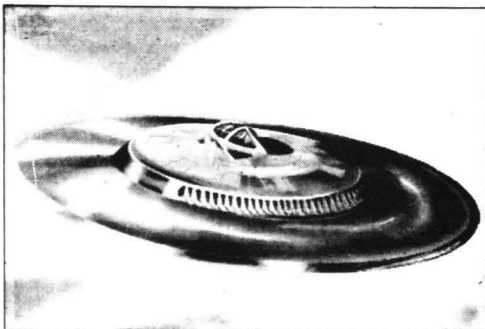
Fireballs, which are not uncommon, occur when a sizable fragment in space — usually an asteroid — is

captured by the Earth's gravity and is burned by the atmosphere. If such a fragment is consumed high in the atmosphere, it is called a meteor or "shooting star." If it is large enough to survive its plunge toward Earth and becomes brighter than the planets in the sky, it is called a fireball. The fiery object is called a meteorite when it is large enough to reach the Earth's surface.

Though they usually slice through the atmosphere on a straight path, fireballs occasionally skip off layers of air like a stone on a lake, perhaps the cause of the fireball's looping maneuver, Webb said.

Webb, who is collecting eyewitness descriptions, said reports came from at least a dozen residents of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, plus the control tower at Logan Airport and Coast Guard officials.

Webb has sent word of the sighting to the Scientific Event Alert Network at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. A spokeswoman there said the nationwide network receives, on average, between 5 and 20 fireball sightings a month.



Flying saucers seem far-fetched to many, but local UFOlogist Thomas Stults says that "we are being investigated by seven to nine alien races."

## UFO bulletin

We're not alone. Aliens eat our cows — and more

By Steve Johnson

All those stories you have heard about terrestrial cattle being wantonly mutilated by alien beings are true. In a kind of interstellar combination of the drive-thru window and the prepare-your-own-food bar, the visitors apparently park near a pasture, cut up an unsuspecting cow and then eat it, the theory being that it is easier to do this than return to one's own galaxy for lunch.

This, at least, was one of many interesting propositions UFOlogist Thomas Stults put forth last week in a lecture sponsored by the Business/Science/Technology Division of the Chicago Public Library and held at the Cultural Center, as part of a series called "Chicago Smarts."

"For us, what we want to do is sometimes present all the sides," said Nita Salutillo, a library program coordinator. "Last year, for example, we had yoga, and some people do not believe in yoga. There are many people who don't believe [in UFOs], and there are some people who do. Perhaps [Stults] could be an eye opener."

Much of what Stults said did, indeed, open eyes. It is also true, he said, that "we are being investigated by seven to nine alien races," who routinely visit our planet in order to kidnap some of our brethren and conduct scientific experiments on us and/or improve our gene pool so that we are better capable of traveling in space.

"Now we have a plethora of evidence with a high degree of probability that people, in fact, are being abducted," said Stults, a veteran of UFO studies whose eyebrows arch above his glasses in an expression of permanent amazement and who claims alien kidnappers cured a friend's lupus. "The '80s have been a very exciting overall time."

It is true, he said, that astronauts have seen UFOs. Neil Armstrong once confided that, during his historic Apollo 11 mission, "the fact is, we were warned off" by large and technologically advanced craft. "Their ships were far superior to ours," Armstrong said, according to Stults.

It is true, Stults said, that President Richard Nixon's resignation was brought about by UFOs. The real reason Nixon's culpability in Watergate was exposed had less to do with the enterprise of reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein and more to do with the fact that Nixon had promised to tell the American people the truth about UFOs.

"Those reporters were hand-fed that information, because they [the feeders, not the reporters] wanted Nixon to back off," said Stults, who holds the title

of Illinois state director of the Mutual UFO Network. "That was the last thing our government wanted at that time. They went out to get him, and they got him good."

And it is true, Stults said, that the U.S. government, involved in a conspiracy of silence for so many years, is now coordinating a number of businesses in a "planned educational approach" with the seeming aim of preparing the public for the shock of discovering it is not alone.

In addition to scores of eyewitness accounts from just plain citizens, there is a wealth of secret government documents, Stults said, detailing crashed alien craft and Air Force encounters with otherworldly vehicles, and "the government plans—today—are to start releasing this information in 1994." He allowed that date could be moved up or back. "Their current plan is supposedly 1994, hoping to get us educated and better prepared in the meantime."

One part of this campaign, he said, is the increase in UFO-related advertising, such as Reese's Pieces' "E.T." ads, and ads for Tropicana, Radio Shack, Bud Light, Edy's Ice Cream and Levi's Dockers pants. "Now, stop for a minute," said Stults. "Levi Dockers." The chairman of Levi Strauss, he said, is also a director of the Brookings Institute, a think tank that Stults earlier had said was an advisor to the government on its UFO policy. "Is that just a coincidence? I think not."

Stults' was the kind of talk where Woody Allen's old stand-up bit about an alien race that starts bringing Earth's dirty clothes (the plan to turn us into a planet of launderers is ultimately foiled when the aliens return for their things, having traveled thousands of light years, but they forgot their ticket) would have fallen on 90 pairs of deaf ears.

Even the man in Stults' audience who kept laughing vigorously at things that weren't funny, in the manner of a TV sports announcer, probably wouldn't have cracked a smile.

This was no dilettantes' ball. Between Stults and his audience, they spoke knowingly of "Hangar 18," the "man-in-black theory," the "MJ-12 papers," and some sort of aliens-for-Americans swap the government made in April 1964. Stults held up what he said were government UFO documents, released under the Freedom of Information Act, upon which 90 percent of the words had been blacked out prior to their release.

"I heard that President Eisenhower was taken out to meet them," said one man.

"It has been rumored but not authenticated," replied Stults.

Five members of the crowd raised their hands when asked if they had personally seen UFOs, and another man volunteered that his uncle, a chef in the mountains of New Hampshire, had seen strange lights in the sky on the same night of a famous abduction in the southern part of the state.



UFOlogist Thomas Stults holding a "top secret government document" to prove a point.

"We may be just a huge laboratory for them," said another wholly respectable-looking man in the audience, who privately expressed concern that Stults had not mentioned that some of the seven to nine observing races might not be benign. "They've got certain experiments that I don't know how to describe. I better keep my mouth shut about them," the man said.

He did allow, though, that they had something to do with alteration of human neurochemistry. "The alteration is taking place at all times," the man said. "It's the acceleration of the alteration that's the crucial thing. That's about all I can say. Take care."

The man walked away. Less than an hour later, he turned up at Tribune Tower to ask that his name, which he had originally given, not appear in the article.

Speaking with fervor, Stults showed a score or so of slides of UFO pictures that he said had been authenticated by computer analysis.

He also showed hoax pictures, one of which was suspended by a string in front of the camera and another which he described as a "peanut butter lid."

He spoke of a deliberate disinformation campaign along those lines, some of it propagated at the checkout counter. "How many of you have seen," Stults asked, "when you go to the supermarket, the National Weekly News: 'Two-Headed UFO Baby Found in Brazil'?"

"Now, with that kind of junk, do you think the Chicago Tribune is gonna publish an article on UFOs? No way."

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR  
Jan. 22, 1990 CR: J. Deardorff

**UFO UPDATE** — Remember the New Year's Eve UFO sighting by a group of Eugene partygoers, reported here last Monday? Enough others have called or written since then to convince me that there was something in the sky that night.

But what it was remains — as it always does in UFO stories — a tantalizing unknown.

Sherill Bowers reported last week that she and a group of 20 people at a party at East 15th and Moss watched five lights move slowly, in varying formations, across the sky for about 20 minutes shortly after midnight.

Robert McCaffrey, a real estate salesman who lives in the Ferry Street Bridge area, said five people at his house saw the same thing. The large bright lights appeared in the south and moved north, he said.

"What we were looking at was an almost perfectly diamond-shaped formation, and finally a fifth light appeared like a tail on a kite," he said. "What was striking was there was absolutely no sound."

"When they came overhead of us, they split formation, two lights in one line, two in another," he said. "My son (Sean, 16) ran in and got his camera and took two or three photos."

Sean's pictures show two bright spots — slightly squiggly, because of camera movement — in the sky. But the photos wouldn't reproduce well in the paper.

McCaffrey said the lights disappeared over the Coburg Hills after about 10 minutes. Nancy Dear, a teacher who was at the McCaffrey's party, gave a similar description. As Bowers had, she phoned every agency she could think of in a futile search for an explanation.

Betsy Steffensen and another group watched the lights from the panoramic view at her house on Skyline Boulevard. Binoculars didn't help in identification. "When we put the binoculars on them, they were still just these lights," Steffensen said.

Eugene poet Ingrid Wendt and her daughter saw them from near the University of Oregon's Hayward Field. Runners Marcia and Bill McChesney watched them from across the river.

"We were returning to our friends' party after running the Midnight Run in Alton Baker Park," Marcia McChesney said. "The strongest drink we consumed that evening was coffee."

But the sightings seem to have been limited to the Eugene area. There have been no reports from elsewhere in the state. At the University of Oregon's Pine Mountain Observatory near Bend, for example, research assistant Doug Hankins said he was working that night and saw nothing but stars and planets.

McCaffrey doesn't believe that the lights were anything extraterrestrial, but he's still curious.

"This has just had us all baffled," he said. "There has to be a logical explanation."

If only one of those lights had dropped a bottle — with a message in it. . . .

## Fewer UFO sightings in 1989

By Wash Gjebre  
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

More than 100 UFO sightings were reported in Pennsylvania last year, in addition to dozens of other unexplained incidents, including ice falling from the sky in May and sightings of Bigfoot, says a Greensburg-based group that investigates such reports.

Stan Gordon, founder and director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, said 168 reports of UFO sightings were recorded in 1989, 87 fewer than the previous year.

The association also investigated 51 reports of other unexplained incidents last year, a decrease from the 125 reported in 1988.

Gordon, who runs the volunteer clearinghouse from his Greensburg home, said he did not know why the number of reports decreased.

He said many of the reports of UFO sightings were explained as meteors, planets, aircraft lights, unusual atmospheric conditions or searchlight displays.

But 27 sightings in Westmoreland, Butler, Indiana, Bedford, Crawford and other counties could not be explained, he said.

*A fisherman reported seeing "a 7-foot-tall, broad shouldered, hair-covered, upright creature" in Donegal April 20.*

Among the reports of UFO sightings in 1989, he said, were these:

- Two women said they saw a silent, luminous object with flashing red lights hovering over Squirrel Hill at 2:57 a.m. May 17. The women filed a police report on the incident.

- In three sightings, strange objects were pursued by military jets. On Aug. 31, UFOs were spotted in several counties within a short time. On Oct. 28, "an unusual hovering light that picked up speed as numerous military jets in single formation chased it" was reported in Butler County, Gordon said.

- A number of triangular-shaped aerial objects were seen the after-

noon of Dec. 23 near a power station in Warren County. "Once again, as we have 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," Gordon said.

On May 21, the association was notified that a piece of ice had fallen from a clear sky near Ligonier. A lab found that the material contained lead, iron, cadmium, arsenic, aluminum and zinc, Gordon said. He said 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 that time indicated a low chance for icing conditions."

The association continues to receive reports of sightings of a creature called Bigfoot, especially in the Chestnut Ridge area of Westmoreland County, Gordon said. A fisherman in Donegal reported that at 12:15 a.m. April 20, he saw "a 7-foot-tall, broad shouldered, hair-covered, upright creature" that made loud shrilling sounds before moving into the woods.

Gordon said reports of unexplained phenomena could be made on the non-profit association's 24-hour hotline, 412-838-7768.



## WMU professor studies UFOs

BY LEWIS BEALE  
Free Press Staff Writer

**K**ALAMAZOO — It seems only fitting that the man who edits the *Journal of UFO Studies*, a serious, scientific look at the subject, has had a close encounter of the personal kind.

"I was home one year from college," says Michael Swords, a professor of natural sciences at Western Michigan University, "and my brother and I were listening to a local late-night radio show, when someone called in and said they were observing a UFO, and I thought this was great, I was listening to it while it was happening."

Intrigued, Swords and his brother looked out a window of their house, and saw a hovering, dome-shaped object flashing multicolored lights. Almost as soon as it appeared, the object disappeared from their line of sight, but Swords, who had been reading science fiction and non-fiction books about UFOs since he was a young boy, felt that "I had an interesting experience that I couldn't explain, that kind of imprinted what I had been reading."

Thirty or so years later, the 49-year-old Swords sits in his WMU office, surrounded by books and artifacts that attest to a lifelong interest in anomalies — strange events that have yet to be explained scientifically.

Ranged along one wall are several hundred books, a lending library of sorts, with titles like "The History of Atlantis," "The Tujunga Canyon Contacts" and "Megalithic Science." Scattered throughout the office are models, casts and other knickknacks related to his passion: pre-Columbian artifacts, a plaster cast of Bigfoot's giant foot, a fanciful model of "Nessie," the Loch Ness monster, a small model of a stone head from Easter Island, a detail from a Hieronymus Bosch painting, even a model of the Starship Enterprise.

Swords is no otherworldly weirdo. He is a sober scientist — with a PhD in the history of science



PHIL MITCHELL/Special to the Free Press

Prof. Michael Swords holds a model built to resemble a being reportedly seen during a UFO abduction in Snowflake, Ariz., in 1975.

# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH SCIENCE

## HOW CLOSE ARE THOSE FLYING SAUCERS?

The concept of close encounters of the first, second and third kind with UFOs was developed by the late professor J. Allen Hynek, probably the world's foremost authority on the subject. Hynek, who founded the Center for UFO Studies in 1973, coined the "close encounters" terms in the early 1970s, and served as a technical adviser on the well-known Steven Spielberg film. The three types of close encounters, all of which occur within 200 yards of a human observer, are:

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FIRST KIND (CE-1):** Observation of a UFO,

but no apparent interaction with the witness or the environment.

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE SECOND KIND (CE-2):** Interaction between the UFO and the environment. Interference with car ignition systems, imprints or burns on the ground, physical effects on plants, humans and animals, etc.

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND (CE-3):** Occupants of a UFO, generally humanoid in appearance, are reported. Usually no direct contact, although incidents of very close contact, even abductions, have been reported.

By Lewis Beale

from Case Western Reserve University — who describes himself as "a simple college professor who edits a journal on an odd topic, one that people have an interest in." He has, in fact, taken a boyhood interest in the strange and unexplained and developed it into a career.

Swords has contributed to such scholarly publications as *Cryptozoology Journal* (which researches the Bigfoots and Nessies of the world) and *Pursuit*, the journal of the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained. He developed a WMU course on research into anomalies entitled "Science and Para-Science," which, he claims, is

just about the only course of its kind in America which can be taken for natural science credit. Now, with the editorship of the *Journal of UFO Studies*, published by the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center For UFO Studies, Swords has taken on an additional challenge.

"I felt the field was not being taken seriously enough in the academic community, because of the lack of a proper academic journal," says Swords, explaining why, more than a year ago, he decided to help revive a publication that had been defunct since 1983. "The field really needed this outlet."

Make no mistake about it — Swords' journal, an annual which came out last March in a very limited edition of 700 copies (the next issue is due out in the fall), does not deal in tales of bug-eyed monsters or forced sex with aliens. The 174-page publication contains such articles as a detailed scientific soil analysis of a spot in Kansas where an alien craft supposedly landed; a forum among a number of scientists as to whether UFO abduction experiences are for real; a number of book reviews relating to the field; and a research paper by Swords himself on "Science and the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis in Ufology."

Despite the sober tone of the journal, and an international advisory board that includes academics from Spain and Canada, Swords admits that UFO research has an uphill struggle. The reasons for this are twofold: lack of respect from the academic community at

large, and the influence of the media on the average person's perception of what constitutes a UFO.

"These people (scientists) have been 'knighted' by the American system as the smart people, and the academic community looks upon itself as the tellers of truth," says Swords. "Imbedded in the business of being a scientific academic is the idea of watching what you say. It gets these people

to the point of having a restricted world view of what they feel is true or not, and limits their creativity.

"In terms of what people think, the general public is very willing to talk about it," adds Swords, who undoubtedly knows that a 1978 Gallup poll showed that 57 percent of all Americans believe the Earth is being visited by alien spacecraft. "But it's bad for UFO research, because it creates certain kinds of caricatures of what UFO

phenomena should be, and we don't really know. You're sitting here with a field that's rich in phenomenology. . . . Whether there is any extraterrestrial explanation to all this, we don't know."

Swords is convinced there is other intelligent life in the galaxy. He points to research findings by such scientific disciplines as astronomy, cosmo-chemistry, bio-evolution and planetology which suggest that we are not alone.

But he also notes that there are "mundane explanations" for 95 percent of all UFO sightings (see box, this page), and the remaining 5 percent may not involve ETs at all. Because of this, he believes that a rigorous application of the scientific method is needed to cut through the overkill of false information that is separating us from the truth about interstellar voyaging — if, in fact, there is any.

"One of the fundamental instincts in human life is curiosity," he says. "It energizes the human species. The looking at anomalies is the standard method of scientific discovery, and you never can tell which one will open up a wonderful world. I also think we need to do this because this is a human event of some kind, and some of these people (who have had a contact) are in a

traumatized state, and we as humans should care about them."

The second issue of the revived journal will, says Swords, take up theories about electrical fields that some researchers blame for creating balls of light that are mistaken for UFOs. There will be an article that attempts to define the nature of ufology, to tell what the field really is, what the difference is between an IFO (Identified Flying Object) and a UFO. And there will be a regional review of the status of ufology in Australia. The field is slowly but surely building up a network of scientists interested in the subject, but Swords feels there is a lot more that could be done.

"It would be nice to have a nationally supported research network," he says, while adding that the French have had a government-funded UFO research project for several years. "You also need testing labs (for soil samples, etc.), and people you could count on giving you good results. The other thing we need are medical and psychological counselors to get interested in this abduction situation, people without prejudices who could help them (those who claim to have been abducted by aliens), and find something

out."

Swords pauses. He has been in this field for the long term, and is in it to stay. But he recognizes that he is also something of a salesman, and credibility is the commodity he is pushing.

"About the only way you can get the academic community to pay attention is to say we're going into this in the same way any investigator would go into a mystery," he says, "with several hypotheses in mind, and the ET hypothesis is only one of many. That's the proper scientific method."

The *Journal of UFO Studies* is available for \$15 by writing to: The J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659.

## WHAT KIND OF UFO WAS IT?

Michael Swords, editor of the *Journal of UFO Studies*, says that 95 percent of all UFO sightings can be easily explained. According to him, explainable and unexplainable sightings fall into the following categories:

■ Explainable: artificial objects such as advertising airplanes which are mistaken for spaceships; astronomical objects; psychological anomalies (e.g., people with dissociative hysteria, who have difficulty separating fantasy from reality); and natural

phenomena such as lightning or cloud formations.

■ Unexplainable: "glow-balls," usually of a reddish-orange color, which have an erratic motion in the sky; trace cases or ground marks, i.e., the UFO has landed and left some sort of evidence of its landing; abductions; and what Professor Swords refers to as the "X" category — individual close encounters that do not fit into the abduction category.

By Lewis Beale

# UFO club skeptical of tales

New group documenting outer space phenomena

By DIANA AITCHISON  
Staff Writer

John Langdon Watts, a retired engineer from Potsdam, N.Y., is in a Pompano Beach church hall delivering a message to Earth.

He says it comes from Mara, an androgynous being who zips through the galaxy aboard a spaceship 10 miles wide piloted by robots who serve juice and cookies to captured earthlings.

"Mara says Earth is the planet of greed," Watts says. "Unless we are enlightened, we won't advance to the next level."

Watts' audience may or may not buy the existence of Mara, but they do buy the possibility of life out there, somewhere.

The group is a newly formed Pompano Beach-based chapter of MUFON: the Mutual UFO Network, an international organization with more than 2,400 members in about 30 countries. About 30 people showed up for the first meeting at Unity Church last month.

Consisting of New Age book store owners, health-food shop operators, a banker, a nurse, and the curious, the group has distinct opinions.

Some are convinced that Mara exists. MUFON investigators are not.

"I don't buy any of it," says Jack Marino, retired private eye and MUFON investigator.

Marino is among four MUFON investigators who take ufology seriously. They meet weekly and research findings. They are not interested in uncharted weather balloons, plummeting space junk or tall tales. They want the real thing.

"We're not a saucer club," says Mark Hunziker, a former Eastern Airlines flight attendant and chapter founder. "We are serious about documenting extraterrestrial phenomena."

Hunziker said many retired people in Florida have legitimate stories to tell.

"We want to cull that information and put it in a data bank to share," he said. "We aren't here to prove or disprove. We are here to record. Our safety net is our skepticism."

Hunziker's interest in UFOs began at 26,000 feet off the coast of Daytona Beach. He was serving coffee in the cockpit of a 727 when the Eastern pilot started talking about his UFO experiences.



Staff photo/ELIOT J. SCHECHTER

UFO club founder Mark Hunziker takes a close view of his drawing of an extraterrestrial.

"He said he'd seen hundreds of them... and when a man flying a plane starts talking UFOs, you listen," Hunziker says.

Among other things, Hunziker and MUFON investigators are checking claims of silver disks shooting out of the ocean, objects flying in formation as reported by a Lighthouse Point man, and a glowing object hovering over a Glades Road schoolyard, reported by two Boca Raton women who saw it from 100 yards away on Jan. 9, 1988.

"You would be surprised how many people have had contact," says Sheila Franklin, a writer and MUFON investigator. "People are

reluctant to talk about it and you can understand why."

While most who might have seen UFOs prefer anonymity, Franklin says, others seek an audience.

Watts has written a small booklet, *Here Is Where It Is! Planet Earth, A Mystery Solved*, about Mara and how earthlings need to ascend to be one with Mara. He published it himself.

"I suppose if we are being visited by intelligence, it might not be something that's going to seem logical to us," he says. "They could be a quantum leap above us as we are a quantum leap above the amoeba."

## MUFON

Public meetings:

■ **WHEN:** quarterly. Times vary.

■ **WHERE:** Unity Church, 261 SE 13th St., Pompano Beach

■ **ADMISSION:** free

■ **INFORMATION:** call 783-9044

## In the Dark

Strange Light Seen by Thousands May Have Been Meteor, Some Say

JOURNAL STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

Thousands of people in the Eastern United States reported seeing a strange blueish-green light in the sky Saturday night which some experts said could have been an unusually large meteorite.

Sheriff's dispatchers and spokesmen for police departments in northwest North Carolina and southwest Virginia reported receiving more than a dozen calls.

"We are quite confident it was not a man-made object re-entering," said Maj. Dick Adam, a public-affairs officer for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) in Colorado Springs, Colo. "We have no idea what it was."

Robert Gribble of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, a private group, reported receiving dozens of calls.

"Based on descriptions that have been given, I'd say we're dealing with a very large solid, a very large meteor," Gribble said.

"Descriptions run from a blue-green to a bright green coming down in an angular descent, leaving a short tail behind it," Gribble said. He said that everyone who had telephoned the center described the object "as coming down and hitting the ground in their area, which is very common in something like this."

