

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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TIMES, St. Petersburg, FL — July 8, 1990

Debunkers vs. Believers

■ Tales of another world are not alien to the national UFO convention.

By CHRIS LAVIN
Times Staff Writer

PENSACOLA — Sitting in the lobby of the Hilton Hotel, Gilbert Landis turned to the person next to him and, without a giggle, said this:

"I'm here because 10,500 years ago my wife and I made a mistake."

A few seats over, Clark McClelland from Orlando was talking about secret autopsies performed on alien creatures and Nazi scientists who escaped to secret Antarctic bases where they have been building flying saucers.

Just down the hall, a preacher lectured about UFOs and the Bible. The parting of the Red Sea, he said, may have been caused by the propulsion system of an alien spacecraft.

So it went during the weekend at the national convention of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) — an annual gathering of scientists and others who believe the aliens have landed.

If this was any other year in any other city, the convention would probably drift off like a UFO, an

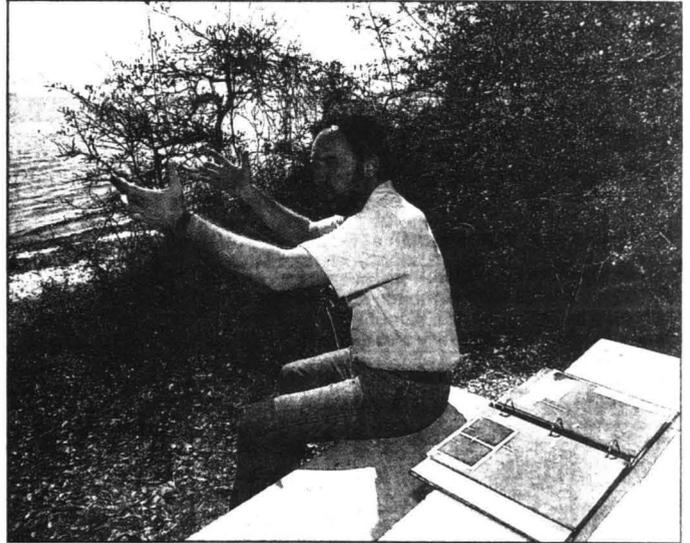
oddy never to be heard of again. But this was Pensacola, and it seems most of the population of nearby Gulf Breeze has reported a UFO sighting in recent years.

So the convention took on special meaning — to those who believe in the extra terrestrial and those who spend their time challenging UFO believers.

Specifically, most of the Believers and Debunkers came loaded for a showdown over photographs taken by Gulf Breeze builder Ed Walters. The photos purported to show a UFO that Walters says hovered over his home, paralyzed him with a blue beam and left him and his wife, Frances, scared and bewildered.

Since the publication of his book — titled *The Gulf Breeze Sightings: The Most Astounding Multiple Sightings of UFOs in U.S. History* — Walters has been accused by Debunkers of using a model and trick photography to perpetrate a fraud.

The battling has been, well, out of this world. "It's the wildest, most preposterous story I've ever heard," says Philip J. Klass, a longtime UFO debunker. "Just think of it. Multiple visits to the same house, little creatures, voices in his head



Ed Walters looks out over Gulf Breeze Bay, where he reported seeing UFOs. Color photos of what he says are UFOs lie nearby. Others have disputed that the photos are authentic.

PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

talking about bananas."

Yes, Walters says, it does seem odd. But he insists the evidence and sightings by hundreds of others, including a Gulf Breeze town council member, corroborate his story.

Walters' story began Nov. 11, 1987, when he said he saw the UFO and snapped photographs. This encounter was close and continual — recurring through numerous sightings during the next three years.

Walters says the UFO called him "Ze-hass," and he recounted conversations apparently coming from the UFO. In one encounter, Walters told of hearing alien voices speaking in Spanish complaining about being fed too many bananas. "I know this sounds bizarre," Walters wrote, "and I was tempted not to tell it, but bananas are what they were talking about."

Walters says was hungry for an explanation of what he had seen. He notified MUFON investigators and passed his photos on to the *Gulf Breeze Sentinel*, a small weekly paper that reports UFO sightings.

But as word of Walters' photos spread, more and more residents of this Gulf Coast town reported seeing the UFO.

Walters soon learned a quick lesson about UFO sightings: The person who says he or she saw the UFO will be closely examined.

Walters was plunged into the little-known but continuous war between the Believers and the Debunkers — both of whom questioned Walters for their own purposes.

When the analysis was done, the outcome was no surprise. MUFON investigators backed Walters and his photos, skeptics such as Klass were not convinced. "You know, Walters is a convicted felon," Klass says. "Yes, car theft and forgery. He's slick, real slick."

But Walters says his problems with the law dated back to his teen years. As an adult, he says, he has been a successful builder and a pillar of the community.

With Gulf Breeze being the hottest UFO spot in the world, MUFON decided to bring its annual conference to Pensacola. When the 600 or so MUFON members arrived Friday, they found a city split over the reality of UFOs, but unified on the economic impact of this convention.

A Gulf Breeze jewelry company had created "Gulf Breeze Sighting" watches and medallions. There were T-shirts featuring Walters' blue beam, and visitors could pay to be photographed with a life-sized statue of the Gulf Breeze alien.

But even as the conference began, it was clear west Florida wasn't going to claim a special place in UFO history without a big fight.

In recent weeks 22-year-old Tommy

Smith of Pensacola has told reporters he helped Walters create double-exposure UFO photographs. And the *Pensacola News Journal* reported that a UFO model similar to Walters' photos was found hidden in a house formerly owned by Walters.

But in an impassioned speech, Walters said evidence proves Smith's claims are false. The model, Walters says, was found to be constructed by materials discarded from his construction business in 1989, two years after he made his initial photographs.

Debunkers, Walters alleges, constructed and planted the model to discredit him.

The new allegations have stirred MUFON to reopen its analysis of the Gulf Breeze sightings, but if the atmosphere at this convention is any indicator, don't expect investigators to undermine Walters' claim.

This convention drew a wide variety of UFO types. But virtually all shared a strong belief in UFOs and an equally strong belief that the U.S. government is hiding vast storehouses of information on UFOs and alien life.

There were scientists such as Brian T. O'Leary, a former NASA astronomer and Princeton University instructor, who says his own psychic experiences have convinced him that the United States needs a new science that can explain psychic phenomena and, perhaps, UFOs.

"I began communicating telepathically, I experienced moving out of my body and float-

ing over cities, I healed myself with my mind," O'Leary said.

And then there were other Believers who lacked O'Leary's academic credentials, but had stories to tell.

Landis, for example, the 10,500-year-old San Diego resident, said NASA and the U.S. government is secretly aware of a 60-member "Universal Association of Planets" whose spaceships are Earth's UFOs.

"You know what the astronauts saw on the back side of the moon?" Landis said. "There was a refueling station and a structure that looked very much like a hotel. And the canals on Mars? Dry docks for space ships."

Landis' treatise on the history of the universe was interrupted by McClelland, who wants everyone to know that Earth is simply a giant genetic experiment being orchestrated by alien life.

But all at this convention seemed united by a belief there is something out there and we all need to learn more about it.

Many are like George Kruse, a free-lance photographer from California who was drawn to MUFON when he discovered during a hypnosis session that he had been abducted by aliens.

"I was taken and I couldn't move," Kruse says. "They looked down my throat and inserted a needle (into me). I remember I didn't like it."

NEWS, Buffalo, NY — March 25, 1990

Amateur camcorder users record 'real' UFOs on tape

By BUZZ McCLAIN
Special to The News

DAVE AARON has a tantalizing proposition: "real" UFOs on videotape.

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

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

I called Aaron and asked him to put together a sample reel of the best shots he had to offer.

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

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

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

The dozen taped clips Aaron sent were rough-hewn, clearly shot by amateurs, and the tape was made of what were obviously copies of copies of copies.

The shots last from a few seconds to a few minutes, and editor Aaron had replayed them each three times, sometimes in slow motion, sometimes with magnification on certain areas of the

screen.

It took a minute to get used to the quality — these are not filmed in the best of conditions — but Bryant and Swaittek seemed enraptured from the start.

Avid readers of UFO reports, they were thrilled to see taped footage to accompany the familiar documentation, and they preceded some of the clips with enlightening background comments.

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

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

The best was yet to come. On a separate tape Aaron sent his new-

est clip, a 15-second sighting shot in Japan by a couple testing a new video camera.

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

Conclusive? No: Unless you are the one the event is happening to, you will always harbor reservations about what you're seeing on tape.

The clips are chilling and thought-provoking — especially if they are real — but because there is no narration (Aaron records classical music for the background), it helps to know the circumstances of the footage. UFO buffs will enjoy the tapes most; skeptics will continue being skept-

tical.

Aaron's catalog includes footage detailing such phenomena as cattle mutilations, underground UFO bases, UFO burn cases, vats filled with human body parts and the like. Audio cassettes include interviews, original radio shows and call-in programs.

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

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

'I've seen the saucers' 40 years ago, Mac resident is one of first to photograph UFO

By ELAINE DAHL ROHSE
For the News-Register

Forty years ago McMinnville woke up with the world looking over its shoulder and a flying saucer in its backyard.

The story broke in the Telephone Register (predecessor of the News-Register) on June 8, 1950. On the weekly's front page were pictures taken by Paul Trent of Route 3, McMinnville — believed to be the "first authentic photos of so-called flying saucers."

Four decades later, those Trent pictures remain some of the most famous in UFO lore.

Trent, a farmer, said he snapped the pictures in his backyard on May 11, 1950. The TR reported, "Trent's pictures were unearthed when a Telephone Register reporter followed up on a tip given by the late Ralph and Frank Wortman, McMinnville bankers. They had seen the pictures and were willing to back Trent's reputation and veracity."

Photos from backyard

Trent and his wife, Evelyn, were in their backyard about 7:45 p.m. when they reportedly saw the object. Mrs. Trent said, "The object was coming in toward us and seemed to be tipped up a little bit. It was very bright — almost silvery — and there was no noise or smoke."

Neither Trent nor his wife would hazard a guess as to its size, speed or distance.

The TR was cautious. An editor's note read: "The TR does not profess itself expert in the field of flying saucers. However... every effort has been made to check Trent's photos for authenticity. Expert photographers declared there has been no tampering with the negatives. Trent's original photos were developed through a local firm... There appears to be no possibility of no hoax or hallucination... Therefore, the TR believes them authentic."

Pandemonium followed when the photos were revealed to the world.

In the June 15, 1950, issue of the TR, a front page picture showed receptionist Alberta Morrow with the office counter top heaped with the flood of mail that poured in from every state with requests for copies.

The follow-up story read in part, "McMinnville, Yamhill County, Oregon, this week became identified... over the nation as Saucerville, USA. Hundreds of persons, imagination fired by a story and pictures in last week's TR... flooded the McMinnville Post Office with letters."

An editorial, "Flying Saucers Madhouse," in the TR, noted, "Attention of the entire nation focused on this community during the past week as photographs of the almost legendary flying saucers printed in last week's TR attracted tremendous interest."

The edit continued: "The flying saucer photos have brought McMinnville, Mr. Trent and the TR far greater national publicity than any event in the history of the community."

At the suggestion of Earl Holmes, McMinnville chamber secretary, a June 8 TR was sent to Frank Edwards, nationally known commentator and lay authority on flying saucers. He dealt at length with the pictures on two of his programs.

Turmoil in the TR office was created by his promise to the nation that a letter and a dime would bring a copy of that important happening. Telephone calls and wires poured in to the newspaper from across the nation.

Hundreds of requests

At the peak, 1,100 letters were received in one day. Some of those writing wanted as many as 10 copies. Most included checks, money

orders or coins attached to their requests with adhesives ranging from Scotch tape to Band-aids.

Many included notes from people saying that they too had seen similar objects but had been reluctant to report them because of fear of ridicule.

In addition to radio publicity, the Trent photos interested national circulation magazines and press services. Newsmen and photographers from across the nation descended on the city. On hand were Time-Life staffers. (The Trent photos appeared in the June 26, 1950, issue of Life.) "Lev" Ricards, Oregonian aviation editor, also spent considerable time in McMinnville.

Much activity was devoted to throwing garbage can lids and hub caps in the air, to see if the Trent photos could be duplicated. Many visiting photographers "borrowed" the TR darkroom.