In North Carolina, Jim Iodice, who was flying a Cessna 172 over Pilot Mountain Saturday night, said that he saw a "glowing, yellowish-blue light" between 7 and 7:30 p.m. that appeared to be near the plane. The object was descending in a northeast direction toward Martinsville, Va., but it leveled off at about 3,000 feet, flew at the same altitude for several hundred yards, then changed to a southward direction, Iodice said.

"My flight instructor was in the plane, and he said that no meteor would have changed direction like that," Iodice said. "We decided we just wouldn't say anything about it unless someone else did. But apparently a lot of people did see it."

Lee T. Shapiro, the director of the Morehead Planetarium at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said that the object may have been what astronomers call a "fire ball," or an extraordinarily bright meteor.

There are no active meteor showers during this time of year, but fire balls are not uncommon, Shapiro said. A similar sighting in the eastern part of the state Jan. 8 sparked reports of sightings from Wilmington to Hendersonville, he said.

"Meteors don't change direction, but they can break up and the pieces can go in different directions," Shapiro said. Meteors generally stop glowing when they reach an altitude of about 20 miles, often causing people on the ground to think that it landed near them, he said.

Among the people who reported seeing the object was David Arnold, an air-traffic-control supervisor at Dulles Airport, near Washington, D.C., where the sighting occurred at 7:10 p.m.

"We don't know exactly what it was, a meteor or a satellite," said Arnold, who has been an air-traffic controller for 25 years. "It lasted 25 to 30 seconds and went from brilliant white to an orange as it broke up."

"We've seen things like this before, but much higher. This was quite brilliant. It appeared to have dissipated completely."

But not all witnesses saw the object change color or disappear.

A television reporter in Oak Hill, W.Va., one of the places where there was a flurry of initial sightings, was at the home of one of the first witnesses nearly three hours after the initial sighting and reported that the light was still hovering in the sky.

Kitty Harrison, an assignment editor for WOAY-TV in Oak Hill, W.Va., said that what she saw was "absolutely not" a meteorite. "I've seen meteorites before, and this doesn't resemble the type of meteorite I've seen," she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"What we are seeing is a very bright bluish-white object that appears to be moving downward toward the horizon in an erratic spiraling motion," Ms. Harrison told the AP. "It is very slow. You have to keep your eye fixed to something stationary in order to see its progress."

Among the witnesses in the Washington area was Andrew Guthrie, a news editor at the Voice of America since 1983. "It was a dramatic thing to see," Guthrie said. "I almost drove off the road." He said that the object appeared to be "three or four times treetop level" and about the size of a grapefruit with an "incandescent bright light at the center, like a magnesium flare."

A reporter for the AP walking along Pennsylvania Avenue in the Foggy Bottom section of Washington recalled thinking initially that it was some type of man-made firework.

But the light remained on a flat trajectory, moving rapidly across the sky without fading in intensity or falling.

The witness then surmised that it could have been a fog-shrouded light on a fast-moving helicopter — until realizing that the night was clear and that there was no tell-tale sound of a helicopter.

CR: G. Fawcett

SOUTHWEST VA. ENTERPRISE, Wytheville, VA  
Feb. 3, 1990 CR: D. Gordon

## Sports writer sees a burning basketball floating in sky

UFO's and sports, what do they have in common? Nothing at all, unless you happen to be a sports writer on your way to a local high school basketball game and spot one!

All week, I've heard people mentioning seeing something in the sky over Wythe County last Saturday night. Not very many people have mentioned it, but enough to corroborate my sighting. Even the famous morning show personality "Hutch" on radio station WKZL 107.5 in Winston-Salem, N.C., was talking about seeing something in North Carolina's skies at the same time.

My co-workers in the *Enterprise* news room think I've lost my mind or need to change the lenses in my glasses. That may be true (to a certain degree), but I saw what I saw!

## The Finish Line

By BRENDA RUTHERFORD  
Sports Writer

And just what did I see? Traveling east on Main Street just after passing through the traffic light at the Lowe's intersection, I saw a fairly large ball of fire slightly above my line of vision passing horizontally from north to south over main street. The object was traveling at a relatively slow speed and went in a straight line. About halfway across, the back side of it erupted into a tall of sparks, but continued to

move in a steady form. A little farther on, it brightened up, dimmed then brightened again before vanishing in a blue flame on past the Courthouse clock tower. This occurred between 7 and 7:15 p.m. as I was on my way to the office before going to the George Wythe basketball game.

After pondering on this unusual occurrence, I've come to the conclusion that its one of three possibilities. I've experienced my first true UFO sighting, or I've actually witnessed a meteor falling to earth or this sports writer has gone delirious and is now seeing huge, burning basketballs in the sky. You decide!



# Forum Hears About 'UFO Visitors'

By HAROLD EGELN, JR.

Sitting near a warm Bay Ridge fireplace last Friday night, three women told their stories about "close encounters" with "alien visitors" who drive those mysterious Unidentified Flying Objects.

**THE HEARTH** in the home of a Bay Ridge Forum member, who hosted the group's monthly program, served as a storytelling setting for the December topic on "UFOs, First Hand Accounts."

From Manhattan came Lorie Barnes, mother of five grown children and grandmother to nine. From Bensonhurst came two sisters.

Since 1987 Barnes has been secretary for controversial writer Whitley Strieber, author of non-fiction best sellers "Communion," now a movie, and "Transformation."

Strieber claims they are "true stories" of encounters with "non-human intelligences."

"**WHETHER YOU BELIEVE** Strieber's story or not is unimportant," Barnes said.

Claiming 15 close encounters with alleged "visitors," she calls herself "a mediator between the visitors and the human race."

When "Communion" hit the bookstores in early 1987, her son told her to read it, saying, "Mom, it sounds like the story of your life."

**AN EARLY ENCOUNTER** came in East Meadow, Long Island in 1954 as she and her brother were playing with a Ouija Board. Suddenly, Barnes told her rapt audience, the following message came through:

"I am from another planet. I am Soltec. Go outside. In ten minutes you will see my ship."

Exactly ten minutes later, Barnes said, "we saw a glowing bluish silver ship 100 feet" above them.



Bensonhurst sisters Sarah Hartmann and Sherri Tenenbaum told Forum members they've "had experiences" with "the Visitors" whose faces appear on Whitley Strieber's books.

The "visitors" returned in 1959 when Barnes was pregnant with her second child and living in a Jackson Heights apartment.

While in bed reading a natural childbirth book, she related that she "heard a tremendous commotion" in her kitchen which frightened her.

"**THREE LITTLE** bluish-gray men with odd hats came into my room," she claimed, as various members of her audience showed varied reactions.

Experiences in Bensonhurst were related by sisters Sarah Hartmann and Sherri Tenenbaum, as their wary husbands listened.



Bay Ridge Forum president Harriet Rosenberg with Lorie Barnes. They hold copies of "Communion" and "Transformation."

"In 1978 I saw a ship in the shape of a large black box floating over the courtyard," Hartmann said.

"**MANY ARE SKEPTICAL,**" commented Forum member Phil Birnbaum. Tenenbaum replied, "I never believed in this myself until my first UFO encounter."

## Was it junk? Maybe so, but it sure lit up the sky

By Bill McAuliffe  
Southern Minnesota Correspondent

Minnesotans, you are not alone.

While residents from Anoka to Mankato were calling radio stations and police departments Thursday to report the sighting of a bright, slow-moving light in the predawn sky, people across the western half of the nation were doing the same thing.

Was it a lazy meteor? High-tech migrating waterfowl? Jet-propelled marsh gas? Aliens?

"My guess is that it was re-entering debris, probably from some space mission," said Edward Ney, regents professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Minnesota. "There's something like 5,000 pieces of (debris) up there. There's so much stuff in orbit, I'm surprised there aren't more reports of re-entering things."

Bus driver Roger Tuomisto caught sight of the spectacle in Minnetonka, while southbound on Interstate Hwy. 494 near Hwy. 7. It was about 6:15 a.m.

Mark Hime of Anoka and his wife, Jackie, were southbound on Hwy. 65 near Hwy. 10 in Blaine when they spotted it off to the southeast.

Farther south, Will Purvis, a deputy for the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Department, was leaving for work from his Vernon Center farm when he saw the light, arcing from northwest to southeast.

Ruth Hubmer, who lives on a farm near the Nicollet County village of North Star, glimpsed it moving across the southern sky, sloping toward the Earth.

Most eyewitnesses to the spectacle, which was reported over a 12-hour period from a number of locations, said it was greenish, although some said it was turquoise, or white, or had an orange tail. Others said it didn't have a tail.

"Everybody was perplexed," said KDWB morning disc jockey Steve Cochran, who fielded more than 12 calls on the sighting. "But nobody was terribly frightened, and nobody really knew what it was."

Getting a fix on what caused the light was complicated by several factors.

Most natural meteors — bits of matter, some no bigger than dust particles — heat up as they crash through the atmosphere and become greenish in color. So maybe it was a meteor.

But the direction attributed to yesterday's phenomenon, west to east, suggests that the material was man-made. Ney said that objects are launched into space eastward, to get a boost toward orbit from the Earth's rotation. Thus, they always descend from the west. So maybe it was man-made.

But then again, meteors can come from any direction. So yesterday's falling object could very well have been natural material, Ney said. "It was nice in the old days when you could see meteors and you didn't have to think about whether it was something coming down from something we put up there," Ney said. "But that's the way it is, now."

The North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) in Colorado Springs tracks 6,700 man-made objects in space. Those objects are at least one square meter in size and have more than a 5 percent chance of surviving re-entry through the Earth's atmosphere.

Capt. Thomas Niemann, a defense command spokesman, said none of the objects fell to Earth yesterday, but that the command received calls from across the western part of the continent Wednesday night and Thursday morning, describing a bright greenish light moving across the sky.

Niemann and Ney said that objects break through the atmosphere from space at about 18,000 miles per hour, too fast for one object to have been sighted over so many hours. Asked what people saw, Niemann said it could have been several meteors, several man-made objects too small for NORAD to track, or a combination of both.

Perhaps, as some observers mused, it — or they — fell to the ground somewhere nearby and could be retrieved.

"It's pretty rare that they're picked up," Ney said. "An object the size of an orange will fall in every square kilometer (on Earth) once every million years."

UNION, Grass Valley, CA - Jan. 29, 1990

## Meet your neighbor . . .

Each week *The Union* will profile one of your friends or neighbors. It might be the supermarket checker, the beer truck driver, the fellow down the street with the "green thumb," or even your newspaper carrier. If you have ideas on someone you would like to read about, just give the newsroom a call any afternoon at 273-9561.

By PAUL HARRAR  
*The Union*

Have you seen a ghost? Have you heard bumps in the night? Are you wondering what that glowing light you saw hovering over the trees was? Michael Farmer wants to help, or at least hear your story.

The 31-year-old self-described "paranormal investigator" from Cedar Ridge has spent his entire adult life trying to explain unusual phenomena. "I'm interested in hearing what people have experienced," he said. "I'm trying to canvass the area."

Farmer has experienced plenty of strange things himself. When he was 13, he saw his first UFO. It was cigar-shaped and engulfed in flames, he said. His father told him he'd seen things like it when he was in the Navy. When Farmer's father was murdered the same year, he says he "felt his presence, felt him calling me days after."

Like most kids, Farmer says he grew up believing ghosts, monsters, and spacemen were just the stuff of fantasy. "But after what I had experienced, maybe this isn't as unreal as movies make it seem," he said. "I wanted to find out for myself." Since then, Farmer has read everything about the paranormal he can get his hands on.

Two weeks ago, he and his wife Donna were strolling around their neighborhood at around 12:30 a.m. and say they saw a glowing orange ball in the eastern sky. "It just appeared. It was very bright and it changed colors," he said. "It reminded



me of military anti-collision lights." Said Donna, "It just went zip, then zip," demonstrating with her hand how the object swiftly changed its position in the sky.

The Farmers want to know if anyone else might have seen the UFO.

Michael is the associate director of the Washington state-based UFO Contact Center International, an organization that gathers firsthand UFO reports.

The organization's local chapters are a forum for UFO discussion and counseling. Farmer is trying to get a local chapter going in Nevada County.

Farmer's paranormal investigations involve both psychics and skeptics. "I'm not into New Age stuff or metaphysics. I'm just a scientific investigator. I want hard evidence," he said. He would like to investigate reports of ghosts at the Pioneer Museum.

# Readers are asked about strange lights over the Pacific



John Bogert

I'd call it, as we do in the press, an isolated incident. That is, I'd like to call it that for reasons of self-respect and sanity, but I can't. At least, not when women (OK, so it was only one woman and not a very big one at that) grab me at the car wash and ask me, "What are you going to do about the UFOs?"

Sure, this was a Torrance car wash, which explains a lot, but a keen newsman can tell when feelings are running high about things like pod people and mermen (and I'm not talking Ethel here).

I hate to shake your belief in the sensibility of the body politic, but I've had some very strange calls on these subjects within the last year. And just to show that I'm not above this kind of grime and hallucination, I even offered to meet the woman who claimed to have seen a merman (that's a male mermaid for those of you fixated on Daryl Hannah) in the water off Catalina.

No, no, no, she didn't want publicity for herself — as if I were waiting to feed a Redondo Beach housewife into the worldwide publicity grinder — but she just thought someone should ask "the authorities" why they are covering up this information.

In this case, "the authorities" were covering up the existence of creatures half man and half fish.

Now that I think about it, I didn't ask which half of the creature was human, but I assume it was the top half. In which case, fish being fish and humans being humans, how could the lower body of such a creature suggest gender?

I don't know. Maybe he had short hair, like the woman who grabbed my arm in the car wash while I awaited the results of a hot wax, undercarriage clean and soft brush cleansing of my Buick.

"Well?" she asked.

Well, it's no secret that anyone who has anything at all to do with the media is often saddled with all the complaints — lunatic and otherwise — anyone has against this faultless profession.

"Go away lady," I said, affecting a generic foreign accent.

"You're not going anywhere until your car is

finished, so you might as well listen," she said, gradually — like a movie apparition — turning into a bright-looking older woman with lovely blue eyes. "Besides, I have a son your age."

That, of course, was her ticket. She would abide no nonsense from me.

"What about the lights?" asked Gloria, who actually gave me permission to use her last name. But why, I ask, make her look like a fool to the people over at the church group?

The odd thing is, I knew about the lights. I've been hearing about the lights since last summer when a completely sensible-sounding, retired engineer from Redondo Beach named Walter Engel called to tell me about them.

He had seen them — the lights — out over the ocean at about 3,500 to 6,000 feet, bright lights zig-zagging around off the local coastline. And he wasn't claiming they were anything in particular, just lights. Still, the FAA told him they were planes stacked up for landing at LAX.

But how many planes are stacked up at 3 a.m., he wondered?

Then he called the FBI and was made to feel like a first-class weirdo. And I'm sure my reception didn't make him feel any better. Still, he saw what he saw and one night he saw what looked like fighter planes moving toward the

lights, lights that quickly disappeared as the planes approached.

What's really odd here is the reception I got from an Air Force major at the Space Systems Division in El Segundo, the same man Engel called with the same question.

The guy happens to be a major, and while he didn't tell me not to use his name, I won't use it because I happen to know what mincemeat his superiors could make of him come promotion time if they caught scent of anything even remotely weird.

Anyway, here is what the information officer said: "I'm the only guy who took Mr. Engel seriously. But his wasn't the first call; we've had a few others, all reporting the same lights off the coast. I called the FAA myself and they did a quick shuffle."

"They want to dump topics like this fast because people who see strange things in the sky are perceived as different. Still, I have to ask, if we can put strange things into the sky, so can the Japanese, or people from anywhere else."

"We have to keep open minds."

That's what I told Gloria: "We have to keep open minds." I also told her I'd ask if any of you saw anything WEIRD, you know, OUT THERE, over the sea. She has. And she's not the only one.

## Another witnesses UFO lights near Cedar Rapids

GAZETTE, Cedar Rapids, IA - Feb. 4, 1990

### MUFON group seeks information from others

By Lisa Ann Williamson

Gazette staff writer

Seeing unexplained lights in the sky could make you a little paranoid.

Sheree Voelkel of Cedar Rapids said she did not tell a soul about seeing bright orange-red lights in the sky from the bedroom window of her southeast-side home Friday night for fear her family members might think she was crazy.

"I thought I was going crazy myself," Voelkel said. She said she tried to explain the lights away by thinking it was an airplane or a helicopter. "But it took off suddenly at an unusual angle, so it couldn't have been an airplane," she said. Voelkel was happy to read in the Gazette Saturday morning that there had been reports of other unidentified lights in East-

ern Iowa, Charles Miller and Kurt Maas, who reported seeing the lights, were both described by officials as "solid, rational and normal." Miller, of Wellman, told authorities she had seen a large dark mass, surrounded by two,

blue beams and a halo of light, hover and disappear above a Wellman farm field Monday. Maas, of Troy Mills, also saw a strange, unexplained light while out walking with his wife, Karen, Monday night. Neither the Linn County Sheriff's Department nor Cedar Rapids Police Department received calls about the lights seen by Voelkel.

Donald Curtis, state director of the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON) in Des Moines, said he is very interested in talking with anyone who has seen unidentified lights or other objects. This is a subject he and the organization take very seriously. Curtis said it was common two decades ago for people to feel uncomfortable reporting sightings, fearing ridicule by family members and others. "But now there are many organizations in place to investigate sightings," he said. MUFON is the largest UFO investigation organization in the nation, and has representatives in over 50 countries, Curtis said. "About 85 percent of unusual sightings have a rational explanation," according to Curtis. "But that leaves 15 percent that are unexplained, and we'd like to investigate them."

# It seems that UFOs are sighted nearly as often as Elvis



John Bogert

Last week, I innocently — OK, so it wasn't so innocent, I was trying to stir things up — mentioned a woman collaring me at a Torrance carwash to ask about mysterious lights over the ocean.

The odd thing was, I have received several calls about UFOs over the last year, the most interesting being one from a local engineer who saw these well-lit, saucerlike ships in the wee hours and couldn't get a straight answer on them from anyone.

Well, I couldn't give him an answer either. So I called the people who should know about things foreign and domestic flying about in U.S. airspace, the Western Pacific Regional Headquarters of the Federal Aviation Administration in Hawthorne.

With a ringing title like that, and given my own prejudices against government officials, I wasn't expecting a warm voice at the other end of the line.

Elly Brekke, FAA spokeswoman and a wonderfully warm voice, said that she receives calls about flying machines and strange lights quite often. No, she couldn't say exactly how many calls because the government really isn't in the UFO tracking or documenting business.

"Many times I can explain, many times I

can't," she said. "But what really sets the phones ringing are the rocket launches from Vandenberg. Two or three times a year, they launch a rocket and the calls come in by the dozens."

The most memorable came last year from a man who was walking his dog near the beach at night near LAX.

"Tell me I'm not crazy," he began," Brekke said. "He didn't believe in UFOs or beings from outer space. What he wanted, what he begged for, was a logical explanation for what he saw. And what he saw was a rocket launch, with a bright, colored contrail."

"The poor man was beside himself."

Recently, a comet seen from the hills near Bakersfield set the FAA phones ringing again. When Brekke can't explain, she refers callers to the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

"Yes, there is such a place and its number, should you get the urge to report a close encounter, is (206) 722-3000."

"I can only offer logical explanations," she said. "Beyond that, I really can't comment because I don't have strong opinions either way on UFOs."

Some people, of course, do. Robert Gribble — the walking definition of a believer — founded the UFO Reporting Center in 1974, five years after the Air Force abandoned the topic.

With a minimum of six calls a day (almost equaling calls to the Elvis Sighting Center) coming in, one can see why the Air Force gave up the UFO headache for stealth bombers.

"It's busy around here," said Gribble, a self-taught UFO expert who — rather fantastically — has never actually seen a UFO.

Luckily, everyone who calls him has. And what they have seen is about what you'd expect people to see: bright lights, actual flying saucers and other wingless vehicles.

There also have been cases of claimed abduction and many close encounters, those of less than 500 feet.

Of course, none of these space creatures — and this is the really maddening part — has ever landed near the White House or anywhere else

where they could be documented by photographers who actually know how to focus a camera because, Gribble said, "that obviously isn't their style."

One recent caller told him of seeing three triangular-shaped spacecrafts over the ocean near Santa Clara.

"I think it's interesting that these huge, 747-sized craft appeared the day after the big quake. They had huge lights trained on the ocean surface as they moved along at about 300 feet. To me, this indicates an intelligent control."

And, yes, he does believe that Earth has been visited by many different beings from many other planets. Or perhaps it was only one planet with many different space vehicle models, sort of like car makes on earth.

Furthermore, Gribble thinks that many scientists believe in outer space visitors as well, but won't speak out for fear of losing government grants.

"There's no clear explanation of why we are being visited in this way or why they have decided not to establish contact," he said. "It just is."

Next time — and, I swear, it will be the last — we will hear from local people who have seen UFOs close up and lived to tell about it.



# Something's out there, and it claims to have seen a UFO

**G**ood heavens," gasped the radio newsmen. "Something's wriggling out of the shadows! Ladies and gentlemen, it's indescribable!"

That should have tipped America off to hoax. What, after all, is indescribable to a newsmen? Still, Orson Welles' 1938 broadcast of "War of the Worlds" put people on the run.

We've calmed down a lot since then, but not so much that we still don't see flying saucers — a term coined by a man who saw something in the sky near Mount Rainier, Wash., in 1947 — up there or out there.

Carl Jung seemed to think that UFO sightings and contacts with beings from other worlds "must be of significant psychological significance."

"It is noteworthy," the psychiatrist stated, "that in these contact tales, spacecraft and their crews are rarely pictured as hostile. It seems that it would be highly satisfying if a race of advanced and benign creatures were devoted to our

**John Bogert**



story. Long ago, when Vine was a teen-ager in Bacon County, Ga., she saw a very large, cigar-shaped thing land in one of her father's fields.

"That field was just coming out of corn, I believe," said the retired store clerk. "I walked up to the thing and I tell you it was big and made of metal. And a door opened, it pulled in, then swung back like a modern airliner door, and this was back when the DC-3 was the biggest thing around. Anyway, out pokes the head of this man. He looked just like a normal man only he had kind eyes."

She paused. "Then what happened?" I asked, a man who would rather have a good story than the truth.

"That's all. I woke up lying in the field in my underwear, my dress nicely folded beside me."

"That was it?"

"That was it and I never told anybody about it until today. So what do you think?"

What did I think? Well, it's hard to say. Could

be a flying cigar with a randy driver. Or perhaps it was a flowering teen's flight of fancy in stone-boring South Georgia.

"That's what I chalk it up to," Vine said.

In all, I received 24 cards, letters and calls from people claiming to have seen unexplainable things in the heavens. A few of them were even angry, saying I was making light of a serious topic. To those people I say this: Tough!

One evening just before Halloween, Mary Bennett of Carson got a call from her friend Irene Evans.

"Come on over," she said, "you won't believe this."