The Trents were besieged with reporters and cameramen after the story broke on a national scale.

McMinnville's 6,478 residents had never experienced such hubbub.

In the June 22, 1950, issue of the TR, although flying saucers were relegated to section two, it was noted that a special press run at the newspaper had produced slick-paper, book-stock copies of the flying saucer front page and that 6,200 of the reprints had been mailed in response to requests.

After three press runs, the print shop was holding the page form in case more were needed.

Two weeks after the story broke about 50 requests daily were being received in the newspaper office.

The July 15, 1950, issue of the TR carried a photo of Paul and Evelyn Trent boarding an airplane for New York, where they appeared on the *The People* radio program and television show.

Controversy continues

Although no more coverage of the saucer story appeared in the TR that year, 40 years later the saucer controversy continues.

Paris Flammond in his book *UFO Exist* (1976), wrote: "May 11, 1950, McMinnville, Oregon. Paul Trent, a citizen of a small town, with a reputation for integrity, took two photographs of round UFO, featuring a cabin, resulting in a pair of the most detailed such pictures in the chronology of the subject. Printed in a national magazine, with the editorial comment that 'the negatives show no signs of having been tampered with,' they remain visual evidence of phenomena yet to be explained."

Photo facts ignored

What better way to ridicule the local UFO reports than with a false ghost/demon story. Very sensational! The debunkers claim that a simple flash bounce off a glass door is a (ghost/demon) double exposure and the Journal reporter took the bait. More than a dozen re-enactments proved that in every shot a strange reflection will appear when shooting a flash into a glass door. Col. Robert Reid, retired, said, "I personally used the same camera in the same room to re-enact the (ghost/demon) photo. In every shot a strange reflection off the glass door was produced. The photo in question was not a double exposure."

A few other points the reporter ignored:

1. The debunker who started the ghost story claims to have a PhD in physics. When checked... untrue.

2. The debunker sent hoax UFO photos to the media and suggested they were mine. His N.Y. photographer, Manuel Fernandez, confessed as reported in the N.Y. City Tribune.

3. The Journal's front-page story mentioned only the UFO photos taken with the 108 Polaroid, which can double expose. They ignored the impossible-to-double-expose Sun G00, the sealed 35mm Nimslo stereo camera, or the SRS stereo camera (how do you double expose a video tape?).

4. They ignored the 10 photographic experts and three computer analysts who say they find no evidence to prove photo trickery. Instead the Journal quotes a single debunker who claimed to be the department head of astronomy and physics at the University of Valencia. The university sent a letter saying "they have no record of this man."

The front-page story should have been about two debunkers who are desperate to spread false stories so they can ridicule the UFO witnesses.

We are certainly dealing with a very strange phenomenon — one that many will have to see to believe, but fake stories and debunker ridicule are not the answer to what hundreds of witnesses have seen in our skies.

Does the Pensacola News Journal have the courage to expose these debunkers on the front page?

Ed Walters
Gulf Breeze

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL

May 16, 1990 CR: R. Reid



June 8, 1950, Telephone Register carried actual photos of something in the sky — was it a flying saucer?

Frank Edwards in his *Flying Saucers — Serious Business* (1966) included Trent photos.

A 1979 book, *Who Goes There?*, by Edward Edelson, contended that the Trent photos were hoaxes. He wrote that William K. Hartmann, chief photoanalyst for the Condon study, examined the (Trent) photos and reported: "This is one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated, geometric, psychological and physical, appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disc-shaped, tens of meters in diameter, and evidently artificial flew within sight of two witnesses."

The author added that nearly 20 years later, Philip J. Klass, senior avionics editor for *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine, obtained copies of the two photos which were then examined by Klass's colleague, Robert Schaeffer. The author said Schaeffer established: "(a) that the shadows in the pictures indicated that they had been taken in the early morning, rather than in the late afternoon as the Trents had said, and that (b) one picture which the Trents said had been taken a few seconds before the other actually had been taken several minutes earlier. Klass took the analysis to Hartmann, who said that the new information 'removes the McMinnville case from consideration as evidence for the existence of... UFOs.'"

In *The UFO Enigma*, by Donald H. Menzel and Ernest H. Taves (1977) the authors report: "... (the Trent sighting) has remained one of the favorites of the believers." But the book continues, "In fact, this is but one more 'classic' that took in many people, but was later demonstrated to have been a fabrication. Independent investigations by Philip Klass and Robert Schaeffer (A NASA computer systems programmer) have demonstrated: 1. That there were serious discrepancies in the different accounts of the sighting given by the principal witness and

"2. That the two photographs, said by both witnesses to have been taken in the late afternoon, themselves revealed that they had been taken in the early morning."

Photos labeled 'hoax'

The book continues: "the photographs were a hoax. In addition, as had been known at the time of the Condon investigation, the principal witness and her husband were repeaters."

More recently, a 1988 Time-Life book, *Mysteries of the Unknown, The UFO Phenomenon*, dealt with the Paul Trent photos. It reported: "Those two photographs became famous in the annals of ufology. For decades afterward they were scrutinized by a variety of investigators ranging from U.S. Air Force officials to Life magazine photographers. This 1988 publication pointed out: "More recently William H. Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch Inc., a group devoted to the scientific study of

UFOs, has subjected the pictures to a computer analysis that yielded even more evidence... evidence that seems to indicate that they are not a hoax."

The book explains that with computers, color contouring can tell much about an object's actual shape, density and material. A cloud can thus be distinguished from a solid craft, a flat cutout from a three-dimensional shape. A technician can identify two points on the screen and ask the computer to calculate exact distance between. The computer can stretch color values to bring out details.

The investigators applied to the Trent photos many such tests, which often reveal supporting wires and other hidden devices in faked UFO pictures. (The computer can detect a string with a diameter of .009 inch at a distance of up to 10 feet.)

"The Trent photos passed Spaulding's test with high marks" and revealed no strings or overhead wires, as some skeptics had suggested. Computer color contouring indicated the saucer was a three-dimensional shape with a "flat, evenly lit underside." Tests seemed also to confirm that it was at least one kilometer away and about 20 to 30 meters in diameter. "Although some questions still stand about the time of day (the shadows seem to indicate morning rather than evening sun) and the general veracity of the witnesses (who had claimed UFO sightings before), Spaulding and his associates believe that the Trents' snapshots may in fact be that rarity — genuine UFO photographs."

Meanwhile, Americans continue to be intrigued by flying saucers, and requests and inquiries still come to the News-Register 40 years later.

And what about the Trents? Trent and his wife still live in McMinnville, but declined a 1990 interview. "There was too much in 1950," Trent said.

For those nationally circulated Trent pictures, which still are being reprinted, the couple said they received "only a small fee," and that New York trip.

If Trent were back on his farm southwest of McMinnville and saw a flying saucer this evening, would he run grab a Kodak and share his pictures with the world?

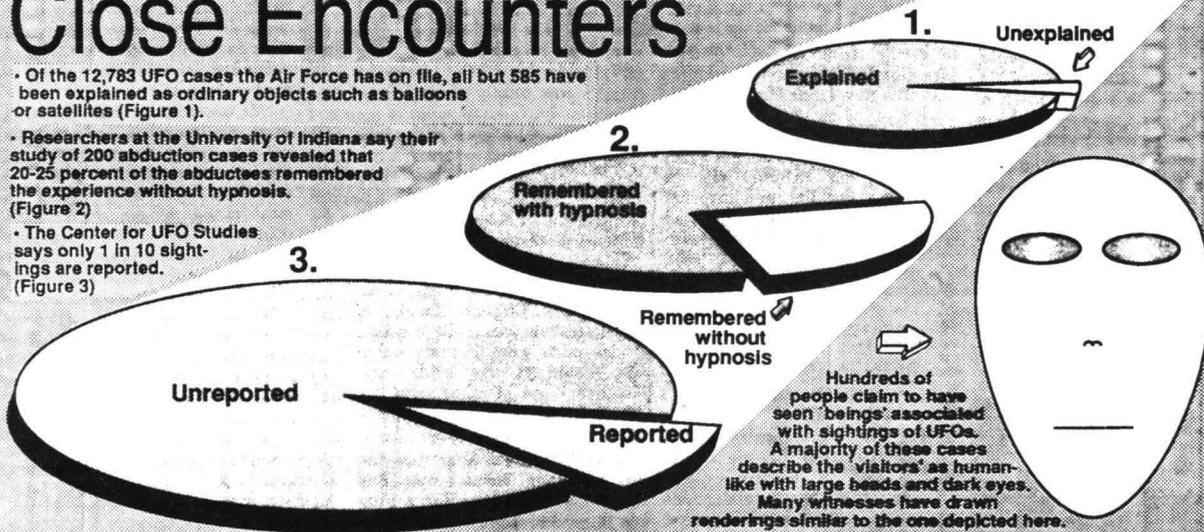
"I'd have to think quite a while about that," said Trent, who brought flying saucer fame to McMinnville.

Spotlight On Close Encounters

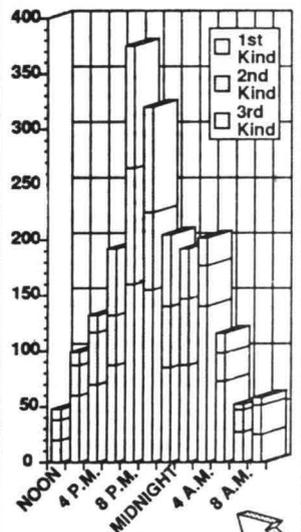
• Of the 12,783 UFO cases the Air Force has on file, all but 585 have been explained as ordinary objects such as balloons or satellites (Figure 1).

• Researchers at the University of Indiana say their study of 200 abduction cases revealed that 20-25 percent of the abductees remembered the experience without hypnosis. (Figure 2)

• The Center for UFO Studies says only 1 in 10 sightings are reported. (Figure 3)



Face-To-Face



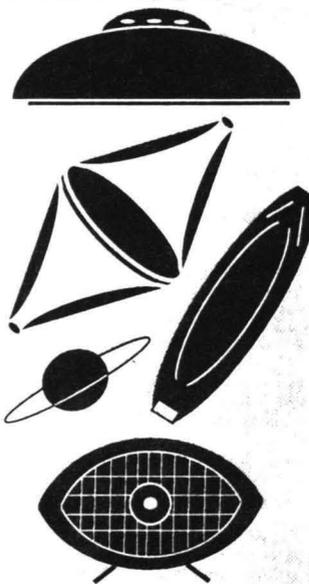
This chart shows times of day when UFO encounters occurred in 1,952 cases cited in the book, "Close Encounters." Scientists say there are more sightings at night because people pay more attention to the sky in the evening. Descriptions of the levels of "close encounters" are described below.

Close Encounters...

- Of the FIRST kind - UFO appears within 500 feet of observer.
- Of the SECOND kind - UFO has impact on environment or observer (heat or wind).
- Of the THIRD kind - UFO appears accompanied by non-humans.

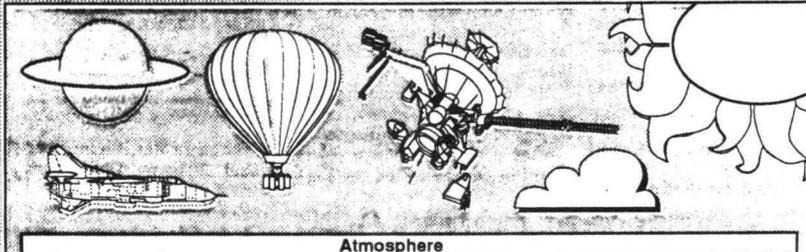
Models Of UFOs

UFOs have been described as being all shapes and sizes with "flying saucers" being the most common description. Nearly all reports detail accounts of the vehicles performing maneuvers beyond our technology. Here are a few depictions of vehicles described by observers of Unidentified Flying Objects:



Studying UFOs?

The Center for UFO Studies distributes copies of governmental reports and other information. The address is: 1609 Sherman Ave. Evanston, Ill. 60201



Playing Tricks On Your Eyes?

Some scientists say reports of UFOs are nothing more than the atmosphere creating illusions that appear to be flying saucers. They say air, distance and diffused light can make ordinary objects appear extraterrestrial: Balloons appear to hover, Venus and other planets can produce bright lights on the horizon, reflecting satellites and aircraft can produce unusual lighting effects and even clouds can play tricks on your eyes. However, belief in UFOs is widespread - the government receives more than 900 reports each year according to the Center for UFO Studies.

Virginia Is For UFOs, Too

Fishersville (during mid-'60s)
An Unidentified Flying Object was reported by a couple.

Wytheville (late 1987-1988)
Some estimate that more than 2,000 sightings were made around the town during a series of occurrences that electrified Southwest Virginia and drew UFO enthusiasts from all over the country.

Wash., D.C. (Aug. 13, 1952)
68 UFOs were reported over the nation's capital and were reportedly tracked by government and commercial radar.

Sightings In And Around The Commonwealth
About a dozen UFO sightings are made in Virginia each year. Southwest Virginia and the coastal areas, including the Chesapeake Bay region, are UFO hot spots.

Crittenden (Jan. 17, 1969)
NASA employee awakened by humming sound made by 100-foot craft hovering outside. Seven others heard sound but didn't see the UFO.

Investigation Of Alleged UFO Crash Full Of Intrigue, Questions

By David A. Maurer
of The Progress Staff

At the height of "flying saucer" mania during the early summer of 1947, an event took place near the town of Corona, N.M., that's still being investigated by UFO groups.

It's alleged that during a thunderstorm on the evening of July 2, 1947, a UFO crashed on William Brazel's sheep ranch near Cor-

ona. Dan Wilmot and his wife, living in Roswell, N.M., claimed they saw a large glowing disc headed northwest.

Brazel later told investigators that he heard an explosion that sounded different than the numerous claps of thunder. When he went out the following morning to check for storm damage, he discovered strange pieces of wreckage strewn over a wide area. "This is the best case of a possible UFO

crash that I know of," said Mark Blashak, Mutual UFO Network, Inc. Virginia state director. "Currently there have been about 90 people who have been interviewed in connection with this incident."

Brazel showed the wreckage to a friend, and upon his advice, notified officials at Roswell Army Air Field. Major Jesse Marcel and Counterintelligence Corpsman Sheridan Cavitt drove out and investigated the site.

They found that the material at the site was different from anything that might have come from an airplane, balloon or missile.

Initially, the U.S. Army admitted it had recovered the remains of a crashed flying saucer, but within hours recanted this story and said it was merely pieces of a weather balloon, Blashak said. It might have ended there but in 1981, Marcel, then a lieutenant

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3 - DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA - Feb. 11, 1990)

colonel, testified that the official story had been falsified.

Other UFO crash cases are cited by UFO enthusiasts:

Oliver "Pappy" Henderson, dropped a verbal bombshell two years before his death at a reunion of his World War II bomber crew. Henderson told them and his wife that he had flown the bulk of the wreckage and the bodies of four alien beings out of the Roswell Army Air Field in a C-54 cargo plane in July of 1947.

The controversy passed but in December of 1984, UFO investigator Jamie Shandera received a letter which brought the Roswell incident back to life. Inside the blue envelope were two rolls of undeveloped 35mm film.

"When the film was developed, lo and behold, it was a preliminary briefing report for president-elect Eisenhower," Blashak said. "It said the report had been compiled by 12 people who were part of a top secret group called Operation Majestic-12."

The six-page report described the recovery and analysis of the Roswell crash and the subsequent cover-up. At one point in the document, it stated, "On 07, July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded."

Like many things connected with UFOs, the briefing has not been proven one way or another.

However, it does make interesting reading.

The report said the beings were found about two miles east of the wreckage site and contains other details.

"All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery.

"Although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development has apparently been quite different from those observed or postulated in homo-sapiens."

The group suggested that "the term 'Extra-terrestrial Biological Entities,' or 'EBE's,' be adopted as the standard term of reference for these creatures until such time as a more definitive designation can be agreed upon."

Are the Majestic 12 documents a hoax or the smoking gun that UFO proponents have been looking for? Research into the truth or falsity of the "MJ-12" documents is continuing under the sponsorship of the Fund for UFO Research.

"When looking at the actual document, it does give the impression that they are authentic," Blashak said. "My own gut feeling is that they are authentic, but if they turn out to be a hoax, it's a very good one.

"If they are fake, someone went through an awful lot of time and effort," Blashak said. "What was really striking to me about the documents was the list of players in MJ-12. They were all individuals who most people would never have heard of but are the best group of people the government could have assembled at the time."

Another curious point was the fact that the documents were leaked just a few weeks after the last alleged member of MJ-12 died.

"If you like a mystery you have to love this because it keeps going deeper and deeper the longer it's investigated," Blashak said. "Another curious thing about it is where's the payback if it's a fake? Why would someone go through all this trouble for no gain?"

Doctor Says Aliens Took Her On UFO

By David A. Maurer
of The Progress Staff

What Dr. Rauni-Leena Luukanen saw outside her living room window, nearly four years ago, scared her more than death threats and angry soldiers waving machine guns at her.

The sight she now refers to "as the shock of my life," occurred during August 1986. She and a friend were enjoying a

quiet evening together at her home on the outskirts of Rovaniemi, Lapland.

"In an open field, about 100 meters from my home, I saw a large craft, illuminated in a yellow glow, hovering about 20 or 30 meters above the ground," she said. "I yelled for my friend to look, and she saw it, too."

This sighting and the subsequent events that follow have altered Luukanen's entire perception of the world, she said.

A physician, Luukanen served as the chief medical officer in Lapland for 13 years. She describes herself as a "very down to earth, no-nonsense-type person."

"In my medical practice, I've worked with the boat people in Malaysia and had machine guns pointed at me and have been threatened with death," said Luukanen during a visit to a friend in Charlottesville before attending a conference on unidentified flying objects in Blacksburg.

"But, I have never been so terribly shocked and scared before in my life," she said. "I think I got so frightened because, when I saw it, I knew that I was seeing something from another world or dimension. It was very big, about one hundred meters in diameter.

"It stayed in one place hovering for perhaps fifteen minutes. After it was gone, I convinced myself that it was the moon or something, and I tried to forget about it."

Before the sighting, Luukanen said she was as skeptical as most people when it comes to the subject of UFOs. But, the following day, she found it hard to rationalize what she saw.

"The newspaper had a story about the sighting the night before and about 100 other people had seen it," Luukanen said.

"Two days later, officials at the local Air Force base said that it had been a Soviet rocket. I really got scared then because a rocket doesn't hover for fifteen minutes."

Recorded sightings of UFOs go back thousands of years, but the modern era of UFO sightings is considered to have begun on June 24, 1947. On that date businessman and pilot, Kenneth Arnold, from Boise, Idaho, reported seeing a formation of nine objects flying at a high speed around the peaks of the Cascade Mountains in Washington state.

He described them as "shiny, disc-shaped craft," and said he clocked their speed at about 1,350 mph. This was months before Air Force pilot Chuck Yeager would break the sound barrier at a mere 741.8 mph.

When Arnold described what he saw to reporters: "They flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across water," he inadvertently coined the now-common

term for UFOs — "flying saucers."

During the following weeks, scores of other sightings were reported, not only by ordinary people, but military and civilian airline pilots as well. These

events received heavy coverage in the media and perhaps fueled the imaginations of many who reported sightings during the ensuing weeks.

Nonetheless, in January of 1948, the U.S. Air Force began a study on UFOs that would last for 22 years. The first name for the investigation was "Project Sign." The name was changed to "Project Grudge," and finally to "Project Blue Book."

By the time the investigative project officially ended in December of 1969, it had 12,783 cases of UFO incidents on file. Of these, Air Force officials said 701 couldn't be explained.

Even more disturbing than seeing a UFO is being taken aboard one. In an apparently recent phenomenon, people report that they have been abducted by alien beings and taken onto UFOs. Luukanen numbers herself among the hundreds of individuals who say they've been abducted by beings from another planet.

The conference that brought Luukanen to Virginia was held in Blacksburg recently and it dealt with these alleged abductions. The first conference of this kind was held in Connecticut in May of 1989.

The Blacksburg conference was

called TREAT II — Treatment and Research on Experienced Anomalous Trauma. Attendance was by invitation only and was said to include physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists and UFO experts, among others.

"In November, 1986, I was attending the annual parapsychology conference in Basel, Switzerland," Luukanen said. "During one of the meetings, a large group of us were hypnotized, and as soon as I went into a hypnotic state, I saw the sky and a UFO coming toward me."

"I was totally flabbergasted because I was suddenly reliving being inside this UFO," Luukanen said. "I was totally surprised by this, and didn't know what it meant. I didn't tell anyone about it because it just seemed too bizarre."

"That afternoon we were hypnotized again, and it began to happen all over," Luukanen said. "After the second time, I told the whole group and they were as surprised as I was."

Luukanen said after these two initial revelations, she underwent other hypnosis sessions in which she remembered the events in more detail.

"I was on a table like the type you will find in operating rooms," Luukanen said. "There were three or four little ones around the table, and they looked to be about one meter high. They had no hair, big eyes and a grayish brown skin or covering like a diver's suit."

"I was paralyzed, but I could

think and communicate telepathically with them," she said. "They worked with hazy instruments that put off a white beam of light and also a bluish violet color. At one point, they took a long needle-like instrument and inserted it in my lower abdomen. As a doctor, I know where they put it would give them access to my ovaries."

Luukanen said after she remembered her ordeal, she found a small scar she believes was caused by the needle. She said the aliens didn't appear to express any emotions and that they went about their task with a detachment that reminded her of dissecting rats in medical school.

"My conviction is that they don't want to harm us or upset us psychologically," Luukanen said. "I think that's why the memory of the episode is taken away. But when most people remember, it's very traumatic. One of the main purposes of the conference is to learn how to treat and deal with these people who have been abducted."

Luukanen said she is convinced that what she said happened to her really did. She said her gut feeling is the Earth is being prepared to be taken into the larger community of the universe.

"I have a feeling of responsibility now to inform people that we are not alone in the universe," Luukanen said. "The question in my mind is not whether or not they exist, but 'how do we deal with them?'"

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - June 28, 1990 CR: R. Reid

CHARLIE'S CORNER

BY CHARLIE
AND
DORI SOMERBY

Some folks may find it hard to believe the series of events which culminated in the Somerbys' involvement in the never-ending controversy over this city's Unidentified Flying Objects.

First that we happened to be staying in our second home in Gulf Breeze instead of in our Milton residence. Second, that we were walking along Hickory Shores Boulevard on the eventual evening, and thirdly, that we had stopped at an opening leading down to the beach at the moment when a UFO passed along the shoreline.

The fact that ol' Charlie is the former editor of the *Sentinel* and that his wife's son is the current editor has also led to some finger-pointing.

Then we went to the *Sentinel* office on a Tuesday afternoon when that week's paper is being put together and reassuring Duane and his crew that we had, in fact, seen exactly what Ed Walters' showed in his pictures then atop the make-up table.

It all seems too pat—that minutes after what we saw pass over the bay should end up near Ed's house ready to be photographed. Really, I can't blame folks for wondering just how it all could come about in such a pre-arranged manner.

But we can assure one and all that's exactly the way it was. We gained nothing for our disclosure of the sighting and could have had a lot to lose. But we never could have lived with ourselves if we had failed to tell our story.

Literally dozens of people have told us of their experiences both locally and elsewhere in the country. Few have reported their interesting stories to the MUFON organization although we urge all to do so.

Speaking about that group of outstanding citizens, we have found all of them to be sincere and dedicated folks seeking the truth. We were debriefed by two of them, collectively at first and individually, over a 2-hour period. Down through their years they have donated many, many hours of their time taking no remuneration.

Our belief is that Mayor Ed Gray is way off base in his caustic comments concerning them especially the statement "will the MUFON investigators admit to being so wrapped up and biased in their pursuit of the story that they fell headfirst into their trap?"

And "my dealings to date with some of them indicate no objectivity in their thinking and certainly no expertise at investigating."

Ed Gray is a very intelligent man, and we were quite impressed at how he got members of the Bay Authority back on the track in their studies concerning a bridge across East Bay. Probably no municipality in Florida is as well run as our own, and Gray is the leading reason for it.

But when he sends articles to the media reflecting his own biased opinions he should not be speaking as the mayor but as a "concerned citizen" or whatever.