At the house, which is not far from Carson City Hall, Mary found Irene looking out her front window at a pair of huge lights that seemed to be hanging in the sky above Ingleswood.

This wasn't a landing light. In fact, the two women claim the light they saw would have to be a city-block-square to appear that big in the sky.

Soon, it was heading straight at them, stopping only to knock out the headlights on Irene's 1981 Chevrolet Impala and fade its upholstery from blue to white.

"Even fixed, those car lights are still cross-eyed. The mechanics can't seem to repair them," said the retired medical receptionist who once saw a giant, moving, blue ball in the sky over New Mexico.

As it turned out, Mary, too, saw a strange light over her house when she was a child in Nebraska and it made her feel safe.

Still, they wouldn't hazard a guess on this one. But both women agreed that if we weren't so involved in our own little worlds we might see better what's going on just above our heads.

Wright Garfield, a sometimes resident of Redondo Beach, happened to see my UFO column on his last pass through town.

"Damned interesting," said the former Army transport pilot in a phone call from Sacramento. "I've seen a lot of stuff over the years, stuff I couldn't explain, stuff the flight crews on my plane wouldn't report because people would think us nuts."

"I've been followed by stuff that wasn't appearing on radar. I've seen strange lights on the horizon. I happen to think there's something out there. Don't you?"

Yeah, sure. Millions of stars, perhaps millions of planets out there, and everyone is picking on us, pulling people out of swamps, out of mobile homes

and drive-in movies without so much as a letter of thanks for the memories.

Actually, some of the calls were pretty strange, even by my standards. A man told me he suspected his first wife was from another planet because she seemed to be able to live on water and diet pills. Another caller's views on UFOs degenerated into a one-sided discussion about Colombia drug bosses and Charlie Manson.

A Torrance woman claimed regular visitations of invisible space people, a claim I could believe. If I were to travel several million light years, Torrance would probably be my first stop too.

Still, I think we've discovered something here. I think we've discovered that I shouldn't have brought up the subject.

CLARION-LEDGER, Jackson, MS - Jan. 29, 1990 CR: J. Crocker



**DANNY MCKENZIE**

Columnist  
The Clarion-Ledger

## Serious hobby: Finding explanation for strange stuff

First things first: James Crocker says he's not a kook, and there's no reason not to believe him.

Crocker is a 33-year-old Jackson contractor who grew up in Dallas and graduated from the University of Texas.

His non-occupational pastime might be considered a bit strange, but it's certainly no more weird than hitting golf balls or flying radio-controlled airplanes.

It's certainly more involved than the term "hobby" implies. What Crocker does is try to find an explanation for the inexplicable.

To that end, he has even formed a club: Phenomena Research (P.O. Box 12327, Jackson 39236). It's a small group, Crocker says, but it's serious about solving the unsolved.

Crocker and his cohorts research things such as UFO and Bigfoot sightings, mysterious light shows, and, well, booms. You know, like the one a lot of us heard and felt around here last Monday afternoon (2:32 p.m. McKenzie Kitchen Standard Time, to be exact).

### Maybe, maybe not

Could have been a sonic boom, Crocker says; could've been something else. The FAA says it was something else, but Crocker's not willing to bet the ranch it was.

"Atmospheric conditions can sometimes let us hear and feel a sonic boom even though it happens a lot farther away," Crocker explains.

Then again, he says, it might not have been a sonic boom, at least not the kind we think of — you know, when a jet breaks the sound barrier in our neighborhood.

It might have been bolide, Crocker says. For the scientifically stupid among you, a bolide is a meteor coming in faster than the speed of sound but burns up in the atmosphere.

Anyway, we aren't the only area of the country that has dealt with mysterious booms. A couple of weeks ago, there was a boom up in Clarksdale that was strong enough to knock books off shelves and pictures off walls, and set off several burglar alarms.

Back in '86, Crocker says, there was one in Dallas that lit up the sky, rattled windows, and shook foundations. The year before that, a ball of fire and boom were reported in Anniston, Ala., and Las Cruces, N.M.

### East Coast booming

And a dozen years ago there were so many booms along the East Coast, the Navy, which had said all along it wasn't any of its planes, did a three-month study and then said it was — but by then, nobody bought the explanation.

All of this stuff is interesting, Crocker says, and he'd like to know what our boom was as much as anybody, but that's not his top priority right now.

He's trying to solve the year-old case of the disappearing Russian rocket in central Mississippi.

Seems as if some coonhunters reported seeing a "fairly large fireball about tree-top high" about 9 o'clock one night, Crocker says. "They said it was shooting off orange and white particles all over the place."

Now, we all know two things about coonhunters: They're bad to be done in by the truth when they start telling stories, and they'll do anything to get a coon.

But get this: Crocker says NASA said it was a re-entering Soviet rocket. When he went to check it out he found a lot of "chaff," metal particles governments usually drop over areas to create radar confusion.

There might be a logical explanation. "A lot of times somebody will report something and it'll be a case of misidentification, or of their imagination getting away with them. I'd guess that 75 percent of UFO sightings are totally explainable, but there's still that 25 percent."

It's that 25 percent that Crocker is trying to explain and maybe someday write a book on Mississippi phenomena.

"The answers might be sensational or mundane," he says, "but my ultimate goal is to find that answer."

As for the Russian rocket in central Mississippi, I'd be willing to bet somebody in NASA is a coonhunter.

Danny McKenzie's column appears Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

## Fyffe enjoys link to a serious UFO

To the people of Fyffe who actually spotted a flying object they couldn't identify, the hype and jokes about the reports of their experiences aren't the least bit funny.

In fact, we doubt those folks who have been ridiculed already would tell anyone if a UFO landed on the normally peaceful streets of the DeKalb County town.

After the huge crowds which flocked to Fyffe shortly after the earlier reports, many might want to keep that portion of Sand Mountain to themselves.

To those who spotted the unidentifiable object earlier this year, the whole matter is serious. The sightings were serious. The

jokes and wise cracks were serious.

However, townspeople seemed willing to risk a bit more hype when the cause is equally serious.

Tom Lenard of Auburn University's film department has made a two-minute public service announcement featuring the town and its link to UFOs. The message, designed for teenagers and others who attend theaters in Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina, is this: "Don't Drink and Drive" and "Buckle Up." The UFO in Fyffe adds: "You Never Know What You Might Encounter."

We are proud of the people in Fyffe for supporting this message. And we are happy to note that an Attalla family and the Gadsden Times have parts to play.

See it soon in a theater near you.

## Questions frequently asked about UFOs

BY JOE BARRON, MUFON INVESTIGATOR

Before posing any hypothesis about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) as opposed to Identified Flying Objects (IFOs), let's take a look at some facts.

First: There exists literally hundred of thousands of official reports in the archives of the industrialized world about UFOs by reliable people. It is bordering on the realm of stupidity to assume that the pilot of a 747 commercial airliner, responsible for a substantial amount of aircraft, notwithstanding the lives of many people, backed by many years of flying experience and familiar with aerial phenomena, to be unable to tell the difference between a contrail, weather balloon, ice crystals, ball lightning, planets, rockets, etc., and a vehicle that travels at speeds never before encountered which maneuvers about his aircraft at will.

Second: How about military pilots, ship captains, flotilla commanders, astronomers, astronauts, air traffic controllers and many more, of whom have impeccable reputations? Are they nuts, or victims of hysteria, imagination, hallucination? Or maybe they're reporting what they experienced. And what they experienced was really something for which there is no explanation other than something from another planet, or world.

Third: If you haven't seen a UFO, are a skeptic, or just in plain doubt about their existence, then, please read on and, remember, intelligence begins with an open mind.

Q1. If UFOs are among us, were is the physical evidence?

A1. We have plenty of hard evidence. Get a copy of Timothy Goode's recently published book, *Above Top Secret*. He has documented where, through the Freedom of Information Act, you can get background material. Additionally, plenty of material is available from The New Age Shop in Harbortown in Gulf Breeze.

Q2. If there is evidence, why can't we get it?

A2. Back in 1947, after the term "Flying Saucers" was used to describe UFOs, the U.S. Government started to suppress all reports and evidence attributed to UFOs in this country. There are several reasons why, and we can only speculate. But, it may have something to do with an Orson Wells radio broadcast in the early thirties about an invasion from Mars. The broadcast was presented as a newscast. It caused panic over several areas of the USA. It is possible that the government may suspect the same thing happening if they released UFO data to the public. Another hypothesis might be religious. The government probably suspects strong opposition from organized churches. However, they apparently accept witchcraft and exorcism as being O.K. One more probable reason may be due to their belief that our people are not ready to accept an intelligence far superior to our own moving about among us at will and, there is absolutely nothing that they, us or anyone else can do -- anything whatsoever to control it.

Q3. Why do some people see UFOs and other don't?

A3. It's simply being in the right place at the right time. Also, be observant. Create a situation where you could see one. Spend some time at night looking and searching. There's also a very good reason why some people have repeated sightings. They could have been programmed. Read material on the subject; for example, Bud Hopkins and Whitney Strieber's books on abductions. That's just a few; there are many other books on the subject.

Q4. Why do we have UFOs here in Gulf Breeze? Why not other places?

A4. Good question; but, in fact, Gulf Breeze is not alone. UFOs are sighted daily in almost any spot on this planet. Most people are not reporting sightings because they fear ridicule, sarcasm and alienation from associates and friends. You see, the idea of UFOs is so far behind human comprehension that, even though they see a UFO, touch it, and/or talk to an entity, the mind just simply will not accept it. And if they do, who'll believe them?

One explanation for so many local sightings, which is pretty far out for some folks, is that they have a base nearby, possibly in the Gulf. According to my information, they have several bases throughout the universe,

on earth, and around the earth (in our space) and the moon. The moon? Sure, according to Timothy Goode, one of our astronauts snapped a couple of photos of a large space ship while there. Please remember, that in our area, Gulf Breeze, we have many military establishments. We also have some pretty sophisticated people who live here. You would be surprised at the many people who have seen UFOs. Only about ten percent (MUFON estimate) of the sightings get reported. Why not more? I've already given you the reasons why people are reluctant to report sightings.

Q5. Can UFO evidence be faked?

A5. Sure. You can fake almost anything. However, Ed Walters (Mr. Ed of Gulf Breeze sighting fame) has taken photos that, according to the best experts (photo intelligence) in this country, are genuine. He was given a sealed unit with two cameras (to prevent contamination) by a photo intelligence specialist, and took over eighty photographs. He also used video cameras, 35mm and polaroid equipment. His pictures were analyzed by the best photo intelligence people in the business and their conclusion is that the pictures are real, not faked. You may want to get his book, *It's coming out in March*.

Q6. Why would someone deliberately fake UFO evidence?

A6. For personal gain. I have never faked UFO material and have seen some; however, that doesn't minimize the real stuff. False material adds to the controversy. It makes our job harder, and provides skeptics with fuel for their fires. But, don't let false prophets deter you from seeking the truth. It's out there.

Q7. Would somebody be adversely affected by UFO publicity?

A7. I've already answered that; but, there's more. Harassment, threats, eavesdropping, intimidation, etc. has happened to some people involved in sightings, contacts or witnesses to such encounters. Under the veil of national security, witnesses are sworn to secrecy, have had material taken from them and threatened with severe repercussions if they reveal their experience. By whom? Good question.

Q8. Why is the *Sentinel* so fascinated by UFOs?

A8. Mr. and Mrs. Somerby have had sightings. Mr. Somerby if you recall, founded the *Sentinel*. Additionally, Mr. Duane Cook, the present publisher, finally had a sighting; although he had an open mind on the subject prior to his sighting. Therefore, the *Sentinel* has had a personal interest. It is my opinion that a good community newspaper is responsive to the community's interests. You would be surprised how many people in this community are interested in, and believe in the UFO Phenomenon.

Q9. Are people who report UFOs familiar with our skies?

A9. I really don't know. But, as a trained MUFON Investigator, I am. That is one tool we use in our investigations. We can, pretty accurately, tell if the witness saw a UFO or a star or planet. There are several ways too numerous to state in this article, that we use to separate fact from fiction.

Q10. Where are they from?

A10. Another good question. In my opinion, let's just say that most are probably from our galaxy - the Milky Way. Only the Infinite Creator knows for sure.

Q11. How long have they been here?

A11. By here, I assume you mean - Earth. As far as we can tell, thousands of years. There are several landmarks that were created thousands of years ago yet are meaningless unless seen from a very high altitude. Ancient religious, cultures, mores, cults, writings and so on, provide a multitude of data for which there is no other explanation.

Also contactees from all over the world have supplied repetitive identical testimony corroborated through reliable sources that we, Planet Earth, have been under their surveillance for a very long time. There was absolutely no way that the witnesses could have gotten together to present the same story.

Q12. If I see a UFO or have an encounter with one, what do I do?

A12. Well, I can't tell you what to do at the moment. No one can do that. If you can remember to keep your cool and calm down, just relax and let them make their move. In all probability, there won't be much that you can do anyway. But, after the experience, call MUFON at 436-2700. It's a twenty-four hour answering service. The call will be passed on to a trained investigator. You will be assured of a friendly, understanding and compassionate professional who will maintain your anonymity if you wish.

## Most frequently asked questions about the local UFO phenomena

BY DUANE COOK

What about sightings in other nearby counties?

There have been numerous sightings in nearby counties reported to the *Sentinel*, WEAR TV, MUFON, and the various government bodies. The *Sentinel* concentrates on local events.

Why does the *Sentinel* print so many stories on the UFO?

We encourage UFO witnesses to share their experiences and their photos with our readers. The *Sentinel*'s role in printing the photos and stories of local UFO sightings

has undoubtedly been a factor in enlightening the population in general about these controversial happenings. We also invite skeptics to write us with their comments. All signed responses are shared with our readers. No one to date has proved that Ed Walters' photos and the one-hundred plus other Gulf Breeze area sightings are of a terrestrial origin. The *Sentinel* therefore maintains they are extra-terrestrial and will continue to treat them as such.

What about this 'book' I have heard is being published?

There are at least three books in the works by different authors; a witness, a reporter, and an investigator. The first to hit the bookstores is due in early March and is titled, *The Gulf Breeze Sightings by Edward Walters and Frances Walters*. The Walters' present their photos and a personal accounting. The *Kirkus Review*, N.Y., says, "...this account weighs in as the most levelheaded and believable of first-person UFO tales."

I have seen a lot of full page ads in the *Sentinel* about the UFOs. Why do you print that stuff?

They are paid advertisements and do not necessarily reflect our editorial viewpoint but we defend the rights of all free speech. Why Gulf Breeze???

That is the big question and it does have an answer but it seems only to be known by the UFO. Our guess is that Gulf Breeze is well-educated (our residents have the second highest per capita number of college degrees in Florida) so therefore Why Not Gulf Breeze? Everybody's got to be somewhere -- even UFOs.

## MUFON NEWS

### Six local teens spot UFO in Gulf Breeze

BY CAROL AND REX SALISBERRY

At 8:35 p.m., Jan. 12, Nikki and Jake Levine, Danny and Jason Ball, and Robby and Scott Bingham all saw a UFO for the first time. Needless to say, they were all very excited about it and now firmly state that they believe that UFO's "really exist." The six young people were playing outside of their homes near the intersection of Bear and Norwich in Gulf Breeze. Jake and Jason were the first to spot the object which, in their estimate, was hovering in the vicinity of the Gulf Breeze Police Department. They called to the others who joined them in watching the UFO for approximately three to five minutes. As they walked in the direction of the UFO, it started to move slowly towards the north, behind the trees. The six walked up Norwich trying to keep the object in view, but it had either vanished or was completely hidden by the trees. During the sighting, they noticed two jet airplanes, which they believed to be military, approaching the location from the

south. When the UFO disappeared, the jets turned around and flew back to the south.

The young people said that the object was shaped like a toy top and was about half the size of a house. It appeared to be 500 to 1,000 feet above the ground, and had a red light on top, a blue light on the bottom and two rows of rotating lights around the middle. They could not hear any noise coming from the object.

During the course of the investigation, it was learned that the parents of two of the witnesses also had a UFO sighting on Nov. 4, 1989. They were driving towards Pensacola on the Bay Bridge at 1 p.m. As they approached the hump in the bridge they noticed a UFO hovering over Emanuel Point in Pensacola. They continued to watch the object as they drove slowly across the bridge. The UFO appeared to move about slowly, then darted to a new position in a split second before it again hovered. The UFO resembled 2 pie plates, inverted on top of each

other, with no lights showing. The witnesses drove to Emanuel Point and walked to the shoreline, but could not see the object again.

Anyone having additional information about this sighting or any other UFO related event is asked to call the Pensacola MUFON hot line number: 436-2700.

### Mysterious Quake

BY CAROL SALISBERRY

Twice in Nov. 1989, and then again last Thursday, Jan. 25, at 2:10 p.m., unexplained tremors shook the Panhandle area and as far west as Mobile leaving officials still puzzled over these "tremors of unknown origin."

Was it an earthquake a side effect of a weather condition or a solar flare? Or, was it a skyquake?

According to Leonard Stringfield, a Mutual UFO Network investigator from Cincinnati, skyquakes were common in 1955 and 1956. These quakes were also of mysterious origin and could not be attributed to aircraft, weather

conditions or earth tremors. Skyquakes were recorded in Rhode Island, New York and Massachusetts. Mysterious explosions also shook a 70 mile stretch of the Florida coast. They also occurred in New Zealand, Australia and Japan.

Stringfield states that the general characteristics of skyquakes are: mysterious explosions that have a reverberating effect on the ground which causes buildings to shake, objects to fall from shelves and tables, plaster to break from ceilings and windows to rattle. During 1955-56, heavy years of UFO activity, numerous reports of skyquakes occurred. Stringfield believes that there is a strong correlation between these mysterious quakes and explosions and UFO sightings. Is there a correlation between the large number of sightings along the Gulf Coast and the recent mystery quakes? It certainly makes one wonder. To report a UFO sighting or for more information on the Pensacola, Santa Rosa MUFON chapter, call the new 24-hour hotline number: 436-2700.

(continued on page 9)





Frances & Ed Walters

## Ed Walters publishes book on UFO experiences

BY EDWARD WALTERS

November 11, 1987, it can be said, was the day that witnesses began reporting what is now known as the Gulf Breeze UFO. During the weeks and months that followed the sightings by the Somerbys, Zammit, Thompson and me, many Gulf Breeze residents stepped forward to tell of seeing these strange objects in our skies. We would learn later that Gulf Breeze was not alone. According to the Regional MUFON Director, these unexplained objects are not unique to Gulf Breeze and scores of sightings have been reported throughout Florida.

Over two years have now passed and the sightings around our area have continued. The media coverage, both locally and nationally, has been straight forward and generally correct, but the newspaper and special TV reports do not have the space or the time to detail a complete accounting. So, that is what I was asked to do and it was not an easy decision. I was very reluctant. Concerned about my family and business reputation, I refused to go public for over two years. During those two years I worked quietly with a local team of MUFON agents. Along with over sixteen specialists, the top expert in optical physics, Dr. Maccabee, who works for the Department of Navy, examined the original photographs. Computer enhancement experts were called in to cross check and scan the photo evidence. Special stereo cameras were used to verify the size and distance of the UFO. Two years of patient study and analysis continues to support the testimony of the Gulf Breeze witnesses. The witnesses were indeed seeing something very strange, but all possibilities had to be considered. I was asked to take a lie detector test. For three hours I was questioned (not unlike the smoke-filled

room with a light shining in your face.) To the amazement of the skeptical examiner, I was truthfully reporting what I and so many others of us had seen. A week later, as if the first test was not enough, I endured yet another two-hour test. Again I passed. Then came the PSE test, a state of the art voice stress analysis test... "no deception." And if all of this was not enough, I agreed to undergo clinical hypnosis. Each of the many sessions were video documented and under the supervision of Dr. Dan Overlade, past president of the Florida Board of Psychology.

Months passed and witnesses continued to report their sightings. The subject of allowing a book publisher to print the photographs and the details was a recurring question from the media and the MUFON agents. Now, with a solid understanding that the details must be told, it was clear that the only medium that could cover the details completely and for the record was a book. So... here we are — over two years later but as they say, "better late than never", and the years were well spent on the critical scientific analysis for a credible accounting of such bizarre events.

My appreciation goes out to the witnesses who testified both on the record and off, it is with their strength that I too come forward and tell of those months of interaction with something so utterly strange.

With the exception of the videotaped sighting, all the photos are included in the *Gulf Breeze Sightings*. As co-author, Frances Walters Hanson also tells of her encounters and feelings, and Dr. Maccabee presents his conclusions from the months of scientific study.

Thank you Gulf Breeze for your support and understanding.

## UFO photo update

A few weeks ago, *The Sentinel* printed the photo taken by Brenda Pollak the night of Jan. 8 and asked anyone who could identify the object to notify the *Sentinel*.

Gulf Breeze resident Bill Henle brought in a photo he had taken of 'heat lightning' 20 years ago.

Bill's photo indeed looked very much like the black and white rendition of Brenda's that appeared in the *Sentinel*.

That's where the similarity ends, however.

Bill's lightning was uniformly white, while Brenda's photo showed a ribbon of light that changed colors 110 times from one end to the other.

Bill did say the colors were beautiful and looked like the 4th of July when he shot his photo in June of 1968.

The *Sentinel* showed the photos to Dave Kessler, astronomical engineer and retired Air Force test pilot and asked his opinion.

He said the Jan. 8 photo was not heat lightning since no thunder storms were in the area, and none of the witnesses present when the photo was taken saw any lightning.

After reading reports of many meteor reports on the night of Jan. 8 (see Charlie's Corner), the *Sentinel* called Penny Haskins, a nuclear physicist at the University of Florida. She told us the colors, the description, and the length of

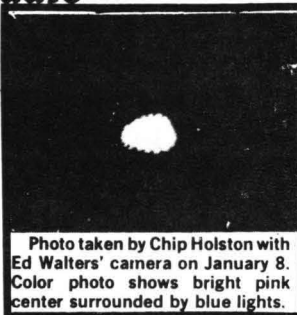


Photo taken by Chip Holston with Ed Walters' camera on January 8. Color photo shows bright pink center surrounded by blue lights.

time the object remained visible would eliminate the possibility of it being a meteor. She also suggested we call Norman McLeod, president of the American Meteorite Society.

When contacted in his Fort Myers home regarding the Jan. 8 sighting, Norman said it was not a meteor, as the longest meteor sightings last about 15 seconds and that is very rare. The Jan. 8 Gulf Breeze sighting lasted 20-30 minutes, and photos taken of it show a bright pink center surrounded by blue-white lights. An unexplained set of white lights also appears in the same photos.

As we are still open to suggestions about what these photos are we invite interested *Sentinel* readers to come and examine the photos in the hope that someone can identify them.

## UFOs visit?

There are no signs that aliens from outer space have invaded Watauga County yet, but a caller to the Sheriff's Department Tuesday night reported spotting an unidentified flying object in the Big Hill Road area.

According to dispatcher Patricia Shook, the caller, who would not identify himself, did not sound excited or upset, but merely stated that he wanted to report a UFO sighting. The call came through at 9:13 p.m., according to the department's communication log.

An officer was dispatched to the area in northern Watauga County to investigate. Ms. Shook said, but did not spot the object or find any evidence of a UFO.

## Salter to teach class on extra-terrestrials

DAKOTA STUDENT (Univ. of N.D.), Grand Forks, ND - Feb. 23, 1990

by Heather Bradshaw  
staff writer

UND students will have the opportunity to take a class to add variety to their schedules next fall.

"UFOs, ETs, and Close Encounters" will be offered as Honors 299 and taught by John Salter, Jr., chairman of Indian Studies.

Salter is the state director of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) and a member of the Canadian UFO research team.

His interest in UFOs was intensified when on March 29, 1988 he and his son, John III, had an encounter of the closest kind with UFO humanoids in southwestern Wisconsin.

Salter said the experience was not a frightening one.

"It was quite clear that they (the humanoids) were friendly," he said, "and their motiva-



Prof. John Salter, Jr.

tions, intentions, and activities were beneficial. There were six or seven small humanoids who were four to four and a half feet tall and one larger humanoid who was about my height (six feet tall).

"The crew also included academic and medical people," he said.

Salter recalls being given various injections by the humanoids. The injections have caused his body to go through

many changes including an increased growth speed of fingernails, toenails, and hair.

Salter says his circulation has improved, protein needs are greater and his blood clots faster.

He also recalls a discussion he had telepathically with the tall humanoid concerning the migration of the humanoids to various planets in the Zeta Reticuli star system.

The humanoids left Salter with the promise to see him in a different place at a later time.

Salter has been recalling information about the encounter for the past two years and is enthusiastic about sharing this information in the class.

The class will include films and lectures. The lectures will deal with UFO technology, various encounters and types of encounters, ETs, and other facets of UFO phenomena.

CR: J. Salter

## Its a bird! Its a plane! No! Its a UFO at Tulot?

A Husband and Wife who live in the Tulot Community just south of Trumann have seen some light just hovering over the river (St. Francis) for the past few weeks. The husband was the first to see them but would not say anything in fear he would be laughed at and teased about it. He just had to tell someone so he confided in his wife. To his surprise his wife replied, "I've seen them for a week." They both decided they would just keep it to themselves.

On Thursday night December 7, the night of the ice storm in the area, the husband commented to his wife that it must be warming up some, it's lightening outside. His wife told him that is not lighting, he walked out on the porch and what ever they had been seeing was hovering over the house lighting up the whole area around the house.

At that time he decided he had been silent long enough, he called the County Sheriff's department, and asked for a car to be sent out to his house at that time. He was told that if he saw it again to call back and they would send a unit out.

On Saturday December 9, they reappeared at the opening of the St. Francis river just south east of their home they called and a patrol car came out, and the officer on duty for this area respond. Sure enough he saw the lights from the objects just like reported. It seemed to be two objects just hovering, one had lights that changed colors, the other was just a white bright light. They remained in place for a few hours then flew off into the night.

The officers were puzzled by what they saw but felt some kind of explanation could be found to solve this mystery. Numerous calls were

made to different agencies including Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville, Little Rock Airforce Base but both said they had no knowledge of anything going on in the area.

Many sightings have been made since the first official report and some amateur photographer has taken pictures of these objects, but as yet no one has an answer to what they are, were they come from and what they are doing. What is known, is that they really are something flying around out there. They appear in different locations in the Tulot area of the St. Francis river. There have been up to six objects at one time, and the pattern of lights have verified from just bright white to mixed colors of green, blue, and red, and when they leave they light up bright red. They make no noise what so ever. Some

times they stay high in the sky while other time they look to be just over the trees.

Is this really flying saucers? We know for sure that it is a true sighting of U.F.O. "Unidentified-Flying-Object," because they are flying and they are unidentified, as yet. They are not in the area every night but have been spotted a couple of nights each week. Early morning hours seem to be the best for viewing.

If any one has any information about these things would you please let us know.

# Close encounters kept in closet

The five words a newspaper reporter most hates to hear are, "this is off the record." You know then your news source is about to tell you the "juicy stuff," but won't be quoted for print.

At that point you can either stop them and listen only to what they will say on the record, or hear them out and try to get the information from another source.

This isn't a lecture on basic journalism, but I wanted you to know why I'm not going to name names here. As an outlet for our own opinions or information, this column allows us to step outside the normal boundaries of news work, and I can give you some valid information without attributing it to the sources from which it was obtained.

Unless you've been vacationing in Timbuktu the past week or so, you're probably aware of the strange series of sightings of unexplained lights in the sky over Northeast Oklahoma and South-east Kansas.

It started Wednesday night, Oct. 11, and as of this writing has continued through Sunday night, Oct. 15.

I call the lights "unexplained," even though some "learned" people have come out of the woodwork to assure us the lights were only stars, normal aircraft running lights or other quite natural phenomenon that we excitable and unsophisticated Okies just couldn't figure out or don't normally see . . . to be able to tell the difference.

Horse manure!

(I would, incidentally, like to convey a large, fresh mound of that last-named substance to one Don Lind, an astronomy instructor at Coffeyville Community College, who told the Associated Press the sightings are predominant in Northeast Oklahoma and along the Oklahoma borders with Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas because, "It's hill country . . . they have a history of seeing spook lights and this sort of thing in that area.")

But let the ostrich hide its head in the sand.

A large number of law enforcement officers from several jurisdictions, and a lot of mature, sober, intelligent and quite sophisticated residents of the modern world did see these lights.

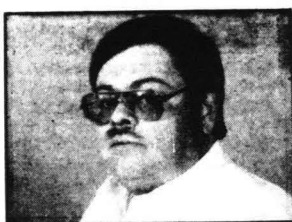
Yes, they DID see the stars being touted as the source of the lights, and they saw the running lights, and in some cases heard the engines, of normal light aircraft flying over.

They also saw something ELSE.

A lot of folks who saw the unexplained lights haven't been talking to the news media because they feared the kind of ridicule that some skeptics did try to heap on those reporting the sightings.

I have learned the details of some of those sightings. And, yes, I saw something myself one night, too.

Probably the most interesting sighting occurred Sunday about 8 p.m., when two police officers,



## Inside Out

By Gary Garton

who were on duty at the time, observed an actual object, with lights attached, go over their town.

They described it to their shift supervisor as appearing to be about 10 to 12 feet in width, and from 24 to 30 feet long, although they couldn't tell its exact altitude, or have anything for reference to judge the exact size.

It had a silvery-metallic appearance, was tapered to a point at one end and squared off, with rounded corners, at the other.

It had three white lights in a triangular formation at the front, or tapered end of its fuselage, and one red light in the center, slightly toward the rear of the object.

It moved without a sound of any sort and proceeded in a northeasterly direction.

An object fitting the same description was reported by a resident east of Miami on Thursday

night, Oct. 12, as having risen out of a wooded area east of State Highway 137, and moving off to the northeast.

A Quapaw woman saw two white lights hovering in the southwestern sky Sunday night, and they moved toward each other, then apart. The larger one moved off to the north above her location, while the smaller light disappeared.

A Commerce man, and others, saw five red lights moving in formation Friday night, Oct. 13, when one broke out of formation and moved at high speed to the west.

Several law enforcement officers in Kansas saw two red lights Thursday night, moving together, then stopping and rotating in a 360-degree circle around each other, before moving off again to the southwest in formation.

Friday night, one of my daughters, her husband's sister and I were out looking for the lights, driving along the Oklahoma-Kansas state line on State Line Road east of Picher.

We spotted a large round or spherical light which was red on top and yellow on the bottom, seeming to hover in the sky southwest of us, toward Miami.

As we watched, a regular aircraft passed by over the general area of Miami's airport, and the unexplained light seemed to grow slightly larger in perspective, as though it could have been moving toward our position.

I turned the car around. We started back toward Picher, hoping to go south and get closer to it. By the time we passed by some trees, however, it had disappeared from our line of vision.

I drove to my office in Baxter Springs, Kan., and began calling law enforcement agencies in the area to see if our sighting had been reported by anyone else.

A jailer on the fourth floor of the Ottawa County Courthouse said he had been watching the same light, describing it exactly as I had seen it, and he had seen it move away from his position as the airplane, which he also saw, flew over the airport area.

Obviously, it was not a star or planet, since he was looking northeast and I was looking southwest at the time we saw it . . . we know it was the same time and same object because we both noticed the airplane over Miami and the object's apparent movement in response to the plane's presence.

OK, folks, I don't know what it was, or what everyone else was seeing, or why they happen to be cavorting in the skies over our area.

Don't accept UFOs if you don't want to, but don't dismiss the unexplained as not having actually happened simply because you don't want to believe it or don't understand what it was.

Gary Garton beams over The Joplin Globe's Baxter Springs, Kan., bureau.

NEWS-LEADER, Springfield, MO - Dec. 17, 1989 CR: K. Sandberg

## Missourians debate, defend, debunk Arkansans' UFO report

Although this is the time for scanning the skies for Santa Claus, response to a recent column indicates many Ozarkers are keeping eyes peeled for unusual aircraft of another sort — UFOs.

However, while several readers say they've seen mysterious lights and shapes hovering over the hill country, others offer down-to-earth theories that might explain at least some of the unsettling sightings of so-called "flying saucers."

In the Nov. 19 issue of The News-Leader, we introduced two women from Harrison, Ark., who told of a harrowing encounter with a red glowing object that seemed to follow their pickup truck along a winding stretch of rural northwest Arkansas highway just before sunup Oct. 20.

In the wake of that column, Debbie Underwood and Joanne Wilson have been reassured by reports from others who say they have seen similar phenomena.

"But we still don't really know what it was," Underwood says. "And I'm still troubled by not knowing."

One idea the women have rejected is that the strange lights were "harassment by the devil." That's the diagnosis of a preacher from (where else?) Springfield. He's telephoned Underwood once and Wilson twice to suggest his satanic solution to the riddle.

A more satisfying theory is advanced by Springfield musician and guitar dealer Tom Wittrock, who was a passenger in a car being driven on Interstate 44 between Springfield and Hannibal about 5:15 a.m. Oct. 20 — the same time as and about 70 miles north of where Underwood and Wilson spotted their UFO.

"I looked out the window to the north and saw this eerie red light that shimmered and moved about the sky," Wittrock recalls. "It was very vivid, a very beautiful spectacle. It was mostly red, but it had streaks of white light in it, just like those women saw. The best way I can describe it is that it looked like there was a fire on the ground reflecting off clouds. It flickered and danced. You could see stars through it. I watched it with extreme awe."

Wittrock didn't experience fear, as did Wilson and Underwood, because, he says, "I knew exactly what I was looking at. I'd seen them before. It was aurora borealis, the northern lights."

Indeed, John Northrip, professor of physics and astronomy at Southwest Missouri State University whose column "Ozarks Skies" appears in the Tuesday News-Leader, confirms he's received three or four reports of such natural displays from local observers in recent weeks, coinciding with solar flares that trigger such colorful light shows in Earth's atmosphere.

MIKE O'BRIEN



Wittrock gallantly notes he had an advantage over the Arkansans because he was riding on a straight highway with a broad, clear horizon. Underwood and Wilson "were on a relatively narrow two-lane road, with hills and curves and obstacles obscuring their view as they drove along. They were seeing only a limited portion of the sky at any one time. It's easy to imagine how the light would seem to them to be following their truck as it disappeared behind, say, a tree, then reappeared again a moment later."

On the other hand, Wittrock doesn't rule out the possibility of visiting spacecraft piloted by extraterrestrial beings. "I guess I want to believe they're out there somewhere, and I want to believe we'll get to see them in our lifetime," he says. "I don't know if they've discovered us yet. Of course, if they have, they could well be clever enough to use the aurora borealis as a background to confuse us..."

Another Missourian who considered the aurora borealis an explanation for that October morning's dazzling display is Carolyn Kime, who lives near Willard.

"I went out to the barn to feed the horses about 5:30 a.m., and I saw these hovering lights over the orchard," she says. "I thought at first maybe they were the northern lights. But then I could see there was a more definite shape to them. Judging from the dimensions of the orchard, it was about 100 feet long. The color was mostly red, changing in intensity . . . and moving around. And there were some streaks of white — like the columns of light the women in Arkansas told about."

Kime says she stood outside the barn in the chill morning air, transfixed by the sight, for about 10 minutes. Then the lights disappeared.

"I don't know for sure what I saw, but I don't think it was a natural phenomenon," says Kime.

Other letter writers and callers have told of equally strange apparitions, ranging from a huge red and green cigar-shaped craft skimming the surface of Table Rock Lake to orbs of white light that seemed to respond to commands of an Ozarker who encountered them while driving through the Arizona desert.

Two callers passed along a tip to check out a story concerning a spectacular encounter reported almost a decade ago near Southwest City in McDonald County.

According to accounts passed along by readers, a fellow left his rural home one evening to check out strange lights observed in a nearby pasture. He was in his pickup truck and remained in contact with his wife at home via CB radio.

As the man stared his truck into the field, he radioed to his wife that the lights were growing more intense and alarming. Then the radio fell silent.

When neighbors, alerted by the

wife, went to the field, they could find no trace of the truck nor the man. However, suddenly they heard his voice over the CB radio again. He seemed incoherent, unable to pinpoint his location.

After a few minutes of frustration, someone thought to instruct the man to turn on the headlights of his truck. It was then the group in the field spotted the pickup — on a ridge almost a mile away from the field. Adding to the mystery was the fact that a deep hollow separated the pasture and the ridge top, with no visible path over which the truck could have been driven.

Reportedly, the dazed man recovered but had no memory of how he and his truck had been transported across the chasm.

I talked by telephone to the fellow's father this past week. He told me his son could not be reached for comment and suggested that his son wasn't interested in retelling the story anymore.

McDonald County Deputy Sheriff Don Schlessman, who had been dispatched on that night in 1981 to investigate the peculiar report, was willing to recall what he found.

"He was back home by the time I got to the scene, so I can't substantiate what he said happened," Schlessman says. "But I can't deny that it happened just like he said, either. I can tell you this: There were several people who were lis-

tening in on the CB, and they heard what was said on the radio. A lot of folks took it for real."

Schlessman says that while this particular incident was extraordinary, UFO reports are not unusual in his corner of the state. But he has a theory as to their origin:

"Personally, I think a lot of them are military helicopters. Of course, you can't get the military to admit anything. For instance, a while back, we had some trouble with Air National Guard pilots buzzing farmhouses with their F4 Phantom jets on Sunday mornings. I finally got a hold of a general in St. Louis and told him folks around here were getting upset. He never would say it was his boys doing the buzzing, but suddenly the buzzing stopped."

"It's the same with the helicopters. We get strange reports, and we call around to bases in this part of the country and tell them folks are getting upset. Nobody in the military ever admits it was their helicopters. But the UFO sightings dry up for a while..."

Debbie Underwood doesn't think what she and her friend saw was a helicopter — nor the aurora borealis or a hound from hell.

"But I'm willing to listen to anyone who has a reasonable explanation," she says. "I want to put my mind at ease."

Mike O'Brien is former associate editor of The News-Leader.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - March 8, 1990

## UFO witnesses report sightings at book signing

Herron King book store held a book signing on Saturday for Ed and Frances Walters' new book, *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*, but the flood of witnesses was the big story.

Dozens of never before reported UFO sightings were detailed by witnesses with a matter of fact attitude. They were speaking out and wanted Ed and Frances to know what they saw.

There were simultaneous reports as far back as November 11, 1987.

A retired Navy pilot and his wife stood amongst the book store crowd and described seeing the object and pointed to photo #19 in the book and said, "That's exactly what we saw." An Air Force mechanic spoke up to tell his story, and so on the afternoon went for five hours and scores of witnesses

telling their stories to all.

This was truly a spontaneous outpouring of testimony. These Gulf Breeze and surrounding area witnesses wanted to be heard and let the Walters know that "they are with them."

The UFO sightings have continued in our area with the most recent reports being of a UFO with a red glowing bottom and (if seen close enough) surrounded by blue/white porthole lights.

Herron King book store received another bulk order of books to meet the demand for this amazing 1st person book with its 32 pages of photographs. The publisher, Morrow & Co., released advance copies prior to the publication date (March 19, 1990) and is already in its 3rd printing in less than a month of advance sales.

CR: R. Reid





# Ever-increasing circles

## Phenomenon could hit Dorset cornfields next

Report by David Haith



● This circle was found at Chilcomb near Winchester and suggests enormous vertical pressure fanning plants outward.



● A rare double ringed circle at Cheesefoot Head in Hampshire's Punch Bowl.



● A mystery circle - one of 51 found in eight weeks - close to that other mystery, ancient Silbury Hill man made earth mound near Avebury.

SCIENTISTS are going round in circles trying to solve the riddle of the flattened crops.

And for Dorset growers the warning is: "Beware - your farm could be hit next."

So far our county seems to have been spared the invasion of giant circles appearing overnight in cornfields across Britain - some with double rings and others grouped in perfectly symmetrical patterns.

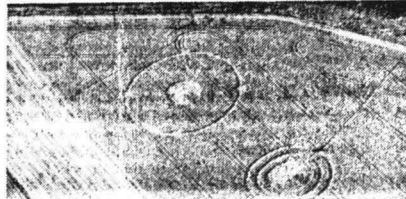
But most are being reported in sister counties Hampshire and Wiltshire and are highlighted in Circular Evidence, a new book about the phenomenon by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews.

In an exclusive interview with the Advertiser, Colin Andrews, chief electrical engineer with Test Valley Borough Council, asked Dorset farmers to watch out for the circles and urgently report them to his research group.

He assured them: "We won't go public so you won't have lots of people tramping through your crops. But one grower has reported 28 of these things in a ten acre field and more and more are happening all the time. So it's in farmers' interest that we get to the bottom of what's going on."

Nobody yet knows what causes the strange circles with flattened corn swirled in set patterns.

But Colin's Circles Phenomenon Research Group is certain they're



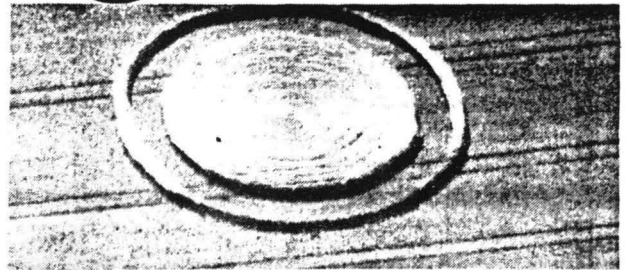
● The front of the controversial book showing a double ringed circle and a separate centre swirl with four satellites.

not the result of whirlwinds, rutting deer, rabbits... or hoaxers.

One or two wags have created their own circles but Colin can spot them a mile off and they don't match the 'genuine' ones.

There is a strong UFO connection - flying saucer shapes have appeared on photographs of circles and have regularly been seen in their vicinity.

And strange phenomena - crackles, hisses and flashes - often happen while researchers are inside circles plus other bizarre paranormal events at their homes.



● A ringed circle with its satellite at Winterbourne Stoke, west of Stonehenge, which "looked so real you could visualise it spinning."

The pilotless plane was shadowed for 410 miles and finally ditched 500 miles out in the Atlantic.

Nobody knows why the pilot ejected - but some have surmised that some force field which has inexplicably whirled circle researchers' compasses could have affected the plane's equipment or even the pilot's mind.

The idea of unknown earth energies is a strong contender to provide the final answer to the circles mystery.

Author Colin told me that research has moved on apace since the book - published by Bloomsbury - was finished a year ago.

He said: "We have a team of 35 scientists and engineers and we're also using dowsers. We are looking at corridors of energy for we know there are energy patterns associated with these circles."

The Ministry of Defence is concerned enough to send helicopters out to photograph the circles.

The phenomenon - now being reflected across the globe - was first noticed in the mid-seventies.

Said Colin: "Something started happening around 1975 and it's stepping up. It's leading to something. The circles are now being reported in Britain at a rate of five a day. We've looked at 222 in the last four months. This is a far bigger phenomenon than most people believe."

One idea being considered is that the circles could be a symptom of a yet unknown form of pollution - possibly magnetic and connected with planetary environmental damage.

Said Colin: "If it's a quirk of nature why is it manifesting now and never before in recorded history?"

Perhaps sick Mother Earth is breaking out in boils!

● If you find a circle there is a hotline to the scientists studying the mystery. Phone 0264 - 58402.

ESSEX CHRONICLE, Chelmsford, England  
Sept. 8, 1989  
CR: T. Good

## UFO Mystery

UNIDENTIFIED flying Object investigators who called in an expert to examine the corn circle at Little Green, Braintree have been mystified by the findings.

Colin Andrews, an expert who has examined dozens of circles through-

out the country measured the Braintree as 24ft by 23ft.

The first foot showed corn had been flattened clockwise, the next 7ft anti-clockwise and the remainder clockwise again.

He is convinced the circle is not a hoax and samples have been taken away for analysis.

East Anglian UFO investigators have also had

many calls from Essex residents about a circular craft showing red, white and green lights which has been seen hovering in the mid Essex area. The same craft has also been seen over the Thames Estuary.

East Anglian UFO researchers are particularly interested to hear from anyone in the Chelmsford area who might have seen any mystery objects. They can telephone the UFO hot line on Basildon 286079.

YORKSHIRE POST, Leeds, England - Sept. 25, 1989 CR: T. Good

# Object lesson

EMMERDALE FARM'S Amos Brierley might have got a less mocking response to his recent discovery of "alien" circles in the corn fields had he left the sleepy environs of Beckindale this weekend and headed for Ossett.

There - packed into Ossett Town Hall - were some 500 enthusiasts keenly interested in establishing the truth behind unidentified flying objects.

The event was organised by the Yorkshire UFO society, which was established in 1981 and which now has a membership of more than 500.

A selection of six of Britain's most eminent experts on the subject of UFOs - and the promise of exclusive revelations - brought guests flocking from all over the country.

The star attraction was a presentation by Mr Anthony Dodd and Dr Henry Azadehdel, who have

spent the last three months investigating the shooting down of a "manned" UFO over South Africa.

Mr Dodd, a retired police officer, and Dr Azadehdel, a scientist, for whom research into UFOs is a full-time occupation, claim to have conclusive evidence that alien beings travelling in the craft were captured.

Mr Dodd explained their initial information came from a cast-iron source within South African military intelligence.

The UFO was shot down using a top-secret advanced experimental weapon and crash landed in the Kalahari desert. The whole operation was carried out jointly by South African personnel and experts drafted in from the United States.

One alien inside the "craft" was injured on impact but the other survived unscathed and may still be captive at the Wright Patterson air base in Ohio, where the UFO was taken.

The secrecy of sources within South African and American intelligence had to be closely guarded as governments are anxious the public should know nothing about the existence of unidentified beings within their air space.

The information outlined by Mr Dodd and Dr Azadehdel is backed up by written documents secretly leaked to them and taped telephone conversations gathered through systematic research which has already cost them well over £2,000.

Both argue the purpose of their dedication is to smash through the wall of governmental silence which leaves the majority of the population doubting the very existence of UFOs.