There's one thing that we're positive about. We did see a craft passing over the shoreline of East Bay during the evening of Veterans Day 1987 that proved to be what Walters made pictures of a few minutes later. There's absolutely no doubt in our minds of what we saw. We know it wasn't two paper plates glued together.

What may have happened to Ed before or after that evening we know nothing about!

One thing's for certain—Walters must be chuckling all the way to the bank with the increased sales of his book caused by the mayor's comments among others. Bad publicity is better than good publicity in this instance.

Remember when Mayor Gray said a couple of years ago that all this hullabaloo would die down shortly. It hasn't happened that way and now when we meet out-of-towners in our travels they ask if Pensacola isn't near Gulf Breeze instead of the other way around.

One thing's for certain—the 1990 UFO Symposium at The Hilton on July 7 and 8 should be quite interesting.

No explanation for strange sighting in the Benewah

Mell Socha is not sure what she saw hovering above her Benewah Valley home last summer, but she is sure it was nothing like she had ever seen.

Mrs. Socha was sitting in her home late in the evening, enjoying her new television set, when the picture began flipping and fading. Her puppy, out in the yard, also began to bark and growl.

Going back into the house, the 60-year-old woman sat before her television again, watching its clear picture. An hour later, the picture began flipping and fading again.

Picking up the camera now at her side, Mrs. Socha went back out in the front yard. The late evening light was nearly gone, but the object was there again.

"My hair stood on the back of my neck," she said. Rattled by the phantom, she managed to take another photograph of the strange visitor far above her. Again, it receded at a high speed into the night sky and out of sight.

Later, she wound the film in the camera and put it in a drawer, where she forgot all about the strange object and the

film until two weeks ago, when she had the film developed.

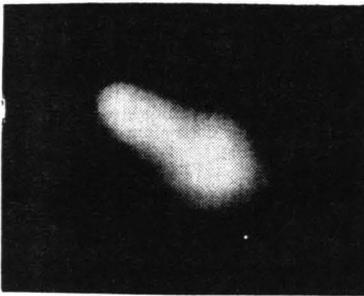
Mrs. Socha is unsure what the object is, but a recent article in a tabloid, with a matching description of what she saw, prompted her to bring the photographs to the Gazette Record.

"It was close enough that when I saw this (article) I thought it should be brought in," she said. "If someone can

prove it's something else (other than a UFO) that's fine with me. I'm not trying to make something out of it."

She has been hesitant to discuss her first sighting because of ridicule she might receive.

"I think this kind of thing frightens people," she said. "I have a certainty inside they are there. I am certain." — Al Vogel



Strange object
Mell Socha took this picture of a large, glowing object in the evening sky last summer. Examination of the negatives reveals two ball-like objects next to each other.

IDAHO MT. EXPRESS, Ketchum, ID - April 25, 1990

Sheriff Says Satellite; Skywatchers Say No UFO Reported in Hailey

by Dennis Wilken

Local law enforcement officers spend a lot of time looking at things the rest of us don't have to see. That happened Thursday night, but the cops weren't watching drunks fail sobriety tests, they were looking into the night sky over Hailey, in pure puzzlement.

Blaine County dispatcher Sherry Reddick reportedly received a call from a concerned citizen about 10:30 p.m. Thursday night.

The report was of a strange, unfamiliar object in the sky due west of Hailey.

Reddick went outside, in the company of Hailey patrolman Dan Lewin, and Blaine County Sheriff's Deputy Tom Parker. She wrote on the police blotter what she saw: "a diamond-shaped object, flashing red and blue colored... straight west of Hailey. Suddenly, it shot straight up and moved Northwest, getting smaller and smaller until it disappeared."

Lewin was even more precisely descriptive.

"It just looked like a star that was pretty close. It was twinkling red, blue and green. At first I thought it was the planet Jupiter," Lewin said.

"It was moving west," Lewin said. "I thought then it was a satellite but I'd seen one before and this was different. It kept moving out into space, getting smaller and smaller and then it disappeared. It was moving exactly north and then, outward and gone," Lewin added.

Blaine County Sheriff J. Walt Femling seemed uncomfortable talking about the object.

"I don't know," he said, grinning. "I think it was just a satellite."

The Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Control Center in Salt Lake City, reported no satellites in the area and nothing untoward on their screen.

Officials at Mountain Home Air Force Base said they had nothing in the sky Thursday night matching observers' descriptions.

Yet nearly a dozen people, including three police officers, reported seeing the twinkling red, blue and green object in the sky.

IDAHO MT. EXPRESS, Ketchum, ID - May 9, 1990

Air Force Says No Planes Were in the Area

Ten Claim to Have Seen UFO over Hailey

by Dennis Wilken

More than 10 callers to the Blaine County Sheriff's Office last week claimed sightings of unidentified flying objects in the night sky.

Sheriff J. Walt Femling said the sightings are proliferating and there isn't much his office can do.

"I haven't done anything because the county commissioners haven't given me a space ship yet," Femling said.

This week's sightings centered around Croy Canyon, west of Hailey.

"I observed them west of my house every night last week except Tuesday," Marilyn Healy of Hailey said.

"I've lived here 20 years and never seen anything like this. They aren't airplanes. I looked with a telescope. They are red, blue and green flashing lights," Healy said.

When asked what she thought she'd seen, Healy said "I wish I knew."

"We could see it from our front yard," said Johnita Zeigler, of Hailey. "We saw three different ones, one north of Hailey, one west of Hailey

and one east of Hailey. They were definitely not stars," Zeigler said.

They weren't military aircraft either according to Air Force Captain Steve Solmonson, of Mountain Home Air Force Base.

"A lot of these sightings are airplanes, so we checked. But we had nothing in the air in that area at the time of the reported sightings," Solmonson said.

"We don't investigate UFO sightings anymore. The Air Force quit in 1969," Solmonson said.

He said the Air Force investigated UFOs from 1947 to 1969.

"We ran project Bluebook for 22 years. Ninety-five percent of the 12,500 sightings we investigated were explainable. Everything from meteors, aircraft and hoaxes," Solmonson said.

"There are a lot of little privately-owned aircraft taking off at Hailey's airport (Friedman Memorial) at odd hours. Maybe that's what they saw," Solmonson said.

No way, Johnita Zeigler and Marilyn Healy said. And the sheriff doesn't know either.

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO
June 30, 1990 CR: COUD-I

Sign From Above

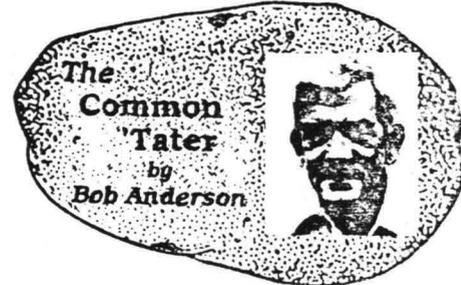
In reference to the June 24 article about the farmer who believes that an imprint left in his field is from a UFO, the spoked pattern shown in the picture appears to be the result of a lightning strike.

For a similar pattern, the farmer should refer to "The Lightning Book," by Peter E. Viemeiser. The spikes are caused by the dissipation of a great deal of electrical energy.

William H. Landel
Kirkwood

STAR NEWS, Medford, WI - April 11, 1990

CR: R. Heiden



IT HAPPENED ABOUT A MONTH AGO, 9:30 p.m. on a Tuesday night. When he first saw it he didn't believe it. He put it out of his mind. Thought he was seeing things. Then he drove a little farther and saw it again. Right in front of him, just above the tree tops. Dark grey with orange lights (like fog lights) and really big. About 100 feet long and as tall as a house. It had two layers and the bottom layer had four lights and the top had two. That's all the lights you could see at a time because it was spinning in circles. He watched it for awhile, and then it disappeared. But he couldn't understand why because it was a clear night. He drove to his relatives house to borrow a camera in case he saw it again. He caught another glimpse of it in a different spot, but it disappeared again. A few other people heard on their scanner that others had seen the same thing in the Merrill area. Another report of a similar sighting came from the Fifield area. So, did we have a visit from a UFO? Other people in the Westboro area reported seeing the same strange object in the sky that night. Understandably they are reluctant to have their names associated with such a report because scoffers have been known to tap their forehead with their finger when you tell them you saw one of those flying saucer things. If any of our readers have comments to add to this report, we'll keep your name to ourself. I've been intrigued by the UFO question for years and don't find it impossible to believe that there are such things, and people from another planet(?) piloting them. There are times when I wonder whether what we have here on earth can be classified as *intelligent life*, without discounting the fact that there could be others in the universe who might, indeed, be more advanced than we are.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL
July 19, 1990 CR: R. Reid

Salisberrys honored

BY DUANE COOK

Carol and Rex Salisberry of Navarre Beach were honored at the 1990 Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Symposium in Pensacola last weekend with the presentation of MUFON's third annual award for "Meritorious Achievement in a UFO investigation." This award recognizes an individual or team's unsurpassed investigative skill during the previous calendar year in resolving a UFO claim by the public," said Dan Wright, Deputy Director, Investigations Division. "This couple joined MUFON in 1988 following their own UFO sighting, and soon they were investigating the claims of others. To say that this kept them busy would do a disservice to their actual efforts. From April through December of last year, they submitted case reports on 24 separate incidents totalling nearly 200 pages of material.

The sheer number of case reports, however, is only part of the reason for their selection. It is no exaggeration on my part to say that this couple goes by the book, which for our purposes is the **MUFON Field Investigator's Manual**. They cut no corners and follow up on every lead. Indeed, they have set a standard for proper UFO case-work," said Wright as he made the presentation.

"I would like to thank the witnesses in our area who came forward with their sightings and cooperated with MUFON's efforts to document the UFO phenomena in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties," said Carol Salisberry.

Witness says he saw UFO photos faked

attending film school. "I respect him (Chris) as a friend. I don't know where he is being pressured from — maybe the debunkers." In his statement to Gulf Breeze officials Friday, Chris said Walters' wife, Frances, and son, Danny, participated in the hoax. Chris told Gray and Brown he was with Walters in November 1987 when Walters took a photo of a UFO model, illuminated it with a flashlight, then went outside and took a second exposure on the same frame of film. The photo made it appear as though a UFO was in the sky. "I feel confident that somehow or other the (Mutual UFO Net-

work) international symposium (to be held in Pensacola July 6-8) has inspired this controversy," Walters said Saturday. "Someone just wants to discredit (the) Gulf Breeze (sightings)." Walters said he does not know what inspired Chris to come forward with the information, but he said the story is false. "You can't just come forward and make these statements," Walters said. "Look at the testimony he is giving, analyze (Chris') photos and think about the allegations." Walters said that many of Chris' allegations do not make sense. For example, Walters has said a UFO landed behind his home and left a circle of dead grass. Chris said that the circle was caused by an overturned trampoline. "I challenge anybody to take a trampoline and turn it over for a couple of hours and see if it kills the grass," Walters said. "If part of his (Chris') story is false, all of it must be."

Chris' father, also of Gulf Breeze, said he advised his son in 1987 not to become further involved in Walters' activities. He said that for more than two years he and his son were both reluctant to come forward for fear of hurting the people involved. But he said they decided the hoax had gone too far. Chris told Gray and Brown he also decided to come forward after he heard a model of a UFO had been found at Walters' former home recently. "(Chris) was not part of a hoax," said Chris' father, who also asked not to be identified. "He thought it was another one of Walters' pranks. He watched him make the

model from Styrofoam plates and paper. Place a small plastic dome on top; cut hole in bottom of model. Using black electrical tape connect the model to black painted PVC pipe. Flashlight is connected to other end of pipe. Turn flashlight on; place model in front of black background. Take one exposure. Do not advance film. Take second exposure at different location. Develop double exposed film.

Gray said to "put the whole matter to bed." Gray said Bolland would neither confirm nor deny Chris' claims. Reached later by the News Journal, Bolland said the photos that Chris gave Gulf Breeze officials were taken by Walters, Gray and Brown are investigating Chris' claims and flew Saturday to Chicago to talk to Bolland, whom Chris said also was involved in faking photographs with Walters. Gray said he went to Chicago in an attempt to "put the whole matter to bed." Gray said Bolland would neither confirm

that it was just a big ego trip," Chris said. "He wanted to see if he could get away with it."

Chris told the officials Walters made models of UFOs from Styrofoam plates — two larger ones forming the body of the model, and two smaller ones forming an "engine" on the underside.

Chris said he was present when Walters taped the model onto a black-painted PVC pipe and shone a flashlight through the pipe to light it. A black curtain or board was placed behind the lighted model in order to blacken the background, Chris told the officials.

The first exposures were taken inside Walters' home and the second exposures were taken outside to make the glowing model appear to be in the sky, Chris said.

A model matching that description was found at Walters' former residence at 612 Silverthorn Road earlier this month by the current resident, who was searching the attic for a water pipe. The model was found under some insulation.

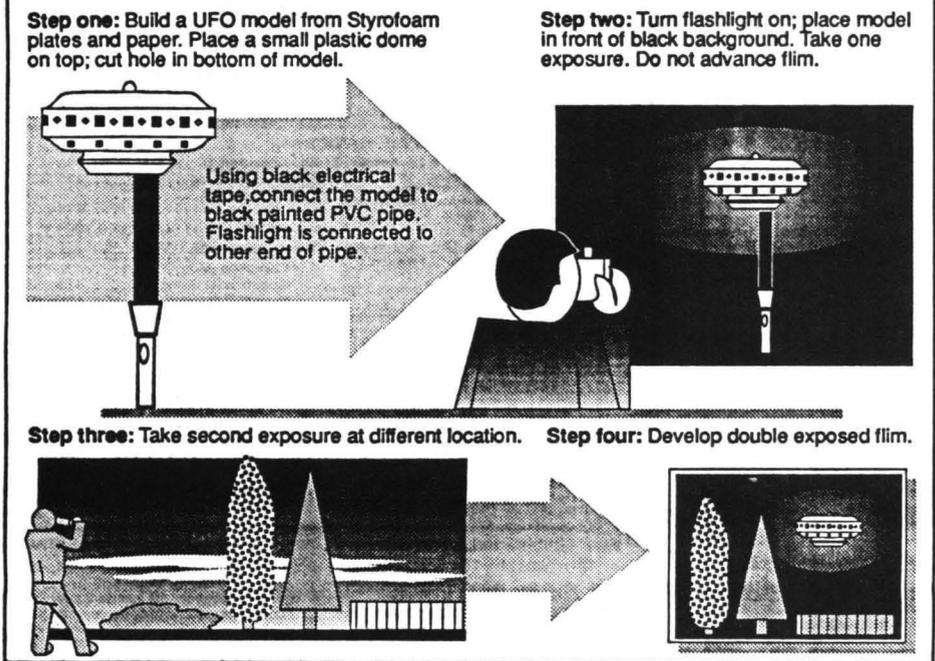
Walters said he did not make the model, and said his critics are trying to discredit him by planting the model in his attic.

Chris said Walters told him a photograph taken with a 3-D NIMSLO camera, which is supposedly tamper-proof, only shows the lights of a landing airplane. Walters on Saturday denied the claim.

He said the object in the 3-D camera has been verified by MUFON investigators as being nearly 3 feet long and 75 feet away.

"Ed said he would die and go to the grave with this story," Chris said.

How UFO photos can be faked



Ron Stallcup/News Journal

Student explains double-exposure

By Craig Myers
News Journal

Double-exposed pictures are made by photographing an object once, then without advancing the film, exposing it again.

The resulting photo shows the object at a second location.

The technique is what critics say Gulf Breeze builder Ed Walters used to create photographs of what he contends were UFOs. Walters' photos, taken in 1987 and 1988, have drawn national attention to Gulf Breeze.

Walters' most recent critic, a 22-year-old former Gulf Breeze resident, told authorities he saw Walters create UFO photos by using double-exposures.

The man, who asked to remain anonymous, said Walters made

models from Styrofoam plates.

He said Walters lighted the model by shining a flashlight into it through a PVC pipe painted black and taped to the model. Walters took a photograph of the lighted model in a darkened room, with a black background, he said.

Next, Walters went outside and exposed the model for a second time in the sky, making it appear to be in the air, said the source who made his statement Friday to Gulf Breeze officials and news media.

Here's how he said Walters made other photos:

- A 1-minute, 38-second videotape of a UFO — Walters carried a long piece of black PVC pipe around in his yard with the lighted model on top of it while someone

else filmed it.

- The "road shot" — A photograph showing the UFO allegedly landing on a rural road with a light shining from beneath was made by double-exposures after hours of experimenting.

- A UFO that appeared to be behind a tree — A photograph showing the UFO partially hidden behind a tree also was done after hours of experimenting.

- "Ghost photos" — Photographs of teen-agers at Walters' home with what appears to be a "ghost" image over their shoulder also were double-exposures, the source said. He said Walters took a photograph of his son wearing a mask in a darkened room, then double-exposed the image by taking a picture of a guest.



This model UFO was found in the attic of Ed Walters' former residence.

Big-eyed little aliens shun 27th annual UFO convention

come right in," said Josephine Jensen, 72, of Las Vegas, Nev.

A retired corrections officer, Jensen should know. She was driving down a New Jersey road 36 years ago when a voice in her head told her to turn left. She soon found herself in a park talking to a man-like creature who traveled to earth from another galaxy in the form of light.

"I looked into his two blue eyes and they became two black holes that drew me through and I was out in space experiencing freedom like I had never known before and never known since," she said. Damn the debunkers. Jensen was right at home this weekend, mingling with dozens of people who share her abiding conviction that humans are not alone in this universe.

UFO conventions. Not everybody who attends accepts everyone else's story. A lot of people — including conference chairman Green, 52, MUFON's state secretary, 58, a Key West, Fla., real estate man — don't buy the kidnap experience.

"I think these people may think well but I don't think people physically go aboard alien spacecrafts," he said. "It could be a psychological state induced by some physical phenomenon."

Indeed, investigators of unidentified flying objects, 2,000 or so who belong to the Mutual UFO Network, say military exercises, astronomical phenomena or even airplanes account for 93 percent of UFO sightings. Still, MUFON directors are spreading the word that the mysterious 7 percent, which they believe can be none other than alien spacecrafts, will in-

crease in the near future. "It's slight progression," said Orlando, Fla., engineer James Green, 52, MUFON's state secretary. "Before they used to zip in and zip out. Next, they were coming down. Now, they're saying 'OK, you can take pictures, side view, top view, bottom view.'"

Within two or three years, added Jiles Hamilton, 64, a hypnotist and real estate dealer from Polk County, Fla., these intergalactic travelers will have enough confidence to make a public landing, maybe on the White House lawn.

"They are spoon-feeding us so we don't panic," he said. Why the increased contacts? Theories abound. One widely discussed at the conference goes like this: Aliens are interstellar environmentalists sending messages to errant humans. They know if we

continue to deplete the ozone, melt the polar ice caps and destroy the rain forests, the earth will topple on its axis and muck up the rest of the universe.

"The bottom line is we don't solely exist. We co-exist," said Norma Olivieri, 40, a medical technician from North Palm Beach, Fla. "Our house is not our home. The earth is not our home. The universe is our home and we can't be selfish anymore."

While the UFO debate undoubtedly will rage on long after the conference closes Sunday, John Myrick, 53, a real estate broker from Longwood, Fla., settled one UFO mystery: why a disproportionate number of ufologists seem to be in real estate. "We want to find out where these guys are coming from so we can go build condos there," he said.



Mike Suchcicki/News Journal

Tour guide Joe Barron of Gulf Breeze, a MUFON field investigator, chats with passengers on one of the five buses that toured UFO sighting locations early Sunday.

Group tours UFO hot spots

UFO symposium/1B

By Mike Suchcicki
News Journal

As he boarded one of five tour buses at 6:45 a.m. Sunday, Don Kellar of Seabrook, Texas, said, "I only got four and a half hours sleep last night, so this better be good."

Kellar was one of about 250 attendees of the Mutual UFO Network 1990 International UFO Symposium in Pensacola who took a three-hour bus tour that brought life to what heretofore had been words and photos.

The tour visited several sites in and around Gulf

Breeze, particularly those involving the UFO sightings of Gulf Breeze businessman and author Ed Walters.

While the tourists didn't expect to see any UFOs on the tour, they did welcome the opportunity to stand in the same spots as those who made some highly publicized sightings. Despite the high temperature and humidity, spirits were high.

"To be able to see these things first-hand, that's very valuable," said Barbara Coulter of Ormond Beach.

The bus tour cost the symposium attendees a separate fee of \$12 that was not included in the original \$35 symposium fee.

"There were some complaints from those who thought the tour cost should have been part of the original cost," said Mary Hufford, one of the tour organizers. "But we had enough problems just finding enough charter buses in Pensacola to handle the demand."

Several tour-goers said they would have paid \$12 just for the accompanying information packet, which included detailed drawings and maps as well as prints of some of Walters' most-discussed photos.

"I think it was wonderful that they went to this much trouble," said Virginia Bolek of Deland.

First stop on the tour was the athletic field of Gulf Breeze High School, where a mysterious circular discoloration — ostensibly from a UFO landing — was made in the grass in 1988. The fact that the grass had since grown back didn't stop some tour-goers from bending over to touch the field.

Recently, Tommy Smith who formerly lived in Gulf Breeze, said that the ring was formed when Walters overturned a trampoline onto the grass, but Walters has denied the charge.

The entourage particularly was interested in Walters' former home, just off the field; several tourists had themselves photographed with the house.

And they had plenty of questions for the tour guides:

"During the blue beam incident, which door did she run



Mike Suchcicki/News Journal

Members of the MUFON entourage take pictures at the Gulf Breeze High School athletic field, the presumed site of a 1988 UFO landing. At rear center, tour guide Art Hufford points to the former residence of Ed Walters, who claims to have taken pictures of several UFOs over Gulf Breeze.

toward?" referring to an incident in which Walters' wife Frances dodged a beam she said emanated from a UFO.

"What about the liquid that was found?"

"What was the rate of ascent?"

Walters, who had described his sightings and physical evidence to MUFON attendees the night before, was not along on the tour.

Next on the itinerary was Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze, where Walters claims to have lost track of one hour and 15 minutes on May 1, 1988. Bruce Maccabee, Ph.D., an optical physicist who analyzed and verified Walters' photos, described to the audience the various sightings at the park, including those photographed by Walters with a special camera provided by MUFON.

Some unexpected comedy relief was provided by good-natured bantering between Maccabee and Philip Klass, a noted UFO skeptic who has written several books in which he claimed to have debunked the UFO controversy.

The next stop was along Route 191-B, where, on Jan. 12, 1988, Walters took one of his most controversial photos, that of the UFO hovering above the road, leaving a bright reflection on the pavement. Circles were painted upon the road to mark the landing site.

Another stop was at the Naval Live Oaks National Seashore visitor center, where several sightings took place in 1988 and '89.

Kellar, who was attending his ninth MUFON symposium, said this was the first time, to his knowledge, that the annual event has included a site tour.

"They say that a picture is worth a thousand words," he said. "This is better than a picture. It gives me a better appreciation for the residents of this area and what they say they saw."

The tour answered a lot of questions for him, he said.

"I can understand now, by seeing the layout of the land, why the sightings were so localized. It explains how you could see a UFO, but your neighbor down the street could not."

After the buses returned to the Pensacola Hilton, tour organizer Art Hufford said he was pleased with the response.

"Of course, it's hard to capture everything in a ride, but I think we provided a good picture of it."

Saw light, spaceship

An article in the editorial section of the *Journal* on Wednesday concerning mutilation of cattle caused me to remember something I had seen several years ago. What made me wonder about what I saw, was the sentence; "as usual, there were no footprints or vehicle tracks in the vicinity, and, of course, no witnesses."

Several years ago I was returning from Idaho Falls in my car with a friend. It was late on a clear night and we had just passed the Fort Hall turnoff. We were a few miles down the road when I noticed a light shining from the sky down into a field a hundred or so yards off the highway to the right.

The thing that attracted my attention most of all was the fact that although the light was like a small searchlight it had a sparkling appearance. I asked Earl, "What in the world is that?" He said, "I don't have any idea."

Intrigued, I pulled off the road and stopped. We both got out of my car and stood near the back of it to watch this unusual sight. The light was coming from a space type vehicle hundreds of feet in the air. It could be that our presence was detected and unwanted, because no sooner had we stood behind the car to look for a few minutes than the sparkling effect ceased being a part of the light. Then the light withdrew and then we could see the space

vehicle slowly move away.

The impressive finalization was that the farther it moved from our vicinity the faster it moved until we could see it finally go off across the sky at a tremendous speed.