Their aim is shared by fellow speakers who included Mr George Wingfield, a scientist who has conducted lengthy studies into the phenomenon of crop circles in the South of England; Mr Ralph Noyes, the former head of the Ministry of Defence department which studied UFO reports in the 1970s; Mr Norman Oliver, a former editor of *Bufo* Bulletin, the British UFO research magazine, who has just returned from a fact-finding mission into UFOs in Florida and lecturer Mr Timothy Good, who is the author of the best-selling book *Above Top Secret - The Worldwide Cover Up*.

Mr Mark Birdsall, spokesman for the Yorkshire UFO Society, said that although many people still viewed the UFO phenomenon with scepticism, the subject was now being taken more seriously as a result of increased media and scientific interest.

Since the society was formed eight years ago, members had investigated more than 12,000 reported sightings.

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England  
Sept. 7, 1989  
CR: T. Good

# Riddle of UFO stumps couple

A YORK couple said they were baffled today after seeing a large, bright "cigar-shaped" object hovering over the city's racecourse last night.

Mr Eric Fairburn and his wife Cathleen were watching television in their lounge overlooking the Knavesmire at around 8.30 when a large bright light in the sky caught their attention.

"My wife saw this funny light in the sky and at first I thought it was the gas jet from a hot-air balloon because we see a lot of them go over."

## Flashing

"After studying it, I saw the light flashing on and off, similar to a beacon on a police car. "And when I looked at it through my race glasses it was so bright it seemed to be giving off little stars and it made the proper shape of it fuzzy."

Mr Fairburn said the object hovered for about two minutes, then the flashing lights became faster and it whizzed at an incredible speed across the sky.

RAF Linton on Ouse, Leeming and Church Fenton all confirmed there were no military aircraft in the area at that time last night.

A spokesman for York police said they had received no other reports of the sighting.

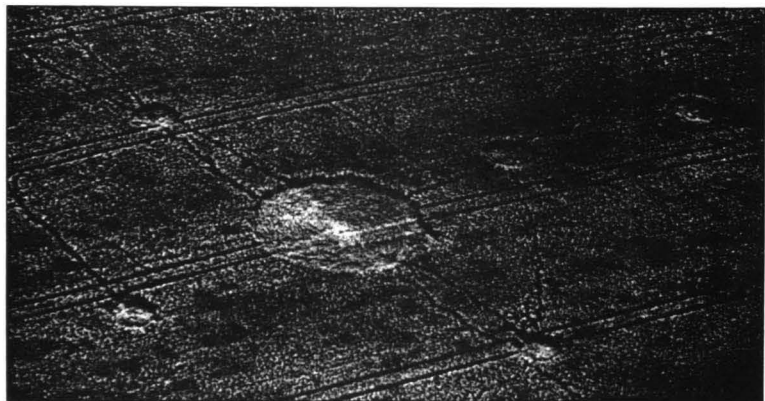


Every picture tells a story, above, for artist Robert Cherry and two of his UFO works. Right, investigators Anthony Dodd and Dr Henry Azadehdel.



## CIRCULAR ARGUMENTS

UPDATE ON THE CROP CIRCLES MYSTERY by RALPH NOYES



Supposed cruciform pattern in a field between Cherhill and Avebury, Wiltshire, in July 1989

WHATEVER has been making circles in our crops for at least the past decade, mainly in southern England, had a field-day during 1989. New patterns were seen; new areas were "visited"; the biggest circle yet reported appeared on the downs above Beckhampton near Avebury; and the total number of occurrences passed well beyond counting. But the puzzle remains of what is causing these events. We have had a year of speculation, of vigorous (and sometimes bitter) argument among experts, of denials by government departments, and of reports, by apparently reliable investigators, of associated happenings which seem to belong to stranger domains than agriculture.

In "Crop Revolution 10 Years On" (COUNTRY LIFE, July 6, 1989) I summarised what we knew up to late June last year, following the conclusion of an eight-day watch (Operation White Crow) on a much-haunted field near Winchester, which involved some 50 or 60 people. Not a single circle seems to have occurred anywhere in Britain during this eight-day period, although there had been at least 90 to 100, all in Wessex, up to that stage.

However, as White Crow was ending, a new circle formed in a nearby field, out of range of the monitoring equipment and following a night in which unusual sounds had been heard by several witnesses and caught on tape.

The new circle was a ringed one, of a kind which had first appeared in 1986, a swirled and circular disturbance in grain, surrounded by a band of undisturbed crops, encircled in turn by a thin ring of flattened corn. By 1989 this kind of occurrence, although less common than other patterns, had become familiar. This time, however, it contradicted an assertion confidently made in two of the three books which I reviewed for COUNTRY LIFE (July 20, 1989). In particular, Dr G. Terence Meaden's *The Circles Effect and its Mysteries*, which was

published in mid-June, had been firm that "single rings around single circles always rotate in a sense opposite to that of the interior", meaning that if there is a clockwise middle to one of these occurrences, the ring should go anti-clockwise, and vice versa.

Many of us had already accepted that this was likely to be the case, because of what physicists call "dynamical stability" in a rotating system. The ringed circle found at sunrise on June 18 contradicted this generalisation: both the central circle and its surrounding ring were swirled in the same direction.

After White Crow the phenomenon started up again, with occurrences far and wide. Among many other events was what imaginative observers have called the tadpole, a circle with a long curving tail. At about the same time a huge ringed circle was found on Beckhampton Downs, more than 100ft across and pretty certainly the biggest occurrence ever reported.

Around the Avebury area more generally, north and south of Sidbury Hill and as far west as the fields overlooked by the Cherhill White Horse, a host of occurrences was found, including a multitude of what many people are now calling "grapeshot"—small circles with diameters not exceeding 10ft. It is mainly these, also seen near Westbury and Winchester, which have made it difficult to keep count of the total number of circles formed last year.

Other new patterns have been claimed, for example, the cruciform, although some of us are waiting for firmer evidence before accepting that this is more than the coincidental addition of a sixth circle to the now familiar quintuplet. What is acknowledged, however, because photographs make it clear, is the occurrence of new and puzzling patterns in the swirl of the grain at the centres of some of the larger singleton circles.

As in past years, an overwhelming preponderance of occurrences has been

reported from Hampshire and Wiltshire. But there have been about a dozen in other counties, including Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Buckinghamshire, Essex and Kent.

The Kent occurrence, near Margate, was particularly striking. Two seemingly credible witnesses reported luminous phenomena early in the morning of August 10, "a spiralling vortex of flashing light", which descended into a field a few hundred yards away. Shortly afterwards they discovered a cropfield circle which had formed at apparently the same location (immediately below electricity power lines, ruling out any suggestion that a solid "vehicle" was responsible).

A local research group, based in Essex, is examining this occurrence and has already picked up strong evidence that the "spiralling vortex" had traversed a large area in south-east England before coming to earth in Kent. This is possibly the first near-sighting of what Dr Meaden postulates in his book as the hitherto unrecognised "plasma vortex" (an unusual atmospheric disturbance) which he believes may be responsible for causing the cropfield circles and which may also account for some reports of unidentified flying objects.

But Meaden's view is far from being wholly accepted at present. He made progress at a recent international conference in Japan towards persuading fellow physicists that the "plasma vortex" is a scientific possibility. But many observers of the cropfield circles remain doubtful that a single atmospheric phenomenon, however novel and remarkable in its properties, can account unaided for the great variety of patterns now seen in the cropfields, for their distinctive clusterings in certain areas, or for the apparent elaboration of the formations as time has passed.

Moreover, some observers of the cropfield circles are now claiming certain oddities which may not be easily explained by atmospheric physics alone. There seems to be evidence that something persists in the vicinity of the circles, long after they have formed, which can produce luminous phenomena, leave traces on audio-tape, disturb animals and interfere with technical equipment.

During July, Mr Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend (East), and the Hampshire MP, Mr Michael Colvin, put parliamentary questions about the circles to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office. The replies suggested ignorance and indifference, much to the irritation of those who have suffered from them. Army Air Corps units, based on Salisbury Plain, and the police forces in Hampshire and Wiltshire, however, are taking a close interest.

It is hoped that research funds will soon be forthcoming, together with the setting up of a national organisation for systematic observation.

Photograph: the author.

MATLOCK MERCURY, Derbyshire,  
England - Nov. 24, 1989  
CR: T. Good

## The handbook for flying saucer buffs

THE UFO REPORT  
1990  
Edited by  
TIMOTHY GOOD

IN this up-to-the-minute handbook for UFO enthusiasts the world over, Timothy Good, bestselling author of ABOVE TOP SECRET and Britain's leading UFO authority, has assembled an international team of experts to provide a revealing overview of the most significant recent incidents.

New revelations about cases involving the actual recovery of UFOs and their alien occupants.

The latest sightings from the USSR, China and Africa, including never before published sightings by airline crews.

The family who were 'attacked' by a UFO in the Australian desert.  
Detailed accounts of the

great wave of UFO sightings throughout Britain in 1988.

The latest information on Britain's mystery circles, which have been appearing in fields of cereal crops in increasingly complex patterns each summer.

A fresh look at the Rendlesham Forest case of 1980. A former Ministry of Defence official comes to some surprising conclusions about the astonishing official reports that a UFO landed outside RAF/USAF Woodbridge.

A startling account of the unprecedented events at Gulf Breeze, Florida (1986-88), when hundreds of sightings and photographs, landings and contacts were made.

PUBLISHED: 16th  
November 1989. PRICE:  
£7.99 Paperback, £13.95  
Hardback.

## UFO seen over East London

A UFO has been reported over Waltham Forest and more may follow, says an organisation dedicated to studying the strange phenomena.

The East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association says it has been contacted by two sets of people who have seen UFOs - Unidentified Flying Objects. Spokeswoman Sheridan Lane said: "These are the first examples we have had in the London area. Others often follow. They seem to come in groups."

The first sighting was by a couple in Drysdale Avenue, Chingford, at midnight on Thursday January 4.

A woman is reported to have said: "I noticed this very bright stationary orange light. I watched it for between five and 10 minutes."

"I called my husband. We both watched it for about five minutes, when suddenly it shot vertically upwards very

Could there  
be more?  
say sky  
watchers

fast." A second sighting came on the night of Sunday January 14 in Hackney by a man who said he saw a "bright light" in the sky.

He said he saw the light travel silently through the sky, then shoot suddenly to the left and disappear from view.

Sheridan Lane said: "We investigate all sightings very carefully, by checking all possible explanations, including aircraft movements and weather."

"Since the organisation was founded in 1988 we have received over 2000 UFO reports and only one quarter can be accounted for by normal means." The association has a UFO hotline. If you think you have seen a UFO ring 594 4797.

## Taxi-man says he can explain flying saucers

A HOLBEACH man who claims he has seen strange lights and aircraft for the past 14 years has come up with a theory to explain UFO sightings over the Fens.

The retired taxi-driver — who does not wish to be named — believes the aircraft are top-secret space vessels being developed by the British.

And he says his supposition would also explain mysterious flattened circles found in local cornfields.

The man claims to have seen:  
● A very bright, blue flashing light near Moulton — too bright to be a police light.

● A hovering blue light over Moulton several days later which moved towards Holbeach.

● A light aircraft with no lights on near Fenland airfield.

● An aircraft near Fen Drove, March, making no noise and hovering at 30 feet, which rose to several hundred feet and made its way south of Wisbech.

● A long object with red, green and white flashing lights near Long Sutton.

● A cigar-shaped object moving at



very high speed. The taxi-driver said he reported several sightings to local police, who said they could be aircraft carrying mail by night.

But he believes they are either private aircraft or part of secret experiments to develop space vessels using hydrogen gas — causing a cigar shape as it escaped.

And he said the circles in cornfields could be caused by hydraulic feet on the vessels as they landed.

He said: "Most people don't want to know out of fear. I don't believe these are spacemen — I believe they are aircraft being developed by the British."

● Have you seen a UFO? Contact our newdesk on Peterborough 555111.

CR: T. Good

ROCHDALE OBSERVER, Lancs., England  
Feb. 7, 1990 CR: T. Good

## UFO 'CROPWATCH'

ROCHDALE UFO Research Group has been asked to co-ordinate a cropwatch survey in the area, by Patrick Delgado and Colin Andrews, authors of the book *Circular Evidence*.

The group will check for the mysterious flattened circles that have appeared among crops in recent years.

Mr Mike Jones, who heads the group, said: "This is part of a nationwide survey and we will be asking schools and youth groups if they wish to become involved, and letting them know what to do."

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, England - Nov. 2, 1989 CR: T. Good

## I did — I saw a UFO

I SAW a UFO in broad daylight at 7.50am on Saturday. I was driving down Torquay's Teignmouth Road at Maidencombe Hill when an intense glow appeared through the trees from the sea.

At the bottom I was confronted by an object hovering about 200ft above the water, 50 yards from the beach. The surface was calm and there were no ships.

I got out of my car and stood in the road intending to flag down the next motorist as a witness. It was like a B

sci-fi film, nobody came.

After three or four minutes I hurriedly drove a quarter of a mile inland to the farm house opposite my cottage. I asked the farmer's wife to look out of her top window but the building was too low. Her husband bringing in the cows, shook his head.

Ten minutes later I was in the office. The sky at Maidencombe had been empty when I re-passed. I told the news editor that when people reported the UFO to believe them because I had seen it, too.

It was cylindrical shaped like a huge fluorescent tube, possibly 100 or more ft across. Its pulsating red colour was more vivid than anything I have ever seen. It was incredibly bright.

The sighting has yet to be corroborated. I cannot believe there was nobody about in Maidencombe at the time. If anybody else was watching please could they let me know.

It was there — I saw it.



# Space aliens in kidnap horror!

ABDUCTIONS: Encounters with Extraterrestrials  
by Edith Fiore PhD *Sidgwick £13.95 pp342*  
Nicola Shulman

In her latest book, *Abductions*, Edith Fiore sets out to support her theory that a great proportion of psychological trauma occurs as a result of people having been abducted by alien beings from other planets and having allowed the experience to be suppressed by the conscious mind. Dr Fiore is a clinical psychologist who specialises in hypnotherapy, a type of hypnosis that "takes the subject back to various earlier stages in his or her life" — and even further, or so I rashly infer from the title of an earlier book, *You Have Been Here Before*, a work that doubtless claims all emotional disturbance to be the result of traumatic events experienced in a previous lifetime. Her main contribution to the field of psychology lies in the discovery that dreams "are not really dreams *per se*, but actually flashbacks to repressed, forgotten experiences".

This idea of Fiore's is, like all the best ideas, very simple. But, nevertheless, it may have important consequences for all of us, especially if it is found to be true also of those dreams in which we were stark naked and dumbstruck on a West End stage, or falling from the top of an extremely tall building.

Unfortunately, Fiore has not found room here to explore the wider implications of her theory. She has restricted herself to dreams concerning abduction by space aliens: Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind, or, as they are here referred to, dignified by translation into Latin, CVIV. Set down in this book are the details of sessions, in her rooms in Saratoga, California, with 13 patients suffering from weight gain and other appalling disorders. Under hypnosis all were found to have been taken by space aliens at some point in the past. The subjects remember these experiences only dimly, and as "dreams", but during hypnotherapy, and guided by Dr. Fiore's skilful questioning ("What shape are their heads?"), full descriptions of the encounters begin to emerge.



● The shape of things to come?: threatened by The Mutant in This Island Earth

So here they are, the true and unexpurgated accounts of real-life meetings with actual, genuine creatures from outer space, which provide proof positive of the existence, nay, the very presence here on our planet, of intelligent life forms from other galaxies. You would think they would make for interesting reading. And yet, here is James, subject number 10 and a practising physician, describing an incident from his own CVIV experience. "There's a little bit of a... it turns into a... chain-of-command issue. He's back in the tube and back on the pallet. I'm not standing there as they do this, but I know it's

happening. And you've got a... detail. To take it back!" It is hard to tell from this what is happening to James, exactly. Or even approximately. Most of the accounts read a bit like this, with the effect of making the book less informative than the reader might wish. Doubtless the problem here is that, as is so often the case with men and women of science, Fiore is too much the purist; too much the scientist for her own good as an author. It is surely her rigorous insistence on accuracy and thoroughness that has led her to transcribe her evidence in its entirety. And while we

must applaud her uncompromising approach, its result is to render the book largely inaccessible to the common reader — maybe, indeed, inaccessible to all but the handful of top scientific minds cited in the text, like R Leo Sprinkle, PhD, who wrote the preface and has memorably contributed to Encounters with UFO Occupants, or Gordon Creighton, of Flying Saucer Review fame, or the Rev Diane Tesson, whose newsletter containing regular bulletins from the Star People has long been a leader in the field.

Although the transcriptions are impenetrable to the lay reader, some information filters through. For example, all abductees recall that they were strapped to a table. All also concur on the point of the aliens' interest in health and diet — "Yukki! Cholesterol!" exclaims one, while examining the abductee Fred — and all agree that their captors were deficient in the areas of ears, noses and hair, but that they had very large eyes. All, with the exception of Dan.

In the company of these vague and unintelligible reports, Dan's account is really a breath of fresh air. He has had 627 CVIVs. This is because he was the commander of a space fleet before he was "retired" to the body of a three-year-old boy in Washington State Cascades. Dan's description of his life as a space alien contains many rollicking tales of parties, drinks on the bridge with the captain, hangovers, girls and offensive military operations known as "drops". "Are these drops always hostile?" enquires Fiore. "Yes," replies Dan. "That's what makes it so much fun."

In his human incarnation, Dan likes to read science fiction, but Fiore sees no reason to place any importance on this trait. In her opinion, science fiction is inclined to confuse the issue of CVIVs, even to obscure the truth about them. For this reason, she does not read science fiction herself, but perhaps she should try some: she may find it an instructive experience.

## Minster man reports lights in the sky

Oxford-based UFO investigators have been investigating reports of circling lights in the sky over Buckinghamshire seen by a Minster Lovell man.

Contact International, based in New Marston, received a number of reports at the weekend about objects with white and red lights circling and hovering over Stoke Mandeville.

Mr Mervin Neal of Wychood View, Minster Lovell, was in the area visiting friends, and spotted seven mysterious lights flying silently in the sky.

Mr Neal said the lights were seen by many people in the area.

He told the Witney Gazette: "I am as sceptical as anyone about the existence of UFOs, but there certainly didn't seem to be any explanation for these lights."

Mr Michael Soper of Contact International said: "Somebody living in Hampden Road, Stoke Mandeville, reckoned there were about 20 objects, some hovering, some circling and going to the horizon and back again very

quickly."

He said there were 12 witnesses there, and people watched the lights for around 30 minutes before they moved off in the Wendover direction.

Mr Soper said: "We can't be certain what they were. We are checking if they were microlight aircraft. The lights, white at the extremities and a central red light, fits the theory of a microlight and the circling also fits. We are trying to find out if it was a local air training school practising night flying."

FREE PRESS, Bucks., England  
Dec. 29, 1989 CR: T. Good

## Plane spotter sees UFO after trip out to shops

AVIATION expert Peter Halliday was left speechless by the sight he never thought he would see — a UFO.

Peter and wife Polly screamed their car to a halt as they returned home from a shopping trip last Friday in Baring Road, High Wycombe, and watched a disc-shaped craft speed across the clear blue sky.

"I looked straight at my watch and checked the time, it was 11.42am. We were so flabbergasted we didn't even notice the car behind us flashing its lights for us to move out of the way," said Peter.

The 59-year-old plane spotter's home in Gayhurst Road, High Wycombe, is littered with aircraft memorabilia and RAF certificates of merit — proof that he is well qualified to judge what is or isn't a UFO.

"I know what I saw was no aircraft or weather balloon or a satellite or any of the other standard excuses that the authorities use. It was definitely a UFO."

"There was no way of telling what size it was because there was nothing to compare it against. But if it was the size of a jumbo jet for example it was travelling at least three times as fast. That would make it travelling at around 1500 miles an hour."

"We tracked it for 15 or 20 seconds. I was just amazed because I never thought I'd see one. I'm not saying it was a flying saucer or a visitation from another planet. It was just an unidentified flying object," he said.

Spokesmen at RAF Strike Command High Wycombe and the USAF Air Base at Daws Hill had no explanation for the object.

DUNSTABLE GAZETTE, Beds., England - Feb. 7, 1990 CR: T. Good

## Crop mystery music to be used with TV film

A PIECE of music composed by a Luton band member is to be set to film footage of the crop circles phenomenon.

Colin Land, of Inner Quest, was inspired to write the piece after studying in his discussion group, also called Inner Quest, the inexplicable appearances of the circles in fields of crops.

Mr Land, of Butterworth Path, Luton, has been in touch with the leading researchers into the subject, Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado. They are currently working on a new BBC TV programme about crop circles, which is due to be screened next month. He sent the seven minute piece of classical music to the scientists and it is to be used in the TV programme.

They are also studying its effects on children. "Young children, usually females under the age of five, cry when it reaches its peak," explained Mr Land.

One member of the Inner Quest group is an art teacher who played the piece to her pupils and asked them to paint what they felt. She found that 60 per cent of the class painted circles.

Inner Quest discuss a wide range of topics including parapsychology, religion, mythology and UFOs.

"The purpose of the group is to discover who we really are and what life is all about in order to gain

BY MICHELLE HAWKINS

more understanding about the planet, nature and the environment in which we live," he explained.

The crop circles are large swirling patterns, some of them 100 feet in diameter. The crops are laid down in a spiral pattern but are never damaged in any way. The circles are a worldwide phenomena but in this country are centred in Wiltshire, Hampshire and Salisbury Plain near the henges of Avebury, Silbury Hill and Stonehenge. Mr Land said these were in the vicinity of well known force lines which run around the globe.

He said there were once henges at Marsh Farm and Caddington. The group is studying the area to see if the patterns appear there.

He explained that the patterns made in the crops appeared on bronze age shields and the Celtic Cross and also turned up in many religions. He said the circles were also connected with King Arthur's Round Table and the Holy Grail.

Mr Land said they believed that the energy source or entity which makes the circles travels above ground, possibly along the old energy force lines.

The circles have been appearing in ones or twos for the past 50 years but in the past year 700

appeared in England — 240 in August last year alone.

Mr Land said he believed the entity was some kind of intelligent force, perhaps from another dimension and had an effect on people's behaviour — making them more peaceful and religious.

He thinks it has been influencing the world through political change and may also be connected to the second coming. "We have got to realise that the planet is in a terrible state and most of its natural systems are breaking down and it may be these circles are trying to give us a message of help in some way to wake people up to what is taking place. There may be a lost knowledge. It may be that people long ago knew how to contain and use this energy by erecting stones within the circles."

He said that from the centre of the circles a high frequency sound has been recorded and some people living in the area in which the majority of the circles have appeared have received a humming noise in their ears.

Inner Quest is eager to hear from anyone who has noticed any circles or swirling formations in the local area or who has experienced any strange electrical phenomena. Mr Land is meeting the researchers in April to discuss the subject further.

If you have any information or are interested in joining the group call Mr Land on Luton 402857.