The next day a mutilation of cattle was reported in that area. Since no footprints or vehicle tracks are hardly ever found it would seem to me that more attention should be given to looking in the air for the perpetrators.

I assure all of you that this is in no way a joke or anything of the kind. I was fully awake, got out of the car and know that I saw what I have reported.

Harry Bergendorf
Box 622
Pocatello

Mystery of Roswell hot topic at UFO gathering

By KRIS WHEELER
Daily News Staff Writer

PENSACOLA - Unraveling the mysteries of unidentified flying objects drew more than 1,000 UFO enthusiasts to the Pensacola Civic Center on Saturday for day two of the Mutual UFO Network's 21st annual International Symposium.

Among other topics Saturday, they heard about one of the long-debated UFO mysteries, a supposed

crash landing of an alien craft in Roswell, N.M., in July 1947.

Donald R. Schmitt, MUFON's state director in Wisconsin, has long been on a trail to expose what he and many others believe is a government coverup of epic proportions regarding the recovery of the bodies of four aliens and a UFO wreck at Roswell.

"Roswell appears to be the target of a disinformation program," Schmitt said.

That accusation is nothing new among those who have made it their business to investigate UFO sightings.

At the time of the crash near the Roswell Army Air Force Base, military officials initially identified the object that crashed as a UFO. But later the military changed its official version of what the object actually was, identifying it as a misguided weather research balloon.

Schmitt and many of his colleagues say there is overwhelming evidence proving otherwise.

Schmitt and other UFO investigators have relied on testimony over the years from military intelligence officers who were at the crash site, their family members, and relatives of a ranch hand who discovered the crash site, to piece together their version of the Roswell UFO mystery.

Schmitt said he and a colleague

recently interviewed two men who were once stationed at RAAF and who were involved in the recovery operation at the crash site.

Most of the military personnel who had first-hand knowledge of the crash are now dead, Schmitt said.

The men interviewed, the chief of security at the crash site, and a military intelligence officer, are two of the few crash-site witnesses still alive, he said.

Schmitt said the former chief of security refused to comment about the matter, saying he was sworn to secrecy.

Schmitt questioned why information on a crashed weather balloon would be kept secret.

"Why the need to conceal the recovery of a weather balloon?" Schmitt asked.

The other man interviewed was an intelligence agent who was also involved in the recovery. Schmitt said the man would only say that, "Something came down and was recovered."

MUFON officials selected Pensacola as the site of their annual international UFO symposium because of the magnitude of reported UFO sightings in nearby Gulf Breeze - more specifically, those photographed by Gulf Breeze residents Ed and Francis Walters in November 1987.

The Walters have written a book about their experiences called "The Gulf Breeze Sightings." The photographs and the Walters' stories have been challenged recently by some critics and UFO investigators who say it is a hoax.

One Gulf Breeze man has said publicly that he was shown by Ed Walters how the UFO photos were faked.

Walters has denied all of the allegations.

MUFON has reopened its investigation into the Walters' matter. MUFON officials, however, say they believe Walter's photographs are authentic until proven otherwise.

The Walters were scheduled to speak to the MUFON delegation and hundreds of its guests about the matter late Saturday night.

The three-day MUFON symposium began Friday and will conclude with an open forum slated for 4 p.m. today.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - June 28, 1990 CR: R. Reid

UFO Sightings - What are the facts?

BY EDWARD WALTERS

*On November 11, 1987 I took five photos of a UFO.

*Seven other witnesses saw the same UFO before I took those first photos.

*During the past two and a half years, scores of other local people have witnessed UFOs and filed detailed reports.

*I tried to avoid personal publicity, but critics who twisted the facts forced Frances and I to "tell all" in a book, *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*.

*I took photos with five different cameras. Two stereo cameras were used to measure the size of the UFOs.

*Recently, a UFO model was found in a house where I once lived over a

year and a half ago (moved Dec. 1988). The model is a proven planted fake.

*The model was analyzed. It was built with material that did not exist until after September 7, 1989; almost two years after I took my photos of the UFOs.

*Recently, accusations were made that I was seen taking double exposures of a UFO model in 1987. In a rush to print the uncorroborated story the *News Journal* did not test the accusations.

*Claim after claim should have been checked out but when the claim was made that I "turned a trampoline upside down" on the high school soccer field "and jumped up and down on it" to kill a

circle of grass, it should have been clear that all the claims needed closer scrutiny.

*A simple test with the 4 lens Nimslo stereo camera shows that the stereo photos are not an airplane landing at night.

*A simple double exposure test shows that a light object always bleeds through a dark object. One of my photos shows a UFO blocked by a distant tree. A light object (UFO) cannot be exposed behind a dark object (trees).

*Many professional photo analysts, including nationally recognized experts, Dr. Maccabee and Dr. Ebert, have computer analyzed the photos and state clearly that there is no evidence of photo trickery.

*Two days after the 'model double exposure' accusations hit the Sunday front page, I took a voice lie detection, administered by Ronald Laland, a certified instructor, court recognized expert, licensed analyst in the field of psychological stress evaluation. The questions were specific: Is it true that you did not make the UFO model that was found at 612 Silverthorn Dr.?

*This lie detection test was my fourth, administered by three different analysts.

*In every test I was determined to be telling the truth.

What we have in Gulf Breeze are average people witnessing something in our skies and people at the official level over-reacting with denial.

Two daylight UFO sightings reported

BY CAROL SALISBERRY

The MUFON Hotline was called twice on Thursday afternoon, June 21st, by two sets of independent witnesses who may have observed the same UFO.

At 2:30 p.m. two adults were approximately four miles from Navarre on Hwy. 98, driving east, when they noticed a round white

object in the sky directly above the road that was traveling from west to east. At first glance, they thought it was a blimp, but then they realized that the shape and relatively fast rate of speed was indicative of something unusual in the sky.

Then at 6 p.m., a woman and two teens were driving north on Whisper Bay Blvd. in Gulf Breeze

when they noticed a round white object hovering above the road at tree top level. Within seconds the object shot-off to the west and disappeared from view. They realized that the low flight path and high rate of speed was not typical of conventional aircraft.

Both cases are currently under investigation by MUFON. During

the month of June a total of four daylight sightings and two nocturnal sightings were reported. To report a UFO sighting or for additional information, call the MUFON Hotline: 436-2700. The names of witnesses are held in confidence and not released to the public unless the witness gives permission to do so.

DAILY NEWS, Los Angeles, CA - July 29, 1990 CR: R. Saaco

THE COLUMN OF LISTS

By David Wallechinsky and Amy Wallace



Some UFO encounters are of the celebrity kind

A 1987 Gallup poll determined that about one person in 10 has seen an unidentified flying object. As reported in the press and in works such as Margaret Sachs' "The UFO Encyclopedia" (1980), even some celebrities and politicians have seen them.

■ **Muhammad Ali.** The boxer contends that he has seen several UFOs, including a cigar-shaped one over the New Jersey Turnpike and one, "like a huge electric light bulb," that seemed to join him one morning in 1971 as he jogged through New York's Central Park.

■ **Jimmy Carter.** The former president reported having seen a UFO while attending a Lions Club meeting in 1969. The light, which Carter described as changing colors and size, later was de-

termined to have been the planet Venus.

■ **Jamie Farr.** A zigzagging light over the desert sands near Yuma, Ariz., made a believer out of the actor in the early 1960s. The object stopped in the air, hovered and kept pace with his car before disappearing.

■ **Glenn Ford.** A blue-green, disk-shaped object about 500 feet in diameter was spotted by the actor in 1974 near his California beach house. Formerly a non-believer, the sighting convinced him that some UFOs cannot be explained as manmade or natural phenomena.

■ **Sir Eric Gairy.** The former prime minister of Grenada was returning from a function early one morning in the mid-1970s when he saw a UFO. Gairy believes that extraterrestrials have visited this planet and that it is "naive to think that we are the only creatures of God's entire domain."

■ **Jackie Gleason.** Gleason saw UFOs in London and in Florida. He described both as bright lights traveling at high speeds. The comedian once claimed that a U.S. government official admitted to him that UFOs do exist.

■ **Dick Gregory.** In 1967, while at a party in Big Sur, the activist and his friends saw three lights (one red, two green) that performed maneuvers for 40 minutes. Gregory snapped photos of the objects.

■ **Clare Boothe Luce.** While serving as ambassador to Italy in 1954, the former congresswoman, along with other witnesses, saw a glowing sphere that sped through the sky. She described it

as an object she could not identify.

■ **Sheila Macrae.** The actress has seen UFOs twice: In 1965, she watched as two objects dashed back and forth over Lake Mead; in 1973, a UFO hovered above her as she drove through a snowstorm in St. Louis, Mo.

■ **Warren Oates.** In 1975, in the desert near Palm Springs, the actor and four friends saw a UFO they described as being oval-shaped and having flashing colored lights. It stopped and hovered before moving away.

■ **William Shatner.** Shatner of "Star Trek" fame was once on a motorcycle trip in the Mojave Desert when his bike stalled. He pushed it along in the blistering heat and was near exhaustion when he noticed a silvery craft above him. He received an unspoken message telling what direction to take, and was able to find a road and get help.

■ **Mel Torme.** Early one morning in 1963, while walking his dog in New York City, the singer caught sight of a glowing red object performing high-speed maneuvers at an altitude of about 5,000 feet. He watched the UFO for about five minutes, then it disappeared.

Send suggestions for the lists column to the *Daily News Features Department*, P.O. Box 4200, Woodland Hills, Calif. 91365-4200. Persons who submit a list idea that is used in the column will receive a three-volume set of the *Book of Lists*. In case of duplicate submissions, the earliest post-marked entry will be used. The editors are unable to answer any mail personally.

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - May 31, 1990

BOOKS Patricia Holt

More Books on Tape For Summer Listening

UFO Memories

Quite surprisingly, considering the controversy that has cropped up over his own "screen memory" of visiting aliens, Whitley Streiber ("Communion," "Transformation") brings an authoritative and non-invasive voice to "The Interrupted Journey" by John G. Fuller (Caedmon, two cassettes, \$15.95).

Although we keep expecting Streiber to interrupt with, "Hey, wait'll you hear what happened to me," this investigation of Betty and Barney Hill's alleged 1961 experience with beings from outer space is all the more riveting for its excerpts of taped recollections they made separately under hyp-

nosis.

Fuller's dispassionate explanation of the Hills' experience - and the investigations by military, medical and UFO groups that followed - does not prepare us for the outbursts of terror and hysterical sobbing that Barney and Betty emit as they "re-live" the incident while hypnotized. Listening to them describe meeting aliens and their subsequent abduction, we are convinced that the Hills experienced this encounter, while at the same time, patterns of fear and need crop up in their testimony that sound very much like psychological projections. You needn't believe in UFOs to find this tape package engrossing.

UFOs come calling on new hotline

By SHELBY GRAD
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

■ MENLO PARK, Calif. — Do you see flying saucers in the skies at night? Do you ever get the feeling you were once kidnapped by beings from another planet?

If so, a Menlo Park entrepreneur has your number.

A 900-line telephone service debuted this week devoted exclusively to exposing people to the world of unidentified flying objects — a world the phone line's creators say is ignored by the mainstream press and covered up by the U.S. government.

The president of The UFO Line, Ryan Wood, insists there is a growing

market around the country for such a service.

Call 1-900-USA-UFOs and you will be greeted by Stanton T. Friedman, a nuclear physicist and nationally known UFO expert who guides you through a menu of extraterrestrial topics as close as your Touch-Tone phone. But the experience will cost you — \$2 for the first minute and \$1 for each additional minute.

Press the 1 on your telephone for a "a good recent sighting report." Number 3 will give you information on "UFO abductions."

Other options include "Physical evidence of UFO reality," "flying saucer technology," "UFO myth," and "proof of the cosmic water gate."

There's even a way to report your own sightings.

"Our intent is to update the line weekly," Wood said. "But if we get something hot and new we'll put it on immediately."

This week, the 900 line reported that a Soviet general saw a UFO through a radar screen in April and had five pilots chase after it.

Friedman also chronicled the many unsuccessful attempts of groups like Citizens Against UFO Secrecy to get at alleged government documents that would prove the existence of UFOs.

The UFO Line criticizes the press for its "sneering and out-of-context coverage" of the extraterrestrial

world and states that "there is certainly a U.S. government attempt to cover up UFO information."

Wood said he plans to introduce the service at an upcoming Mutual UFO Network convention of UFO believers in Florida and is considering taking out advertising in publications like Flying Saucer Review and UFO International Reporter. Ads may also run in the mainstream press, Wood said.

"If you're (Oakland A's slugger) Jose Canseco with a 900 number, you can make it on word of mouth," Wood said. "For us, it's different. Fewer people know about us."

Wood points to polls that suggest millions of Americans believe in UFOs. Some books on the topic have

sold millions of copies. "There is an interest out there."

Wood and Friedman vowed that the 900 number would only report credible UFO reports, unlike some supermarket tabloids, which they accuse of sensationalism.

"With tabloids like the Enquirer, one out of 10 things you read (about UFOs) are real," Wood said.

The UFO Line is the second 900 number for Wood, who helped Santa Clara County Geologist Jim Berkland begin a quake prediction hot line in March. The "Quakeline," at (900) 844-JOLT, is still in operation and has received between 2,000 and 3,000 calls, Wood said.

Soldiers desert to meet UFO

6 leave W. German post to greet 'Jesus' in Fla.

By Nolan Walters
Knight-Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — Six U.S. soldiers, who apparently deserted sensitive intelligence posts in West Germany, may have believed they were chosen to greet alien spacecrafts and lead humanity to a science fiction-style heaven, according to friends and acquaintances.

The group has puzzled authorities since a note was found in their quarters that contained Biblical references and the words "End of the World."

Now, after being detained at Gulf Breeze, Fla. — the site of a rash of recent UFO sightings — the five men and one woman are being held in isolation and debriefed by the Army at Fort Benning, Ga.

"They believe that Jesus is an astronaut," said one man who sold them a van.

The group members, in fact, believed in an offshoot of a Christian belief called the "rapture," said Stan Johnson, a friend of the apparent group leader. He described it as a "combination of science fiction and fundamentalist Baptist beliefs."

Rapture is the second coming of Jesus Christ, in which he returns to Earth to take the believers with him and the rest of Earth would be destroyed.

This group, however, believed Jesus was an alien and would return in a spaceship for the chosen.

"How can I phrase this: Jesus Christ drives a spaceship," Johnson said.

"They were apparently convinced that the aliens had chosen them as the chosen few to be on hand when they reclaimed the Earth," he said.

While the military now is investigating the incident, there has been no evidence that national security was compromised.

Not espionage

"This does not appear to be an espionage case," said a Pentagon spokesman.

The bizarre chain of events began in late May or early June when Johnson, a Bybee, Tenn., photographer, got a call from his longtime friend Kenneth Beason, 26, from Augsburg, West Germany, where he was stationed.

Johnson said he had met Beason a few years ago when he'd asked to

have some spaceship models photographed. They became friends and often talked of science fiction and philosophy.

"Other than an interest in science fiction, he's perfectly normal," Johnson said. "Basically what has happened is his imagination has interwoven with reality."

Johnson said he met Beason and another soldier, Michael Hueckstaedt, 19, of Farson, Wyoming, at the Knoxville airport and helped them buy a used Volkswagen van July 7.

The two soldiers planned to meet the other group members in Chattanooga, then drive to meet the first spaceship landing at Gulf Breeze on Aug. 6, then continue on to New Mexico, where "something else was going to happen," Johnson said.

The spaceship's arrival would be heralded by war in Lebanon and a shakeup of the U.S. military, Johnson said he was told.

The six were detained early last Saturday, after Gulf Breeze police stopped their 1971 VW van. They put the driver's name through a national crime computer and he turned up AWOL, Police Capt. Kenneth Hicks said.

Gulf Breeze has recently been the focus of national interest by believers in UFOs since the publication of a book called "The Gulf Breeze Sightings."

Police later picked up the other four male soldiers at the home of a woman who is known locally as a psychic.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, has been tight-lipped about the whole affair, refusing to confirm the names of those detained.

Defense Department officials called it a "routine counterintelligence investigation" because the six had access to classified information at their West German base.

Unwanted focus

Meanwhile, UFO believers who attended the national seminar in Pensacola are worried that their unwanted association with possible deserters will tarnish their reputation.

"UFOlogy is controversial enough," said Charles Flannigan, Florida state director for the UFO group.

And Walter H. Andrus Jr., international director of the Mutual UFO Network, said the incident was just more evidence of the media's bias. Hundreds of UFOs have appeared at Gulf Breeze, he said, but not one story about them has appeared in national newspapers or wire services.

But now, he said, the media "make a big deal of six people coming to Gulf Breeze."

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

A most unusual object was seen by three people on the night of April 10. The following account is given with certain necessary omissions until a full investigation is concluded by the Mutual U.F.O. Network (MUFON).

Two Ipava residents, driving home from Adair, stopped their car to use the phone on the square in Table Grove. A few minutes into the conversation, the young lady noticed low level lights in the sky approaching from the east. It soon became evident that these lights looked unusual and seemed out of character for an aircraft. It was at this point she shouted to her boyfriend. He had been sitting in the car listening to the radio. Before the young man got out of the car, the radio developed static and went dead for a few seconds. Jumping out, he looked up to see an enormous triangular object moving very slowly directly overhead. Both watched in amazement as the object passed silently over the business district.

Within seconds another motorist was flagged down and alerted to look at the sky. It was later learned that this person's radio had lost reception at the same time. Shortly all three people decided to give chase and

drove to the western edge of town, arriving in time to see the object elevating and rapidly accelerating out of sight. All witnesses are in agreement that the object was absolutely silent, had non flashing lights, was moving very slowly while over the town, and described its size as comparable to a football field, bigger than a blimp, humongous, etc.

According to Poe Clark, MUFON State Section Director for Fulton, Schuyler, and McDonough Counties, numerous U.F.O. sightings have occurred over the area. Deltoid, cigar, spherical, and disc-shaped, as well as other varieties have all been reported through the years. A case with more pronounced electromagnetic effects took place in 1988 not far from this sighting. Many sightings go unreported; many that are reported can be explained and are not bonafide U.F.O.'s.

In the case of this triangle an outline and surface area were visible; therefore, it must be put in a different category than just lights in the sky. Furthermore, other elements of strangeness combine with the visual image, that is especially important.

Sincerely,
Poe H. Clark
Ipava, IL

UFO Sidebar

BY CHARLIE AND DORI SOMERBY

It's difficult to understand why certain people look upon UFOs as a current fad without realizing the great significance of these visitors from out of space.

In fact, we'd rate them right up there with the scientific revelations that the earth was NOT the center of the universe and that our planet was round as proved by Columbus' trek to the "new world."

From all the excitement stirred up before last weekend's symposium, it would appear that interest remains high both nationally and internationally in the Gulf Breeze Sightings.

The two of us decided to stay out of the confusion and told representatives of media and various groups that if they cared to interview us we'd be at home in Milton. A team from Chicago was here Friday afternoon for a recording session.

And when *Unsolved Mysteries*, one of the top network television programs, again sends a unit here for an update you know that folks around the nation are still talking. They'll be chatting with Gulf Breeze believers (and perhaps non-believers) on Friday, July 27.

Oh! Charlie is convinced that it won't be too long before the aliens land after they have made certain that we're friendly. Hopefully, they'll be friendly for a civilization far enough advanced to operate such craft probably has weapons much superior to ours — if they're so inclined. Or perhaps war is a thing of the past to them! On our globe, it would appear as though nations are starting to grow up and that will make nation fighting against nation a thing of the past.

If UFOs aren't news, I don't know what is! Wherever we go, locally and around the U.S. and Canada, when we identify ourselves as being from Gulf Breeze and then explain our connection with the flying objects, folks are intently interested.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - July 12, 1990 CR: R. Reid

Clarification

Last week the *Sentinel* published two photos given to Police Chief Jerry Brown by Tommy Smith and attributed those photos to Smith. A phone call from Smith's

parents and a review of the transcript of his phone conversation with Chief Brown and Mayor Ed Gray revealed that Smith never said that he took the photos or

that they were double exposures. According to the transcript, the photos were given to Smith by Ed Walters, but Smith says he never actually witnessed them

being made. Elsewhere in the transcript Smith describes witnessing Walters double expose photos.

UFO expert facing charge of pandering

By Warren Bates
Review-Journal

The district attorney's office plans to file a charge of pandering against a Las Vegas man who was a primary source for a recent TV documentary on UFOs.

Deputy District Attorney John Lukens, chief of the office's sexual assault unit, said a charge of pandering would be filed against Bob Lazar, who is widely known in the community of UFO research.

Lazar was the focal point of much of KLAS-TV, Channel 8 reporter George Knapp's award-winning documentary series, "UFO's: The Best Evidence."

Lazar, a former scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, spent much of the series explaining how the U.S. government was testing alien spacecraft at an area on the Nevada Test Site known as S-4, located about 15 miles southeast of Area 51.

Metropolitan Police Department vice officers served a search warrant on Lazar's home on James Lovell Street on April 14, Lukens said.

Sources said that charges of living off the earnings of a prostitute, operating a house of prostitution and aiding and abetting a prostitute were initially sought by police.

Lukens said the case had "essentially been negotiated" down to the single felony charge.

The pandering charge carries a sentence of one to six years, with the possibility of a fine not to exceed \$5,000. Probation also is an option.

Lt. Bill Young of the Police Department's vice section said evidence exists that Lazar has previous involvement with prostitution. The police investigation discovered his affiliation with the Honeysuckle Ranch lotion and massage parlor in Los Alamos, which authorities said was a front for prostitution.

Police said Lazar allegedly set up a brothel and outcall prostitution service in two apartments located in the Newport Cove complex on Tamarac Street in Las Vegas. The apartments were connected by a passageway cut through a wall of the building.

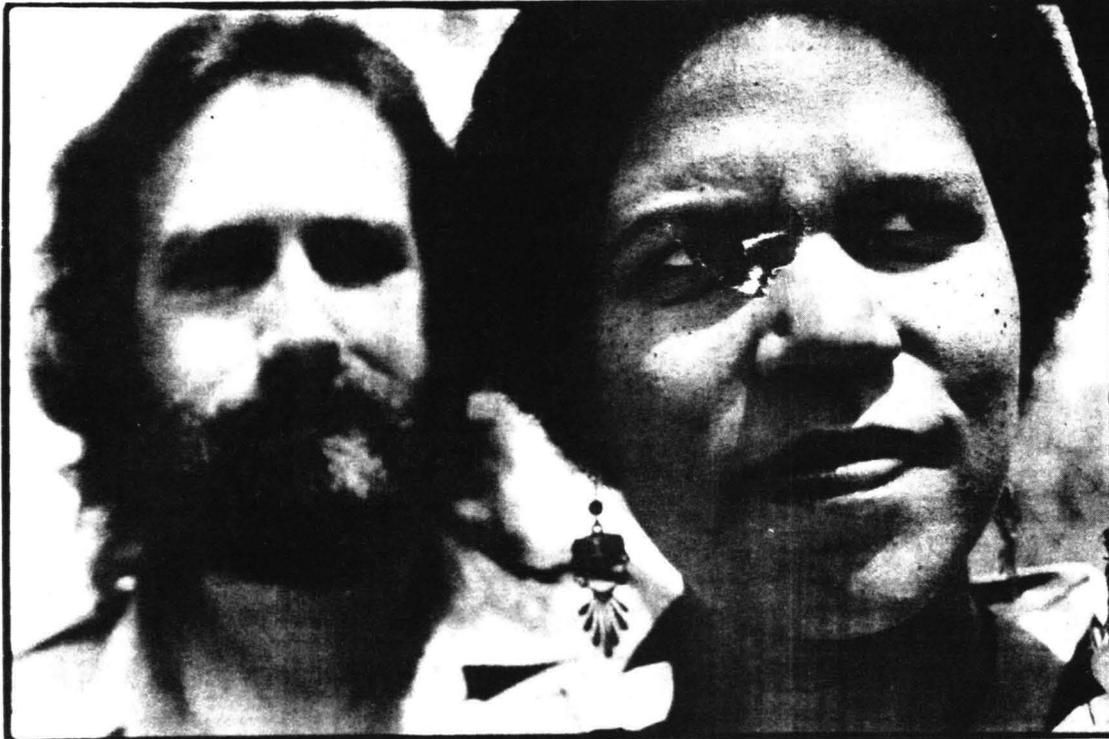
Lazar also allegedly used a surveillance camera and hidden microphone, police said. Lazar allegedly videotaped customers and also maintained records of their license plate numbers, according to police.