YELLOW ADVERTISER,  
Colchester, England  
Jan. 26, 1990  
CR: T. Good

## Orange UFOs

TWO ORANGE coloured UFOs were spotted over Canvey last week by three independent witnesses according to the East Anglian UFO Society.

The strange objects were seen on Wednesday January 17 at 9.30 in the evening and they are said to have hovered above the Canvey golf course for about 15 minutes before disappearing without a sound.

The hotline for sightings is 0268 286079.

## Partygoers' UFO sightings

THE nineties got off to a mystery start for two south east Essex partygoers who claim to have seen UFOs on the way back from New Year parties.

The two sightings, both at exactly 1.30am yesterday, were made by a Brentwood couple and a party from Ingatestone.

In both cases the people spotted two large black disc shaped objects in the sky in the Brentwood, Shenfield area.

Sheridan Lane, spokesman for the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Association said the group of four who made the first sighting estimated the objects' size at 3-400 feet high.

She said: "The objects looked black against the clouds and were moving across the A12 towards the Brentwood area."

"There were no lights on the objects but they seemed to be glowing."

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England  
Jan. 3, 1990 CR: T. Good

# IT'S GETTING WEIRD OUT THERE

By PAUL WELLS  
of The Gazette

**W**atch the skies: it seems like the odds are getting better and better that you'll find something up there. Something big and round and metallic and full of...

how should we put this... visitors. A recent poll by Telepoll Research Inc. suggests that nearly half of Quebecers believe in UFOs. Four per cent of those polled claim they've actually seen one.

There's even a researcher at McGill who says at least some of those folks have seen something... inexplicable.

We're not alone. In the last few months, headlines around the world have chronicled eyewitness reports from people who think they've encountered brothers from another planet.

Consider:

■ In Voronezh in southern Russia some schoolkids found themselves world famous when they claimed they'd had a run-in with three-metre aliens who descended from the sky in a banana-shaped craft.

■ Near Bristol, England, perfectly circular depressions several metres in diameter have appeared in farmers' fields. They look sort of like something landed there.

■ In Saskatchewan, UFOs appear to have buzzed the townfolk of Langenburg as recently as Oct. 13.

UFOs — Unidentified Flying Objects — are big this year. People have been seeing odd goings-on in the sky for centuries, and the modern image of the "flying saucer" has been around for 40 years and change, but the skies are busier than usual right now.

And it looks as if a lot of people are taking UFOs — and visitors from far-off worlds — seriously.

The Telepoll survey of 1,358 Canadians showed that 43 per cent of Canadians — including the 47 per cent of Quebecers — believe that the Earth has been visited by intelligent life from other worlds.

Five per cent of Canadians in general say they've actually seen a UFO.

This belief in alien visitors doesn't indicate a willingness to buy just any odd story. A Gallup poll released in mid-October showed that only 13 per cent of Canadians believe in the Loch Ness monster, for instance.

On the other hand, lots of people believe in UFOs. Why?

Because they're there, says Don Donderi.

Donderi, a soft-spoken 52-year-old, is an associate professor of psychology at McGill University who's been studying UFO reports since 1966. His specialty is visual perception, so he's an expert on all the ways it's possible to see something and think you're seeing something else.

## More Quebecers than you think believe in UFOs

Often, he says, that's what happens to people who think they've seen UFOs. What they really saw was an airplane or Venus or swamp gas or something. But not always.

Winnow out all the "rational" explanations for UFO sightings, Donderi says, and "there are still 10 or 15 per cent of sightings that can't be dismissed as mischief or stupidity or psychological aberrations."

To Donderi, there are two possibilities.

"Either there are strange natural phenomena that we aren't aware of — or these UFOs are artifacts."

And what are the odds that even that last 10 or 15 per cent of unexplained UFOs could be explained by current knowledge? In other words, what are the odds that all UFOs are ordinary events misinterpreted?

"Zero. Well, one per cent. Zero is a bit extreme."

Donderi seems reasonable. He says he's never seen a UFO himself. Ask him about Bigfoot or the Abominable Snowman and he stares blankly at you.

"I'm not a weirdo," he says. "I do research and development work for government and business. I am a responsible scientist who believes that UFOs are a real phenomenon."

While Donderi can be a convincing speaker, he says he's known UFO enthusiasts who aren't.

"There are a lot of weirdos out there... I know all about mass hysteria and I know all about the sociology of belief — namely, that people want alien visitors to bring them peace and happiness."

Over the years, Canadians from coast to coast have reported seeing mysterious objects in the skies. Some of the more interesting cases:

■ In March 1978, Jacques Lavoie and Richard Huot were camping at the Baskatong Reservoir in Baie Mercier. Near dinnertime, a glowing disc-shaped object dropped out of the sky and hovered over the lake. One of the men took four photographs of the UFO.

The negatives were analysed at a McGill University lab and compared with test photos taken with the same camera at the reservoir. Investigators — from a now-defunct investigative group called UFO-Québec — concluded that the negatives hadn't been tampered with. They showed an object between eight and 16 metres in diameter, probably within one kilometre of the camera.

■ In May 1985, a resident of Crossfield, just north of Calgary, called the police to report a mysterious circle of light in the sky. A police dispatcher wasn't sure the fellow

Meet Michel Beluet. He's a Guide in the Canadian Raelian Movement, and he believes alien visitors brought life here.

There are 3,000 Raelians in Quebec, and 30,000 around the world.

The founder of the Raelian Movement is Claude Vorilhon, who says he met small humanoid aliens in 1973 in a volcanic crater in the centre of his native France. These little fellows told Vorilhon he had been chosen, as a Raelian pamphlet puts it, "to spread the greatest message ever revealed to humanity," a message "of Peace, Love and Fraternity."

Now the Raelian Movement has a well-defined theology of sorts.

"Life," Beluet says, "was brought by a higher civilization" called the Elohim.

The Raelians think we were created by somebody who was created by somebody else, who was created by somebody else....

There's more, and it's all written in a book called *Space Aliens Took Me to Their Planet*.

Honestly. You can send away for it.

The first step to becoming a Raelian is to read the book. Next, you go to a week-long Essential Meditation Seminar given by Vorilhon himself — although he now goes by the catchier name Rael — during the summer.

Apart from meditation meetings the third Sunday of every month at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza on Sherbrooke St., Montreal Raelians take part in planet-wide ceremonies four times a year — in April, August, October and December.

(The Aug. 6 meetings commemorate the detonation of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima — the beginning of the Age of Revelation).

At these big meetings, a Guide chosen by Rael helps the Elohim "receive the DNA" of the dozens of gathered Raelians.

Sounds complicated, but all a Guide has to do is pour some water on a hand and touch each Raelian's forehead and neck.

"Water is good for vibrations," Beluet says. "And everything is vibrations."

Not every UFO you see is one of the Raelians' Elohim visiting, Beluet says, but UFOs do have a way of popping up at Raelian get-togethers.

You see, "the time is right for them" — the aliens — "to show themselves."

It's looking less and less like those were real aliens who showed themselves in the Soviet Union. A month after some schoolkids said one of them had been temporarily zapped out of ex-

## UFO pulls plug on cop radios

SUN, London, England  
Dec. 8, 1989

BAFFLED cops filed a UFO report after a mystery object buzzed a beauty spot and left their car radios dead. Officers went to investi-

gate a green and white glow after air traffic controllers were unable to explain a static blob on their radar. Officers watched the object hover over the Mow Cop beauty spot near Kidsgrove, Staffs. Last night Chief Supt Peter Grocott admitted: "We don't know if it was atmospheric or somebody from Mars!" The Civil Aviation Authority blames it on odd weather conditions.

CR: T. Good

istence by a huge alien with a tiny head, a scientific commission concluded two weeks ago that there was no proof anything unusual had happened.

But the enormous media coverage given the kids' claims was no surprise either, according to James Oberg, an American expert on Soviet UFOs.

Soviet reporters "have lived for many years being told what to believe, what to choose, what to do," says Oberg, a Texas space engineer and author who works on the space shuttle program.

Now that glasnost has given Soviet journalists relatively free rein, "they have really lost the capacity to judge," he said in a telephone interview.

So Soviet reporters will print even a goofy UFO story if they hear one — and, says Oberg, there have long been plenty of UFO stories behind the Iron Curtain.

Why? "Because the Soviet public is vastly more attracted to fantasy than to reality, considering the reality they have."

But Iron-Curtain UFOs aren't only there because Soviets have an active fantasy life — after all, Donderi says, people all over sometimes trick themselves into thinking they've seen UFOs.

Oberg says the Soviet government has, in the past, encouraged belief in UFOs. It's been convenient for the government, he says.

"A public which sees lights in the sky and thinks 'aliens' won't see lights in the sky and think 'government flights,' which is good when those government flights don't officially exist."

Oberg has tracked scads of Soviet missile and satellite launches, then watched the UFO reports come in a few days later.

Usually, the reports were only of a few lights, but sometimes they were embellished a bit.

Or a lot. Some imaginative South Americans reported having sex with aliens during the 1970s. The alleged hanky-panky always happened when Soviet rockets were flying overhead.

But at least until recently, Moscow mucky-mucks stayed tight-lipped about their secret flights, even encouraging belief in UFOs with "official investigations." And even if they've stopped those sorts of shenanigans in the age of Mikhail Gorbachev, Oberg says, "it's too late to stop" widespread UFOria.

"Anything dealing with public attitudes in the Soviet Union is a trend with an immense amount of inertia."

So we'll be hearing about Soviet UFOs again.

Of course, if Don Donderi is right, we might be seeing UFOs anywhere, anytime.

Watch the skies. □

## UFOs spotted from Laval to northern B.C.

was sober, but sent a cruiser out to have a look.

The officers in the cruiser reported several objects — varying in description from "weird, blinking stars" to "oblong discs with three levels of spinning lights."

Within an hour, 20 officers were looking up at the mysterious lights. Officials at the Calgary International Airport said there was nothing on their radar screens, and offered no explanation.

■ In March 1982, Mountie Bob Shedden and about 10 other people spotted a UFO near Hazelton, about 1,300 km north of Vancouver.

The silent glowing object had green, yellow, orange and red blinking lights. "This thing wasn't like anything I've ever seen before," he said.

Vancouver airport officials said there was nothing on their radar screens when the UFO was spotted.

■ In July 1982, four witnesses claimed to have spotted an extra-terrestrial in a corn field in Laval's St. Dorothée district.

"It was five or six feet tall," said 16-year-old Stéphane Lebeau, who'd been out camping with a friend. "It had orange eyes, bigger than ours. The head was huge, and brown. I was so scared I took off."

The whatever-it-was apparently came out of a glowing UFO as big as a large helicopter, which floated over the field and then descended to deliver its big-headed visitor.

■ In August 1981, Pat Wilson and her husband Jim said they were sure a strange fire on their rural Alberta property was caused by a flying saucer taking off.

"It wasn't a normal fire," Pat Wilson said. "There was no crackling sound, no smell and it was a bright orange color."

By the time they got to the site, there was no fire any more, "just mounds of cold ashes and a weird sulphur smell."

An RCMP investigator who wanted to remain anonymous said, "if you let your imagination get away, you could almost see jet propulsion marks" near the ashes. □



# Strange lights in the night sky

By BARBARA TANDORY

A quiet woman working late nights at business books stepped off the sundeck of her home in Thrums, and saw a UFO.

Angae Paetkau was taking the family dog for a midnight walk the Sunday before Easter when a "very bright red light" flashed over Mount Sentinel near her house. "It swooped down, stopped in mid-air and hovered, then made a little jaunt. It kept darting around and around across the sky."

Of its lightning speed, she said, "They're quick, oh boy, are they quick."

Later, she saw red and yellow lights, flashing, revolving on a dark underside, its shape made visible in city lights from nearby Castlegar. The display continued for some minutes, long enough for Paetkau to run into the house for the keys of a telescope enclosed in a domed planetarium in their backyard. To her disappointment, she couldn't rouse her husband from sleep.

The dog was whining.

Paetkau, mother of two grown children, has the elusive unidentified flying objects before. But she kept quiet until her neighbors had also seen strange lights in the night sky.

Kathy Tarasoff, 31, was driving home from Robson — separated from Thrums only by the huge block of Mount Sentinel — with her nine-year-old daughter, Stacy, when a dazzling white light streaked across the dark sky, shot past the mountain, then went down at a steep angle in the mountains near the Castlegar airport.

One moment they were singing, "All night, all day/Angels watching over me, my Lord," and the next Tarasoff cried out, "Look, Stacy, a falling star," and already the frightened child was crying, "Mommy, Mommy . . ." They thought they saw a plane about to crash. Little Stacy cried all the way home.

The abrupt change of direction, with sudden acceleration, and the light's trajectory — it seemingly flew past the mountain at its lowest level — suggested to Tarasoff that it was no falling star.

Tarasoff reported the incident privately to an employee at the airport weather office, certain that she saw a landing light on a small aircraft.

The airport was shutdown for the night, and no missing planes have been reported in the area since January.

Tarasoff — who meets life's crises head on — found the experience more unsettling than going into labor with one of her three children on the way to hospital. "It was an unexplainable light."

She too kept quiet about it.

It was Melody Semenoff, a vivacious 35-year-old housewife and mother of three, who brought it all together, first telling her story of three bright lights at the kids' gymnastics, a week after her March 7 sighting.

Soon after dark that evening, Semenoff was standing in the kitchen of her little house at the foot of Mount Sentinel, cooking dinner, when she felt that "something was drawing" her to go outside. She turned down the stove and went outside, but there was nothing more exciting there than the "blue star", to the northeast, Vega in the Summer Triangle.

Semenoff went back outside a little later with her sister-in-law, Lil Perepolkin, walking a long driveway to a neighbor's house. In the sky above Mount Sentinel there appeared three starry lights of dazzling whiteness.



MELODY SEMENOFF (second from right) points toward the patch of sky near Whitewater where she saw the white light hovering back and forth. Pictured with her are fellow Thrums residents (from left) Kathy Tarasoff, Jill Semenoff, Melody Semenoff and Angae Paetkau. Barbara Tandory photo

"We saw the most incredible light stars — bright and brilliant. They looked like stars at first. Two of them were travelling together and they were moving, but the third one didn't join them as they came close and back away again. It stayed further out."

"The third light seemed to hover back and forth over the Whitewater ski hill towards Nelson, a half hour's drive from Thrums."

This sighting was light-hearted. "We're here, we're here," Perepolkin recalled joking when the experience took on a Star Trek quality with the lights moving closer toward them and darting back and forth.

Aliens and spaceships are far from Perepolkin's mind. "I saw them but I don't believe in them." But she stands by Semenoff's account of white "giant stars" that twinkled and radiated about 10 feet above the mountain, or so it seemed. Like Kathy's white light, they too appeared to have come from a great distance.

Semenoff's neighbor at the foot of the mountain, Paetkau, believes that the place is visited by alien spacecraft, that "they've been here for years." She maintained a sense of humor, like her neighbors, in a recent interview, but admitted with high seriousness that she could see "the metal, the windows and the lights on the bottom of those things" in some of her past sightings.

She had seen one of them recently, a light that moved — "this light on the water" of the Kootenay River near the Brilliant Dam, across the highway from her home. It happened on the night of Feb. 23, a day before Tarasoff's sighting. That was another time that Paetkau got up from the books she keeps for a service station her husband operates in Castlegar, and took the dog Prince for a walk.

Paetkau said she wasn't surprised to see the revolving lights reflected on the water: "Here they go, taking our water." They are always by water, she said.

"They're coming here for our water," she believes.

When Tarasoff saw the light as it flew past Mount Sentinel, "it looked like it was going to the (Brilliant) dam."

Some UFO experts maintain that there is a connection between sightings and various electrical effects — ranging from car engines dying down to power blackouts of entire cities — and sometimes the phenomenon is so localized that only a part of the house, in the direct flight of a UFO, is affected.

In Thrums, the neighborhood experienced three power surges in a row in February. All were around supertime. Semenoff described it as an "energy shooting out of the lightbulbs."

Some months ago, too, Semenoff

and her husband, Charlie, were startled in the middle of the night by a "flash, like somebody was taking a picture." This happened four or five times, each time in their bedroom overlooking the Mount Sentinel — which Melody calls the magic mountain and Charlie believes to be special because of quartz fields, coming through a double-pane window which can be reached only on a ladder.

In a similar incident, remembered by Paetkau and Gordon, her husband, a blinding light lit up their bedroom. "There was a flash," recalled Gordon. "It lit up everything. It was pretty phenomenal, just like sheet lightning — except that there was no lightning." Besides, the flash was "very constant."

Yet Gordon, as an amateur astronomer, prefers to think that there are rational explanations for this and other things happening in Thrums — rocket re-entry with third-stage boosters going off, reflections or meteors. (UFO experts agree that in about 97 per cent, UFO sightings are due to misidentification, weather conditions like air inversions, optical illusions, deliberate deception and even hallucinations, but the remaining three per cent defy all explanation.)

Gordon Paetkau reserves his judgment about UFOs as alien machines until one lands in his backyard. But he remembers the light in the bedroom as rare and unforgettable. "The light was like a nuclear explosion in the sky."

Some UFO research also indicates the objects seem to have a keen interest in all kinds of power installations including nuclear plants, and in water. The Thrums sightings occur in a setting where rivers, lakes and streams are constant features of the local geography. In this quiet place of high mountains and deep waters and hydroelectric installations, West Kootenay Power operates three of its four power plants.

And something else did happen on the night Semenoff and Perepolkin saw the lights. Outside Castlegar, four miles up the Columbia River, a transformer blew up at Celgar in the small hours of March 8, causing a fire that shut down the 380-employee pulp mill, as company officials estimate, until mid-April. (Celgar has just begun began operating at 10 to 15 per cent capacity).

No one knows what happened and an investigation into the causes is continuing.

"There was some sort of power outage, seconds earlier," according to Ron Belton, Celgar's personnel manager. "We felt a power surge but we weren't sure."

At the local power company they also don't know what "tripped the line." And, according to WKP

public relations man Jack Fisher, there have been reports of power disturbances, except for a 21-minute power blackout in most of Castlegar when the transformer blew up at Celgar. Celgar is located near a storage dam on the Columbia River operated by B.C. Hydro.

West Kootenay Power's Doug Ferguson in the Castlegar office explained that momentary losses of power — such as the dimming of street lights, observed in town around the time of the Celgar accident and Thrums sightings — are often caused by nothing more than blown fuses and trees touching the power lines, and go unreported since the problem can clear itself "when the reclosure comes back after a 20-second delay."

But, he admitted, "There are cases when we don't know what happened."

One such problem occurred on the night of March 7, a few hours before the Celgar fire, when musicians playing in the Hi Arrow bar in Castlegar experienced a power surge in the middle of a set. Bar manager Garry Clarkson described what happened: "Poof. Everything went down — the lights went out, the band equipment went down, the till — then came right on. It was real quick."

The bar and the pulp mill, however, are powered by different substations. In the case of Castlegar and Thrums, even the power plants are different because Thrums, although located near the Brilliant dam, which supplies Castlegar, is actually fed from the South Slokan plant.

The women in Thrums are also in the dark about their electrical problems and their sightings.

Over the years there have been sightings of light objects, anecdotal and unreported, coming from the Russian Doukhobor communities deep in the dark Slokan Valley. The most recent sightings are just beyond the city limits and centre on Mount Sentinel near the confluence of the Kootenay and Columbia rivers.

The mountain has a special place in the religious Doukhobor tradition — the first Russian settlers early in the century named in Mount Sinai, after the holy hill in Jerusalem, the home for God — and is the burial place of their leader Peter the Lordly Verigin.

In that old, half-forgotten tradition there is a belief in other worlds and visitors from them. Still, it came no easier to Semenoff, Perepolkin and Tarasoff to go public with their stories than it did to their non-Russian neighbor, Paetkau.

But they agree with her when she says, "It's breathtaking."

Editor's note: Other readers who have seen UFOs in the West Kootenay are invited to report them to the writer. Write to 1674 - 1 Silverwood Crescent, Castlegar.

## Boys tell of UFO terror

THREE north Gwent youngsters are convinced they have seen a UFO following a close encounter at Cwmillery. Lee Holt, Carl Jones and Sidney McLoughlin, all of Cwmillery, thought their days on earth were numbered when a "flying saucer" homed in on them at 5.30pm last Thursday evening.

And even now they cannot think of a logical explanation for what they saw.

"We were playing up at Cwmillery Lake near an old farmhouse when we saw a bright light coming down the hillside," said Lee, who has drawn a picture of what he saw.

"It was really low in the sky, clipping the tops of the trees. It circled above our heads several times, then flew off really quickly."

"It was silver, disc-shaped, with a domed top and luminous

lights, about the size of a car, and it made no noise.

"We were really scared. I thought whatever it was was going to take us away."

"A few minutes after it vanished there was a huge fireball which came down near the farm."

The youngsters rushed home to tell their parents and at first Lee's mum Melinda was sceptical.

"I thought they had made it up, or that what they had seen was fireworks, but then I realised they were absolutely terrified," said Mrs Holt, of White Horse Court, Cwmillery.

Abertillery police, who have investigated the boys' story, have been unable to offer any down-to-earth explanation.

"We have to take any incident like this seriously and whatever it was the boys saw they were very scared by it," said Inspector Brian Heal.

ADVERTISER, Heywood, England - Nov. 16, 1989 CR: T. Good

## Janet's encounter with strange UFO

MYSTERY lights have once again been spotted in the skies over Heywood.

A huge, glowing white ball was seen over the Darnhill area by Mrs Janet Nicholson of Trent Avenue, Summit, who told the Advertiser about her strange experience.

She said: "I was driving down Cherwell Avenue on Sunday with my husband when I noticed a big white light over Darnhill way."

"It didn't move or change shape, but it was far too large and bright to be a star."

"When I got home the

light was still there, and so I drove as close to it as I could, ending up near the flats at Darnhill."

"I watched it for 10 minutes and then went to get my children, who were as mystified as I was."

"About half an hour after I first saw it, the light started to move towards us."

"As it got closer it became clear that it

was triangular in shape and consisted of what appeared to be two white lights and a red one. It then moved above us and went over and out of sight."

"I've never seen anything like it before - I know the difference between a plane and something unexplained."

"It was an incredible experience, and I'm sure other people in Heywood

must have seen something."

The Advertiser put Mrs Nicholson in contact with a Heywood UFO research group. A spokesman from the group said:

"Mrs Nicholson's sighting is still under investigation. We haven't come to any definite conclusions as yet, but we are especially interested in the description of the triangular shape."

GUARDIAN, Swan Hill, Victoria, Australia

Feb. 2, 1990 CR: P. Norman

## UFO investigator visits district

Seen any UFOs lately?

If so, the Victorian UFO Research Society would like to hear from you.

The society's investigation officer, Mr Paul Norman, is in the district waiting to hear of sightings and unusual happenings.

He said he was in the area to confirm reports that three water tanks in the district had been mysteriously emptied.

"There have been numerous reports of water tanks and dams being emptied and even a sighting of a strange object hovering over a tank in Gippsland some 10 years ago."

"I have come to Swan Hill to confirm that the three tanks were emptied

and to talk with people who know something about the reports," he said.

Mr Norman said there had been many sightings of strange circles impressed into wheat crops and pastures near Speed, Ouyen, Beulah and Leitchville.

He said soil samples taken from the December sighting at Speed were still being analysed and results should be known soon.

"The soil was hard and had obviously changed its composition," Mr Norman said.

"But, the wheat crop was not damaged and resumed its former shape within days of the finding."

Another circle was discovered less than a metre from the original shortly after, and another ten circles were found in the area in the ensuing weeks, he added.

"In all of them the wheat had not been crushed. The stems had been bent when the wheat was green and had sap in them."

"We would be pleased to hear from anyone in the Swan Hill district who may have seen similar circles or UFOs near water tanks or dams," Mr Norman said.

Mr Norman, a full-time investigator with the Victorian UFO Research Society, travels extensively throughout Europe, the United States, Asia, Canada and the Australian Outback investigating UFO sightings.

He said the society was interested in receiving reports from witnesses who had observed UFOs at close range and experiences related to the strange phenomenon.

All names would be kept confidential, he added.

Mr Norman can be contacted on (059) 26-7284 from February 1 to 18, or P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic., 3189.

## UFO claims are soaring, say experts

THE NUMBER of UFO sightings in South East Essex is soaring, say experts.

And 19 families in the last year claim to have made contact with a creature from out of space - some 'losing' up to three hours of their lives after their close encounters.

Sheridan Lane, of the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Association, said 1,400 sky searchers contacted them between July 1988 and July this year.

She said: "The number of sightings has dramatically increased. There seems to be more and more visitations by unidentified objects."

"Nineteen people have told us that they have made contact with an alien. In most cases individuals have been driving along when their car has suddenly stalled."

"In most cases their memories have been vague as to what has actually happened but the amount of time they have lost has varied between 20 minutes and three hours."

In the last fortnight dozens of people have contacted the society's hotline to report sightings.

On September 29, two pensioners on their way home from bingo in

Southend report seeing a huge object, much bigger than an aeroplane. It was diamond shaped with a brilliant white light shining through two windows.

Earlier that night a man in Stanford-le-Hope said he saw a triangular object above his house.

On the same night a Basildon couple watched an object with red, green and white lights hovering above the Basildon telephone exchange.

On October 1, a widower in Tilbury was woken from his sleep at 12.15am by a bright white light which lit up his whole bedroom and garden.

On October 2, a husband, wife and daughter walking their dog along Underhill Road, South Benfleet, spotted a triangular shaped object. It was very large with red, green, blue and white lights. It sped away after they had watched it for 20 minutes.

And on October 4, a couple in Canvey saw a huge saucer shaped like a skate fish at 9.30pm.

## UFO sighting

An amazed Laycock pensioner watched a glowing object shoot across the night sky.

The capsule-shaped UFO hurtled low across the village before disappearing.

Last Thursday night's incident is the latest in a string of reported UFO sightings around Laycock and Oakworth.

The 67-year-old woman, who does not want to be named, says: "It was definitely not a plane. It came quite low but there was little noise. I have never seen anything like it before in my life."

The first-ever college course on UFOs is being staged at the Adult Education Centre, Storrs Hill Road, Ossett, on February 24 and March 3.

Case material from around the world, including photographic and video-taped evidence, will be presented.

Enrolment is on the opening day and costs £8.

Mr Darby admitted that the experience had left him and his wife feeling "strange" and said he had come to the conclusion that it had been some sort of aircraft.

thing. Although we stood looking for some minutes, nothing happened. There were no lights and no sign of anything in the sky. Whatever it was had completely disappeared.

"I know it wasn't a helicopter and if it was a conventional aircraft it must have been big, because the beams were quite a long way apart."

Mr Darby admitted that the experience had left him and his wife feeling "strange" and said he had come to the conclusion that it had been some sort of aircraft.

But he added: "Having read the Herne Bay Times report, we're beginning to wonder and we wouldn't be a bit surprised if other people saw these lights as well but are worried about being branded as nuts."

"But this is the odd

## More witnesses saw lights in sky

THE Herne Bay UFO mystery deepened this week when another witness told of seeing the strange lights in the sky.

Herne resident Mr. Clive Darby said: "My wife and I saw them coming straight towards our home in Mill Lane."

"We thought they were the landing lights of an aircraft, but when we read in last week's Herne Bay Times that they had been seen by a woman in Beltinger, we began to wonder."

Mr. Darby was sitting watching television when he first noticed the lights.

"Our home is right on top of the hill and faces Manston, but I wouldn't say we are on the airfield flight path. As I sat watching television I suddenly

noticed two beams of light travelling parallel with the Thanet Way and coming from the direction of Manston," he said.

"They were very intense and appeared to be coming from some sort of aircraft about 200ft. above the ground. If it was an aircraft, however, there were no flashing lights on the wing-tips."

"The lights were coming travelling towards the front of the house and I don't mind admitting that I was concerned. I thought an aircraft might be in trouble and be looking for somewhere to put down."

Mr. Darby said he

## UFO sighting baffles police

By Gill Abbott

In the end, the town's police chief superintendant, Peter Grocott, decided to take a look at the UFO himself.

He said: "We didn't get to the bottom of it - We just don't know if it was atmospheric or somebody from Mars."

Disappeared

"The traffic controllers called us because they thought it could have been the county's helicopter but it was not flying that night."

He added: "We checked the Air Force too and they

said it was nothing to do with them."

The police station log shows that as well as the air traffic controllers, several people called in to report the phenomenon at 5am.

Supt Grocott and his men kept an eye on it until 7am, until it disappeared into the morning sky.

Mr Chris Mason, of Civil Aviation Authority, blamed the radar blip on unusual weather conditions. But a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said a UFO report has been received from police and an inquiry would be carried out.

CR: T. Good

16

## Did you see the silver UFO?

DOZENS of people have reported seeing a silver disc accompanied by lights in the Southend area.

Their sightings are being investigated by UFO researchers. The latest were on Sunday night when people reported a black-greyish object accompanied by orange lights over the Thames Estuary.

Earlier in the week others reported seeing a silver disc with orange balls round it. There was no noise.

A silver spinning object was also seen by a family and their neighbours enjoying a barbecue in Southend. There were 20 orange lights at the side of it.

East Anglian UFO researchers had four other reported sightings during the week. If anyone else saw objects they are asked to contact the UFO hotline on Basilston 286079.





EVENING OUTLOOK, Santa Monica, CA - Jan. 10, 1990

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 29, 1989 CR: G. Conway

## Bigfoot squabble dismissed

From staff and news services

A criminal charge has been dismissed against a Malibu-based tracker of the legendary bigfoot who is engaged in a long-running squabble with another bigfoot researcher, it was reported Tuesday.

Researcher Erik Beckjord, 50, was charged in Colfax, Wash., last June with harassment and coercion for allegedly sending threatening letters to researcher Mark Francis, 26, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Whitman County Deputy Prosecutor Ron Shirley, who filed the charge, told *The Spokesman-Review* he does not mind that the case is closed because it's in the best interests of the Sasquatch hunters to take their dispute elsewhere.

"I'm so glad I'm out of it you can't believe it," he said. "The file on this is already two inches thick."

Beckjord and Francis had planned to attend a conference in Whitman County at Washington State University on cryptozoology, which is the study of legendary — or mythical — creatures like sea serpents and bigfoot, the giant ape-like creature some say lives in the Northwest.

But just before the conference, Francis complained to police that Beckjord, who curates a Cryptozoology Museum at the Trancas Restaurant in Zuma Beach, had mailed him letters threatening him with bodily harm should he attend the conference.

"I was suspicious about the gist of the whole thing," Shirley said. "But when Francis arrived for the convention, he had all the (threatening) letters that had all the correct postmarks. He had all his bases covered."

Beckjord was arrested on arrival at the university in Pullman, spent a night in jail and was freed on \$2,500 bond and ordered to stay away from the assembly.

"I flew 1,700 miles to attend this and, bam, I'm up in jail," said Beckjord. "I didn't come up there to get thrown in jail. I came up there to be a good tourist and spend my money."

Beckjord denied threatening Francis and claims the letters were concocted.

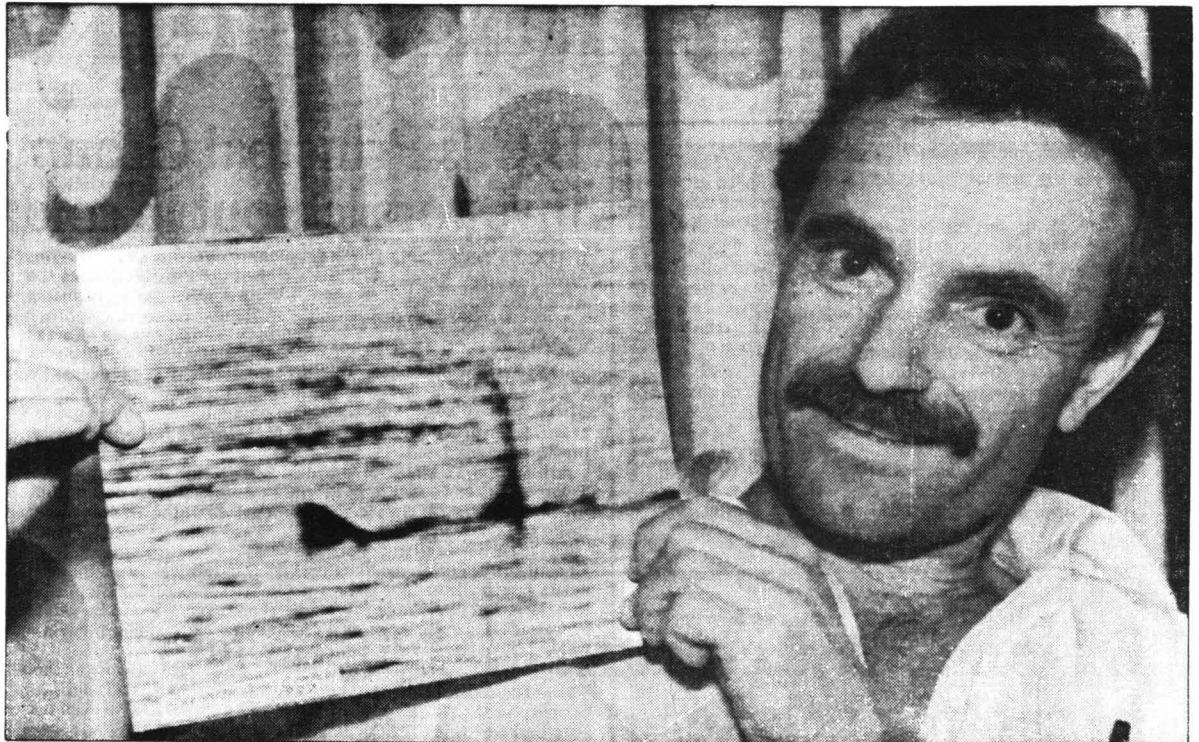
District Judge Douglas Robinson dismissed the charge Dec. 29, ruling the state lacked jurisdiction because no crimes were committed in Washington.

Francis said the feud with Beckjord began in 1988 when they disagreed about some reported bigfoot sightings in a South Carolina swamp.

But Beckjord said the problem started when he phoned Francis to investigate Francis' claims that he had a photo of something called "Lizard Man" and questioned his educational background.

Francis, director of the "North American Bigfoot Information Network," believes in the literal existence of the huge, ape-like Sasquatch.

But Beckjord believes in a paranormal bigfoot who pops in and out of reality.



JOHN CHAPLIN with video picture that he says shows a long, snake-like creature in Lake Okanagan

## Ogopogo fever grows as rivals hunt lake legend

KELOWNA — Ogopogo fever became Ogopogo frenzy here Monday as two rival groups of monster-hunters prowled different parts of Lake Okanagan.

While the search for the lake's legendary monster intensified, city council appealed for help to federal and provincial governments. And the chamber of commerce said the lake's longstanding mystery is close to a solution.

In recent weeks there have been several alleged sightings of Ogopogo and on Monday two different groups, both dedicated to finding but not harming the creature, came close to a clash.

At one end of the lake were members of the B.C. Cryptozoology Club who got very wet searching with an underwater video camera from an open boat in the midst of fierce rain squalls.

The camera loaned by Robotic Systems International Ltd. of Vancouver Island showed great pictures of rocks and an old car tire — but there was no sign of Ogopogo.

The other monster-hunters, car salesman Ken Chaplin and his family, stayed dry because they were on shore showing their videos of four alleged sightings last month to a news conference.

Chaplin's videos, which he's previously shown only to an exclusive few such as Mayor Jim Stuart, produced gasps of amazement from skeptical reporters because they clearly show one or two, long snake-like creatures swimming through a weedy section of the lake.

In one sequence, one of the creatures appeared to flick its tail high out of the water with a big splash.

Chaplin, 43, of Salmon Arm, released one video picture to *The Vancouver Sun* but hopes to sell all the videos after they have been

studied in the laboratories of the National Geographic Society.

"I've lost my job and sold my boat because I've spent so much time and money on this project," said Chaplin, who adamantly refused to tell reporters where he filmed the videos.

"Now it's time for the scientists and the government to take over," he said. "I want the area where I saw the creatures to be made secure by the government — maybe an ecological reserve. I'm so afraid of people trying to hunt them with spearguns or tranquilizers."

But Chaplin is determined to have nothing to do with the cryptologists — people who study the science of "hidden animals" — and refused to let them into his news conference.



CHRIS ROPER of Robotic Systems International launches submersible camera into the lake.

Story: Moira Farrow  
Photos: Nick Didlick

"Very disappointing," said cryptozoology club secretary-treasurer Jim Clark when he was turned away from the conference.

"I have nothing against them but I just think they're too much into publicity," said Chaplin.

He said he expects to complete a legal agreement with National Geographic in a day or so to study and "enhance" his videos and results will be known in 10 days.

Chaplin said of the creatures he filmed: "They were darkish-green in color with brown spots on the bodies and about 15 feet long. I think what I saw were two young creatures because others that other people have seen are 30 feet or more and must be adults."

Chaplin said he decided to have a press showing of his videos because he's anxious for the

government to step into the situation.

"The problem is that I don't expect senior governments to act fast," Stuart said in an interview. "We as city council have just written to both the provincial and federal governments asking for assistance."

The mayor said he's a lifelong resident of the Okanagan who didn't believe in Ogopogo until he saw Chaplin's videos.

"I'm no longer a skeptic but the problem is there are a lot of skeptics out there. Obviously there is something in the lake. I'm now convinced. It's amazing. From a scientific point of view, we need help."

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce manager Gerry Frederick said the Chaplin video is the best evidence of Ogopogo that has been produced in decades of sightings.

And John Kirk, leader of the cryptozoology expedition, is determined to pursue the search.

SUNDAY POST, Dundee, Scotland - July 16, 1989

## A Rival For Nessie

IF NESSIE thinks she can corner the world monster market by popping her head above the black waters at Loch Ness now and again—she's wrong.

A rival monster at no less a place than the Patagonian mountains of Argentina has been working overtime in a bid to boost tourism in the area.

Reports from the Andes winter-sport resort of Bariloche say the Nessie-style beast—nicknamed Nahuelito by locals—has made more than 24 appearances at Lake Nahuel Huapi in the last six months!

Now an Austrian scientist has vowed to capture the South American monster using sophisticated underwater radar.

But superstitious villagers who think Nahuelito can control the forces of nature have warned the scientists to stay away.

Just like Loch Ness, traders are cashing in, with T-shirts and souvenirs selling like hot cakes.

CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

Scotland's top monster hunter, Adrian Shine, has spent 15 years investigating Nessie. He says he'd want more evidence on her Patagonian pal, but he'll be delighted if anything is found.

Betty Gallagher, curator of the Official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition at Drumnadrochit, was equally delighted when we broke the news.

"People round here would be quite pleased if something turned up in South America."

But she agreed Nessie will have to put in a few extra hours if the competition continues.

# Ogopogo's life in the fast lane

By JOHN ARMSTRONG  
Sun Staff Reporter

KELOWNA — A few nights ago, a car rammed through the metal-post fencing at the edge of the La Mission Motor Hotel lawn on the outskirts of town and hit the facade of unit number seven at full-throttle, three doors down from Ken Chaplin's room.

That pretty much sums up Chaplin's week.

Since the 43-year-old Salmon Arm salesman went public with his Ogopogo videotape, things have been moving at top speed and the ride isn't over yet.

Wednesday he signed contracts with the National Geographic Society, which now has his videotape at its Washington, D.C. offices. After enhancement and digital processing to bring more detail out in the footage, the society will decide whether to go ahead with plans to send a team to the lake to shoot a documentary.

Thursday, Chaplin was interviewed at the location where he shot the footage with a rented video camera by a film crew from the

## VIDEO NOW BEING ENHANCED

Fox Television Network's tabloid news program A Current Affair.

The same day, Environment Minister Bruce Strachan informed Kelowna Mayor Jim Stuart he was ready to designate Ogopogo as "wildlife," which means the creature would be protected under the B.C. Wildlife Act.

The three-minute, 43-second video is compiled from four separate videos shot over five consecutive days of sightings in mid-July. Chaplin's video has been described as the best evidence, short of capture, of the creature's existence.

In his motel room on the outskirts of Kelowna, Chaplin says being the man with the Ogopogo tape was never in his plans.

"I used to chuckle at the stories... when my dad told me he'd seen it. I believed him — he doesn't lie," Chaplin says. "But I wanted to get a picture for my dad as documentation."

People in the area are wary of saying they've seen something in the lake unless they have proof.

Chaplin himself says, "If I hadn't got the tape, I would have kept my mouth shut. When I got the first sighting I was elated... then I wanted more pictures, better and closer."

The National Geographic's interest gives Chaplin's claims credibility, as does the reaction of those who've seen it, including that of Mayor Stuart.

But Chaplin, who quit his job as a car salesman to have time to deal with the publicity generated by his video, concedes he still has a problem selling the idea that he has proof of an unidentified, possibly prehistoric, group of giant snakes exists in the lake.

"Because it says 'Car Salesman Rents Video Camera And Captures Ogopogo,' it stereotypes me," Chaplin says flatly. "I

won't bend or distort the truth one iota."

People who know him back him up.

Barry Walter, sales manager of Great West Life Assurance in Kelowna, has known Chaplin for 15 years. "Ken's not the kind of guy to b.s. anyone. If he says it's so, it's so."

"I've seen the tape," he says, "and there's something there. I don't know what the hell it is, but it's definitely there."

His ex-boss at Hilltop Toyota, Bill Harbottle, says: "We basically said 'Ken, it's up to you.' I've seen the footage where you can really see the creature. I have no idea what it is, but he's got something there. I don't believe it's a hoax. I wish him the best of luck."

Ogopogo may have become a full-time job for Chaplin, but he's finding the head office awfully slow paying him. He's given up his job, sold his boat to cover expenses and while he has no objections to getting rich from his find, he says that's not what excites

## Ex-guide says creature he spotted in lake wasn't a giant beaver

By MOIRA FARROW

Retired big-game guide Ernie Giroux says he's seen Ogopogo and it sure isn't a big beaver or an oversize otter.

"It was about 15 feet long and swam real gracefully and fast," he said in a telephone interview Monday from his Kelowna home. "It had a round head like a football and about two feet of the head and body stuck up out of the water."

Giroux and his wife, Margaret, said they saw the creature by the light of the full moon on Sept. 15 when they were walking beside Lake Okanagan near the mouth of Bear Creek — the same spot where former car salesman Ken Chaplin made a controversial video of a creature in the lake in July.

The Giroux said they decided to talk about their sighting after reading newspaper reports that wildlife experts categorized the creature in Chaplin's video as most likely a large river otter or beaver.

"I've seen a lot of animals swimming in the wild and what we saw that night was definitely not a beaver," said Giroux, 66, a retired big game guide from Fernie.

"I'm not so familiar with otter, but I'm quite sure what we saw was not an ordinary animal of any kind. It had a big long tail and we watched it for about 10 minutes from about 50 yards offshore."

Giroux said he and his wife camped for two weeks in their

**"I've seen a lot of animals swimming in the wild and what we saw that night was definitely not a beaver."**

— Ernie Giroux

motorhome at the Bear Creek camp site in September and sighted the creature while walking beside the lake about 9 p.m. Sept. 15.

"It looked black in the moonlight and slithered through the water like a snake," said Margaret Giroux. "We were so surprised. It swam in one direction, dove down, disappeared, then came up again and swam back in the opposite direction. We could hardly believe what we were seeing."

The couple have not yet spoken to Chaplin, but reported their sighting by telephone to Kelowna's long-time Ogopogo researcher Arlene Gaul.

The description of what they saw is very similar to the description given by Chaplin and his parents of what they saw in the lake several times in July.

Chaplin has maintained that he saw, on five separate occasions during daylight, a snake-like creature about 4.5 metres long, hairless and dark green in color.

## Judge lets Bigfoot buff off the hook

By KEN OLSEN

Staff Writer

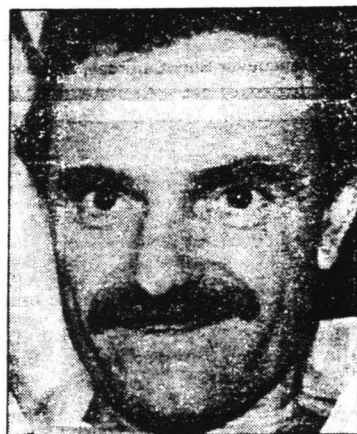
Bigfoot buff Erik Beckjord said Friday that he is going after a big chunk of the Whitman County treasury, even though District Court Judge Pro Tem Doug Robinson has dismissed misdemeanor harassment and coercion charges against him. The charges were dropped Friday.

Beckjord, a controversial California researcher, is a leading advocate of the theory that Bigfoot has extra-terrestrial origins. He was met with a restraining order and an arrest warrant when he landed in Pullman in late June for the International Society of Cryptozoology conference.

Beckjord's alleged crimes involved threatening letters he supposedly mailed to Bigfoot follower Mark Francis of Twinsburg, Ohio, warning Francis not to come to the Pullman conference.

Beckjord appealed the charges on the grounds Washington had no jurisdiction over the case since the alleged letters were mailed from California to Ohio. He was represented by Colfax attorney Dolores Cooper.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Ron Shirley argued Washington has jurisdiction because Beckjord's alleged threat to kill Francis continued until Francis arrived in Pullman and was not killed. Shirley said he is consid-



KEN CHAPLIN:  
on a wild ride

him and keeps him going.

"If I lost everything I had, I'd never regret it. I want it to be known as a reality rather than a myth. The other thing is I would like to make back my expenses and the lost income."

"And that's it, I'd be happy."

ering appealing Robinson's ruling.

Meanwhile, Beckjord said Friday that his attorney served Whitman County Commissioners with a \$3 million demand letter in October and will follow with a suit if payment is not forthcoming. He contends Whitman County prosecutors and judges bought Francis' story too easily, causing Beckjord to land in jail and miss the entire conference.

"This is a Bigfoot conference," Beckjord said in a telephone interview Friday. "A lot of weirdos and nuts show up — who knows, someone could call me one."

"That should have put the prosecutor on notice to be a little careful," Beckjord said.

THE EVERGREEN

## OP-ED

### Bigfoot research is questioned

Dear editor:

Now that I am out of jail, and months after, I find your article on the June 24 Bigfoot Conference in Pullman, in your June 27 issue. Your reporter, Ulla Thogerson, was unable to interview me since I was unlawfully arrested on the basis of perjured testimony and forged letters allegedly threatening death. This emanated from one of the speakers at the conference. He sincerely wished to prevent me from being at the

meeting, since had I been there, this is what I would have said to the media in the halls between speakers:

- That many of the speakers were there without having submitted resumes nor completed papers to the symposium leaders.

- That had such things been submitted, many of the speakers would have been struck from the speakers list.

- That many of the so-called Bigfoot Information Networks, or research groups, were in fact paper organizations.

- That many of the puffed up speakers who were quoted by the Evergreen on the subject of Bigfoot were unqualified, had no real experience and that much of what they said was based on untruth.

- That in particular, Bigfoot "research" has failed over 30 years and that new concepts are required for the 1990s. The old idea of a "missing link" to be captured for the purpose of AIDS test research is outmoded.

Since a normal, biological creature would have been captured or killed dozens of years ago with all the effort that has gone into the search to date.

None has.

- That the suspicions as to who is qualified and who is not, who is a faker and who is not, are very real suspicions, and the amount of fakery and entry into this field of unqualified persons has increased, all due to the lack of physical evidence (e.g. a body)

being recovered.

Some of these things I was able to tell some of the media that came to our night symposium, which cost over \$500 in lawyer's fees to be able to hold under the right of Freedom of Speech and Assembly guaranteed in the Washington Constitution as well as the U.S. Constitution. I hope it will now be printed as well.

We are not a paper organization. We are listed in the Yellow Pages and we have 100 people a week going through here, despite its relatively remote location.

Jon Erik Beckjord  
Director, The Cryptozoology Museum  
Malibu, California



# Ogopogo's still a puzzler

## Some claim it's beaver, others otter

By MOIRA FARROW

B.C.'s top wildlife experts have peered, pondered and puzzled over the controversial Ogopogo video and can only agree to disagree.

It's a river otter, according to the experts at the Vancouver Public Aquarium and the University of B.C.

It's a beaver, according to the provincial government experts.

All of which leaves Ken Chaplin, the man who filmed the creature in

Lake Okanagan, angry and frustrated.

"Last week the experts were adamant it's not a beaver and today we have nine people from the B.C. government agreeing — though not unanimously — that it is a beaver," Chaplin said Wednesday. "It's ridiculous."

He is bewildered that wildlife experts would label the creature he filmed in the lake to be either an otter or a beaver because he and other witnesses described it as 4½ metres long, hairless and dark green in color.

A male river otter grows to a maximum of 1.3 metres with a 50-centimetre tail. A beaver is only a maximum 1.3 metres including the tail. Both mammals are brown and hairy.

Chaplin, a former Salmon Arm car

salesman, showed his video last month to biologists, zoologists and oceanographers based at the aquarium and UBC. With only one exception, they said it was probably a river otter although they were puzzled by the apparently large size of the creature.

Earlier this week, Chaplin invited B.C. government officials to view the video with him in Kelowna and nine experts, including a trapper and reptile expert, from the provincial museum accepted his invitation.

They left the viewing, without discussing their opinions with Chaplin, to hold a private meeting. On Wednesday, the group faxed Chaplin a letter saying they believe the creature on the video is probably a beaver.

The letter, from Bob Lincoln, wildlife section head in the Pentic-

ton office of the environment ministry, stated: "The image was granular and hence the data available to make an absolute identification scant. But all of us had the strong impression of something fairly natural. The image in the video looks and behaves much like a beaver."

However, Lincoln said the possibility of some "strange and unusual" wildlife species in Lake Okanagan "has not been undermined" by his colleagues' belief that the creature in the video is a beaver.

"My feeling is that all of the people who live (in) or visit the Okanagan should keep their eyes, ears and minds open to the opportunity to observe."

In a telephone interview from his Penticton office Wednesday, Lin-

coln said his colleagues were almost unanimous in their beaver opinion and they were "unconcerned" that aquarium and UBC experts believe the creature is a river otter.

"However, we can't say unequivocally that it's a beaver or an otter because we don't have enough precise data," said Lincoln. "There's still a possibility it could be something else altogether."

Chaplin, who said he watched the creature in the lake five times in July when he was making his video, said he's disappointed the B.C. government experts wouldn't have a discussion with him before leaving.

Chaplin said the creature in the video lashed the lake with a tail well over a metre long whereas beaver and otters have very short tails.

TIMES-COLONIST, Victoria, B.C., Canada - March 9, 1990 CR: J. Magor

## Other admirers of Gorgeous surface as ripples from sighting story spread

By Judith Lavoie

Times-Colonist staff

Gorgeous, the Gorge's own sea monster, cannot be a figment of her imagination because several people have admitted seeing him, says Allison Griffiths of Selkirk Avenue.

After a story appeared in the Times-Colonist about the Griffiths family's sightings of a large, round, unidentified creature, Griffiths received phone calls from people who claimed they had seen Gorgeous.

Others say they have heard friends or relatives talking about similar sightings, Griffiths said.

"There was one man who said 'I have been seeing that black b— for years. I don't know why no one else has seen him,'" she said.

Harold Miller of Cedar Shores apartments on Gorge Road saw Gorgeous twice last week.

"It's right in front of our place that he comes and fools around," Miller said.

"But he's not that easy to see unless you have binoculars. He looks like a log in the water," he said.

"He just swims up and down and he makes quite a swirl in the water when he goes under," he said.

Miller believes that when Gorgeous swims he has a hump which rises above the water.

Griffiths had assumed the creature swam on its back with a large belly sticking out of the water.

Miller, who moved from Edmonton last year, says he is not an expert on sea life but he believes Gorgeous is a type of large sea lion or walrus.

His head seems to be about double the size of a normal harbor seal.

"But to me he looks like a very large seal-type of animal," he said.

"He looks pretty friendly to me."

Suggestions on the origins of Gorgeous have ranged from a porpoise to a sea turtle.

And Gorgeous is on his way to becoming a celebrity.

Traffic on the Gorge last week-end was almost triple normal levels, Griffiths said.

"We've had every size, style and shape of boat traffic. Everything from yacht-sized to whole families jammed into canoes," she said.

"Everyone is taking it very seriously. A lot of them desperately want a monster in the Gorge," she said.

The Gorge Waterway Society intends to make the most of the creature, said Griffiths, society vice-president.

"We are going to have a 'Have You Seen Gorgeous' contest in the elementary schools," she said.

Students in kindergarten to Grade 6 in the elementary schools around the Gorge will be asked to draw pictures of what they think Gorgeous looks like.

Society members are asking local businesses and organizations to donate prizes for the contest, Griffiths said.

## Ogopogo's 'lair' bared by B.C. man

By JOHN ARMSTRONG  
Sun Staff Reporter

KELOWNA — The man who has what experts call the most conclusive evidence to date of Ogopogo's existence on Thursday revealed the location he believes is a shelter and feeding ground for the legendary Okanagan Lake denizen.

Frank Chaplin, the 43-year-old Salmon Arm resident who collected more than 4½ minutes of close-range video footage over five consecutive days in mid-July, said he hopes that revealing the location of the creature's home would prompt laws to protect it.

Chaplin led a Vancouver Sun reporter, members of the local media and a television crew from the FOX Network program A Current Affair to a massive log boom near Bear Creek Provincial Park and campground on the west bank of the lake.

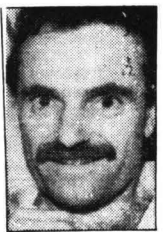
The location had been a closely guarded family secret since the

first sighting by Chaplin's father, Clem. Standing at the mouth of Bear Creek at the Okanagan Lake shoreline, Chaplin described what his parents had seen.

"They had their truck and camper here and in the evening they walked down here," he said. "It was lying out there like a log — then it started moving in dead calm water. They were standing on the bank about 15 feet away."

Chaplin said the creature was green and snake-like with brown mottling and it dived and surfaced several times.

The footage Chaplin compiled with a rented video camera at the site has now been sent to the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C., for enhancement in the society's video lab.



CHAPLIN

DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton Beach, FL - Feb. 15, 1990 CR: R. Reid

## Soviet astronomer claims evidence of high-tech aliens

By THE BALTIMORE SUN

MOSCOW — A Ukrainian astronomer not only believes that he has found an alien civilization but has deduced that its citizens have solved the problems of the environment — by living on one planet and putting all their industry on another.

"In the course of numerous tests, I have detected mysterious sources of radio emissions in the northern part of the sky, near the star Altair," Alexei Arkhipov of the Kharkov Radio-Astronomical Institute told the government news agency Tass.

"They may be caused by the intensive industrial activity of alien

civilizations we do not know of," he said.

Altair is in the constellation Aquila, and in ancient times it was associated with evil reptiles. But, reptilian or not, the creatures, in Arkhipov's view, live in Altair's solar system and seem to have created a fantastically powerful industrial society.

So powerful, in fact, that it would make the planet on which it is based virtually uninhabitable. Arkhipov calculates that the radio emissions he has detected, which he suggests stem from radar, television and other forms of electronic transmission, are about 100

million times more powerful than the energy the earth receives from the sun.

Therefore, he concludes, it is easy to figure out that the creatures who built all this industry must actually live somewhere else — namely, on another planet, preferably one that is not too close by.

Tass did not speculate as to whether the Altairians were the same aliens who showed up in UFOs in the Soviet Union last year. Nor did it wonder if they might have been looking over Siberia as a likely spot for their next industrial park.

## Scientists study causes of animal mutilations

By Heather Larson

Dianne Young, a Northwest resident, is assisting scientists in Colorado with research concerning mutilations of livestock, mostly cows. These scientists and other researchers have attributed the more skilled mutilations to unidentified flying objects or unpublicized military testing.

Since 1974 there have been more than 10,000 mutilations reported, mostly in the western United States. No suspects have been charged in any of these cases.

In many of the mutilations the cuts are very sophisticated, possibly made by lasers. Usually eyeballs, tongues, jaws and sex organs are removed. Lasers seal off tissue so there would be little or no evidence of bleeding. In the more accomplished cases no traces of blood have been found.

"A Strange Harvest", a video produced by Linda Howe of Georgia, points to UFOs as the culprits in many of their beliefs that the cows have been taken aboard some type of aircraft and later dropped onto another spot because there was no evidence of

thrashing around at the scene. Animals about to die normally disturb the land around them.

Other researchers have said the mutilations may be the result of a scientific test. Possibly genetic information is being studied. In the more sophisticated cases there has been no trace of humans anywhere near the site. Many times there are three circular prints in the form of a tripod on the ground. Some cows have also shown a high level of radiation.

In a recent case in Maple Valley, Bill Veenhuizen's cow was mutilated. Photographs of that cow showed cuts that proved to be identical to the cuts on another cow mutilated several years ago in another state.

Young has compiled a list of findings that suggest a mutilated animal would be worthy of further investigation. They are round incisions or well-defined cuts with smooth edges, cored out incisions in rectal and genital areas, removal of body parts or the absence of blood in or around the animal.

She sends the data she collects to a research pathologist in Englewood, Colorado who is trying to gather as much information as possible in an attempt to solve this 15 year old mystery.

Anyone who experiences a mutilation is encouraged to call Young at 889-2026 so that she might extract tissue samples.

VOICE OF THE VALLEY,

Maple Valley, WA

Jan. 3, 1990

A horserider discovered a dead calf on the Soos Creek Trail on Dec. 20. Near S.E. 240th and 148th S.E. The lower stomach area of the calf appeared to have been cut and its genitals were gone.

No trace of blood was found. It appeared as though some animal had eaten on one of the hind legs. The investigating officer was not aware of any cattle in the immediate area.

# Omaha Woman Joins Search for Lost Atlantis

By Susan Darst Williams

Metro Extra Correspondent

When Omahan Linda Q. Perrin was little, she dreamed of exploring underseas and finding lost treasure in old ships.

Now she's living that dream. She is an adviser to a scientific expedition northwest of Bimini, the Bahamas, a paradise 20 minutes by air from Florida.

The goal: to discover whether a series of large blocks of stone 18 feet under the mint green seas is man-made — and possibly what's left of the lost continent of Atlantis.

Ms. Perrin said she believes that proof of Atlantis, a legendary, ancient civilization, could come in the 1990s. That proof would be in the form of underwater photos and photomosaic surveys by Ms. Perrin's clients, who blend the skills of deep-sea diving and archaeology. They think the rocks off Bimini are the top of a huge ceremonial building, a part of a city.

Helping to solve one of the world's great mysteries? Heady stuff for a single mother of two — Amanda, 11, and Abigail, 8 — from Nebraska.

But Ms. Perrin is used to reaching out. She has been self-employed in professional fund raising since 1972. Among her fund-raising clients is the Templeton Theological Seminary, led by John M. Templeton, whose company, Templeton International, manages assets of \$10 billion.

Templeton has a home on Nassau, the Bahamas, and it was he who told Ms. Perrin about a Bahamian government official who connected her to the scientists searching for Atlantis.

She contacted them and began to work with them. Since 1988, Ms. Perrin has gone to the Bahamas several times to work on the project.

She calls her ringside seat a priceless opportunity to observe underwater archaeologists as they look for clues from thousands of years past that might help preserve the future.

"I have to believe that Atlantis was a fact," Ms. Perrin said. "Otherwise, there wouldn't be great flood stories on all the continents. It had to have happened, and there had to have been survivors. I believe that we, genetically, are all descendants of Atlantis."

She said, "It's like peeling the layers of an onion. You hope there's something underneath. But even if there isn't, I get a heck of an adventure, and I've been personally and professionally enriched."

She predicted that in the 1990s, Atlantis will become a hot topic as people search for clues from the past for how to handle the technological, environmental and moral problems of the future.

"Atlantis is unfinished business," she said. "We've explored outer space, but we have a lot left to explore and invest in right here on this planet."

What has the experience taught her so far? That high-tech equipment breaks down a lot and that the weather is unpredictable and can ruin your plans, even in the beautiful Bahamas.

But also: "That life is a treasure hunt. Dream your dreams, follow your heart, and pretty soon your life opens up with opportunity."

Excerpts from Ms. Perrin's Atlantis notes:

## January 1988:

The weather had turned sour and I sat by the fire (at an Andros Island resort on vacation) with 15 other guests, including Peter White, senior editor of the National Geographic. Since I had always been interested in the legend of Atlantis, I asked him if the magazine had done anything on the subject. "No," he replied. "Not that I can remember."

But it turned out that some ruins of some sort had been sighted north of Andros and off of Bimini. I was referred to a woman at the Bahamian government's Department of Archives for research results.

I went through some of the records. One thing that caught my eye was that a Nebraskan, Terry Mahlman of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, had worked as a staff archaeologist 11 years ago for Atlantis expert, explorer David Zink. But as it seemed unlikely I could track him down back in Nebraska, I let the possible connection slide.

Still, my interest was piqued. I felt like I was on to some fun.

## March 1988

I called the resort owner again and asked what he knew about the underwater world in the Bahamas. In his diving, had he ever seen anything that looked man-made? No, not really — but, he said, dives don't usually go below 150 feet down, and that's pushing it.

Most people think the evidence would have to be much deeper, in what they call "ocean trenches."

He steered me to Neal Watson of Bimini Undersea Adventures. He had heard that there was something off the coast of Bimini.

## April 1988

Neal Watson told me of a French scientist, pilot and inventor named Dimitri Rebikoff, 75, who is a leading supplier of underwater cameras, monitoring systems and exploration equipment.

He holds more than 60 patents, most notably for the "Pegasus" — a one-man wet submarine used, among other things, in surveillance by the Navy.

He gave me the phone number of Rebikoff's office in Fort Lauderdale. I found out that Rebikoff and Harold Edgerton, a Nebraska native and an MIT scientist and inventor, were friends and had worked together on the electronic strobe light. Edgerton holds the U.S. patent, and Rebikoff has the French and Swiss patents.

I also learned that Jacques Cousteau put Rebikoff under contract to design and manufacture custom equipment for his underwater expeditions.

So I called him from Omaha. Would he meet with me and share what he had found? He was gracious. "Leenda," the Frenchman said. "I weel meet vith you."

## July 1988

I met Dimitri and his wife, Ada, at their office next to a hangar containing their seaplane. We talked about the stones underwater northwest of Bimini, discovered in 1988 by University of Miami geology professor Dr. J. Manson Valentine.

Radio-carbon-dating had shown that these stones were above ground 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, Dimitri said. He showed me photographs and told me he was planning to do some photogrammetric maps of the site. The latter consist of underwater photos that take out the distortion of the water so that exact measurements can be made.

Underwater archaeology holds many challenges, because the changing currents and sands make precise work difficult.

Dimitri introduced me to two French brothers, Dragan and Nicolas Popov, who will be his partners in the exploration once Dimitri has approval from the Bahamian government. Dragan is a visiting instructor of anthropology at Stanford University and a writer. Nicolas is a biologist, photographer and writer. They were raised in the Bahamas as sons of Dr. Ivan Popov, founder of the Revitalization Clinic in Nassau. They have traveled all over the beautiful turquoise waters in their Novamarine inflatable boat, chronicling wildlife and the lives of the island people.

I tell them of my skills and interests. Maybe we can work together.

## September 1988

Back in the Bahamas for a short working vacation. I love it here. It is a place where I feel both stronger and softer.

I love the colors in the houses and of the water: teals, mint greens, azures, all shades of turquoise, and all crystal clear. The little colorful fish "kiss" your legs. It's so quiet in the water, and so peaceful.

## December 1988

Dimitri calls. He has the permit from the Bahamian government. He hires me to help with media work and to set the stage for fund raising. Hooray! This follow-your-heart stuff is fun.

## February 1989

My first look at the site, flying over it in Dimitri's seaplane. It looks like a series of organized rocks in a backwards "J." There appears to be an awful lot that's hidden under the sand. The stones look like soft pillows lying in organized fashion, and disappearing into the sand on either side.

It was really exciting. I wanted to get down there.

## March 1989

Finally, I am to snorkel over the site and investigate the rocks for myself. We agree to meet at the Compleat Angler Hotel, the place made famous by Ernest Hemingway.

Bimini is two blocks wide — that's it. This is a skinny piece of land.

I arrive, via an eight-seater plane, to a boat, to a dock. I have way too much luggage. I am way overdressed. It's hot. I'm sweating. I'm nervous about where I am going to sleep and what I am going to eat.

I must be crazy! Meeting these French people I hardly know? Searching for the lost continent of Atlantis? LEENDA, what ARE you doing?...

Next morning, I smell sweet coconut rolls cooking. I am feeling better. The



Nicolas Popov

**MAKING PLANS:** Rebikoff and Ms. Perrin prepare for an aerial view of the area with the huge stones they suspect are the ruins of Atlantis.

weather forecast isn't good, but I meet up with Dimitri and Ada. We go to dinner. My head is full with the work to be done. But the next day, unfortunately, the water is too rough for boats or planes.

The rainy, windy weather frustrates my chance to snorkel the site, but at least we have time to draft the budget for the initial phase of the work — approximately \$400,000 will be needed for equipment, staff time and some initial excavation costs. Dimitri is to finalize the budget and get the program approved by his nonprofit organization's board of directors before I can work with them in developing financial resources.

## April-August 1989

Dimitri is busy with his for-profit business — marine equipment — and so things move slowly in putting together the details of his Atlantis explorations. There are only two really active board members on Dimitri's board; I tell him he needs at least 10. I tell him that I think someone is going to find part of Atlantis in the Bahamas — and the scientific approach the discoverer uses will be critical. So many people want to go in as divers and lift up this and that, but they don't keep proper records. They would never be able to put the puzzle pieces back together. That's why Dimitri, with his archaeology skills, needs to be involved. Dimitri tells me, "OK, Leenda. I am working on it, Leenda."

## September 1989

I get a call from a Terry Mahlman of Lincoln. He works at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is involved with the Husker Network aired on cable TV in Lincoln and Omaha. They are expanding their programming beyond sports, to other areas of interest. He had heard that I was involved with some "mysteries of the unknown." Would I consider hosting a series of programs? WOULD I? Of course!

We met in the NBC Building in Lincoln for lunch. I kept thinking I knew his name from somewhere. Being a fund-raiser for 18 years, I pride myself on remembering names. But I couldn't quite place his.

Then I told him of my work with Rebikoff and the Popovs in the Bahamas — and he dropped his fork.

He had been that archaeologist from Nebraska who had worked with the Atlantis expert at the Bimini site in the late 1970s!

We both dropped our jaws. Talk about synchronicity. A Nebraska-Bahamas connection?

## October 1989

Another frustrating delay. I had planned to snorkel Bimini at last, when I learned that Dimitri had had to move his equipment back to Fort Lauderdale to fix it. He also is getting so busy with contract work involving his marine equipment that he's having trouble finding the time for the project. I certainly understand, but I'm anxious to reach out and touch those stones.

## November 1989

I meet with the Popovs and go over progress, as well as help them in proofreading their third book. They tell me that David



World-Herald

**BIMINI:** Site is near Florida.

## Omahan to Be TV Host

Linda Q. Perrin is associate producer and host of a new program for local cable TV, "The Unseen and the Unknown," which will make its debut Friday at 8:30 p.m. on Cox Cable Omaha's Channel 7. The program is the Husker Network's first effort to expand its programming beyond sports, Ms. Perrin said. The topic of the first show will be UFOs, but Atlantis will be the subject of later shows, expected to begin in the spring. Other shows will focus on intuition, miracles, near-death experiences, astrology, auras, religion and science. Ms. Perrin said, "There are a lot of things that people wonder about, but they just don't fit with the way we've categorized experience before. Now is the time to broaden our awareness and realize how much more there is to know."

Zink, author of "The Stones of Atlantis" and another Atlantis explorer, is planning an expedition in early 1990. The Popovs plan to tell him about me. Also, a French TV station is coming to do a feature on Atlantis. I feel it coming together.

## December 1989

Once again, the connections I have been making in the Bahamas are paying off. A British man, Tony Howarth, calls me to say he has heard about my consulting and marketing services and wants to talk to me the next time I am in the area.

His company has contracted to finance the owner of the salvage rights to an 800-square-mile area of water about 80 miles southeast of Miami. This area is said to include 18 shipwrecks — including, they believe, the Santiago El Grande, perhaps one of the 10 richest shipwrecks in the world, with an \$800 million cargo.

We plan to meet the next time I'm in Nassau.

As the year ends and the new year approaches, I look back and see the benefits of following my dreams using my heart as a compass. I don't know what 1990 will bring — maybe proof of Atlantis, and maybe not. Above all, I feel that it will yield a treasure-trove of experience.