Toni Bulloch, a known prostitute and allegedly Lazar's partner in the brothel, was arrested on several charges, including keeping a house of ill-fame.

Lazar's attorney, Bill Smith, said Friday that it would be inappropriate to comment on the negotiations.

Lazar, Smith said, owns a photo processing lab in Las Vegas and does contract work through a research and development company in New Mexico.

His initial appearance in Justice Court is scheduled for Monday.



Dr. Leilani Dearing: "The beings approached me. They had golden-hued skin. Their clothes were kind of nylon-type and shear and they were about 5'7".

CBW/Tonee Harbert

A conversation with Leilani and Dan Dearing

Dan Dearing and Dr. Leilani Dearing say that extraterrestrials from the star cluster Pleiades have been communicating with them for years. Last June Leilani, a clinical psychologist, and Dan, a professional musician, both left jobs in Nashville, Tennessee to start a UFO communications center.

Leilani and Dan have been travelling across the country conducting seminars during which they relate their experiences with extraterrestrials and encourage audiences to come out of the closet with their own Interstellar run-ins. On the night of July 14, the Dearings appeared at Portland's Center for New Age Studies.

What led to your contact with extraterrestrials?

Dan: We both were doing meditations to help Leilani get through grad school and help me get through a relationship that had come to an end. That meditation led to contacts with entities that were not "in the physical," which ultimately led to contact with entities that were "in the physical" - from other planets.

What was your first encounter like?

Leilani: Dan and I were living in Hawaii and it was a Buddhist holiday when Buddhists believe that something very special can happen. We had meditated that night and I awakened later and thought I was awakened by the sun which always reflected

in our house. But when I actually opened my eyes I saw orange flickering lights which were in the spaceship. I don't know how long I was in the craft but I was in there and felt the velocity of the ship and there was a lot of noise.

At some point the ship stopped and both of us were standing out on a platform before we went down the stairs. I don't know where the ship landed but I did get the

talk

feeling that it was outside. It was someplace else.

I turned around, I saw the ship. It was silver and octagonal. And Dan and I were separated. I remember that there was kind of a message that came to me that Dan was going to be trained in music or something. A lot of music was pervading the atmosphere. The beings approached me. They had golden-hued skin. Their clothes were kind of nylon-type and shear and they were about 5'7".

Were you scared?

Leilani: I felt like it was a friendly approach but I lost consciousness. And the next thing I knew I was sitting up in my bed and I was fully clothed and on the opposite side of the bed from where I usually slept. And then I heard these loud noises - it sounded like I was on an airport runway. I leapt up, I looked outside. And I could see the blue and orange lights from the jet engines. The ship was taking off across the

valley. At that point I was awake and I was standing at the door and I started yelling and screaming trying to wake Dan up. Then I put the information on a tape recorder and told him what happened at the same time.

Were these extraterrestrials from any particular planet?

Dan: The particular place is the Pleiades. The cultures that have been around for a while - the 60,000-year-old tribes in Africa, the native Americans, the Hawaiians and the Chinese say in their folklore that they are descendants of Pleiadians from Pleiades.

Are the Pleiadians communicating with you regularly?

Leilani: The messages come once or twice a week. I can get real busy doing different earthly things and I then I say, "Oh yeah, I just want to sit down and maybe receive some information or check in with these folks."

In what form do the messages come?

Leilani: A lot of the information comes through songs now. About two months after the first spaceship incident I woke up and I was singing songs, which are the messages from them. And I've never had any kind of musical background or training or anything. Part of what we do at the seminars is that I'll hear the words to sing and at the same time Dan will hear the music to play. And we haven't had any kind of rehearsal but it just meshes together perfectly.

Dan: I had never heard her sing a note. Then all of the

sudden one morning she was singing entire songs. With beautiful lyrics and rhyming phrases and melody lines that were real pretty. It was quite astonishing and quite pleasing. And at the seminars the energy is as if there's an electrical charge in the room. People can feel it. It becomes uncomfortable for some people and they just leave in the middle of the song. By the end of the night, very often everyone in the room will just sit there and not say anything for about 10 minutes.

Why did you decide to bring your story to audiences across the country?

Leilani: The major reason that we're doing this is because the Pleiadians are saying that 1992 is a very important year for the planet. The Pleiadians stress the idea of world peace and the idea that everybody should go for what their highest vision is and not settle for second-best.

Are the people who come to see you speak skeptical?

Dan: If there are skeptics that come, they're stereotypically males in their mid-40s in leisure suits who sit in the back row. But for the most part people are really interested and the discussion really gets going.

Leilani: I expected a lot more people to be real skeptical, just short of people throwing tomatoes at us and stuff. But the audiences haven't been that way at all.

Andy Newman, CBW's most alienated staffer, receives most of his story ideas from the mother ship.



J. ANTONIO HUNEUS / SCIENCE FRONTIERS

Great Soviet UFO Flap of 1989 Centers on Dalnegorsk Crash

First in a two-part series

Several months ago we reported in this column about the well-publicized series of bizarre reports of UFO landings and close encounters with giant aliens in the Russian city of Voronezh, as well as other cases obtained from interviews with Soviet researchers during last fall's International UFO Congress in Frankfurt, Germany. I have obtained a large amount of Soviet UFO data since then from a variety of sources both in the Soviet Union and the United States.

I recently completed a lengthy and detailed paper entitled, *Red Skies: The Great 1989 UFO Wave in the USSR*, to be included in the 1989 Symposium Proceedings of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the world's largest research organization in this field, which will take place next month in Pensacola, Florida. We will publish in this series selected excerpts which contain interesting physical and military evidence. The first one deals with the enigmatic report of the crash of an unknown object in the city of Dalnegorsk on the Pacific coast of the Soviet Union, while the following week we'll report on a recent radar-visual UFO incident which resulted in a military scramble alert by Soviet Air Defense forces.

A detailed account of the series of complex UFO events registered in the city of Dalnegorsk during the past four years goes beyond the scope of this article. Nevertheless, the Dalnegorsk flap should be discussed because it contains some of the most extraordinary physical evidence collected so far anywhere in the world, and also because UFO sightings continue to be reported in this area to this day. Thanks to the assistance of Major (Ret.) Colman von Keviczky, director of the Queens-based ICUFON research group who has extensive contacts in the Soviet Union, this writer has obtained several reports of the Dalnegorsk incidents prepared by one of its principal investigators, Valeri Dvuzhilny, head of the Far Eastern Commission on Anomalous Phenomena.

Even though the Commission has recorded numerous cases going back to the 1970s, it seems the most important incident so far was the crash of an unknown object on Dalnegorsk Hill 611 on January 29, 1986, at 7:55 p.m. On that date, according to one of the reports by Dvuzhilny, "residents of the settlements observed a reddish-orange sphere the size of a half full moon, which flew from the southwest at 260 degrees. Its altitude was 700-800 meters. The flight was parallel to the surface of the Earth, without the angles which are characteristic for meteorites. The witnesses heard absolutely no noises. The calculated speed by chronometer was 15 meters per second. There was no change of direction or of altitude."

The object then approached the Izvestkovaya mountain, or Hill 611, which has an elevation of 600 meters and is located at the center of the town. "The object made a dive and went at an angle of 60-70 degrees on the cliff ledge, where it 'fell' and burned for one hour," continues the report. "Some of the witnesses affirm that it rose and lowered itself six times, and that its light was intensified during its rise and weakened during its lowering." Dvuzhilny and his team arrived on the scene February 3, finding a number of physical traces, which included lead and iron balls, bits of glass, a fine mesh or netting, traces of high temperature activity, magnetic anomalies and damage to nearby trees and stumps.

The materials have been analyzed by several laboratories from three Soviet academic centers and 11 research institutes. The results, however, have proven to

be highly enigmatic, leading Dvuzhilny and other scientists to conclude that the Dalnegorsk object was probably an artificial space probe of non-terrestrial origin. According to one report published in the newspaper *Socialist Industry*, "In the scales [or mesh], almost all the elements of the entire periodic table were found." Spectral analysis of the lead balls, for instance, showed that besides lead, these contained silicon (20 percent), aluminum (10 percent), iron (15 percent), zinc (1.5 percent), titanium (2 percent), magnesium (1 percent) and silver (2 percent), as well as minute portions of copper, lanthanum, praseodymium, calcium, sodium, vanadium, cerium, chrome, cobalt, nickel, and molybdenum.

The scales or mesh reacted in a very strange manner during the laboratory analysis. The *Socialist Industry* report said one of the scientists, A. Makeev, "presented the roentgenological structural analysis and showed that from one scale, after melting it in a vacuum, all of a sudden gold, silver, and nickel disappeared. But there appeared alpha-titanium and molybdenum. In another scale, the metals did not appear at all. And for some reason, after the heating, there appeared beryllium sulphide."

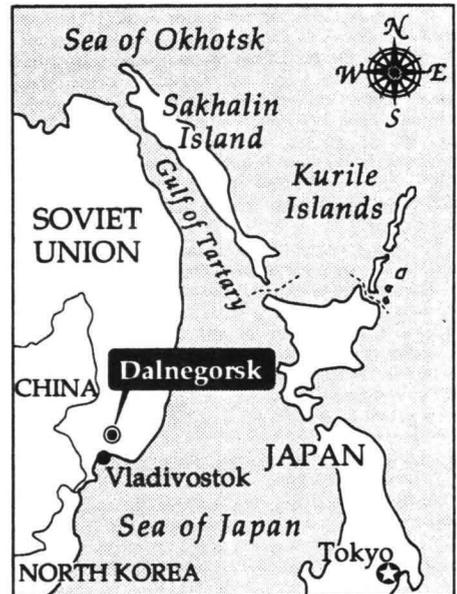
There were still further surprises, such as "six areas of magnetized silica rock" (silica is a nonmagnetic material) found on the site. This and other results were published by A. Petukhov and T. Faminskaya, members of the Council of Scientific and Engineering Societies' Commission on Paranormal Events. "Vivid interest was also evoked by the mesh, a carbon-base composite of unknown origin," wrote Petukhov and Faminskaya. "The specimen was found to include quartz filaments 17 microns thick, and golden wires inside each filament."

Other anomalous effects included the blackened photos of Hill 611 taken by the researchers, and the biological effects on the researchers themselves. According to Petukhov and Faminskaya, "the researchers working at the site showed changes in their blood (a reduced count of leucocytes and platelets, changes in the structure of erythrocytes) and sensory disturbances." Dvuzhilny described in more detail the medical investigation involving five researchers who spent considerable time at Hill 611, and a control group.

All of this led some investigators to conclude that something alien had indeed crashed at Hill 611. V. Vysotsky, Doctor of Chemistry from Vladivostok, stated: "Undoubtedly, this is a high-technology product and not a thing of natural or terrestrial origin." Dvuzhilny proposed that it was "an automatic scout probe" of alien origin, and rejected the alternative hypothesis that it could have been a natural plasmoid. This hypothesis was proposed by a candidate of geological-mineralogical science, V.N. Salmikov. It was summarized by Yuri Rylkin, a physicist with the Tomsk Polytechnical Institute, in a paper presented at the International UFO Congress in Frankfurt in October of 1989.

"The Dalnegorsk object," wrote Rylkin, "represents a plasma formation on the base of electromagnetical structure, called plasmoid, whose trajectory passed over geological breaking and parallel to high-voltage electrotransmission line. It is supposed that this plasmoid absorbed selectively some chemical elements, for example, the noble and rare metals. As Salmikov considers, such formations may be formed by lithospheric waveguides, or may appear in anomalous stressed geophysical fields near geological breakings." We'll have more to say about these so-called plasmoids in this series' second part.

Still another hypothesis was offered by Yuri Platov, a senior researcher with the Institute of Earth Magnetism, Ionosphere and Radiowave Propagation of the USSR Academy of Sciences and a noted UFO skeptic. Platov maintains that the Dalnegorsk phenomenon "in reality was connected with the conduct of a technical experiment." I have seen no supportive evidence to back that assertion, however. Dvuzhilny responds



that there were no rocket launches and no civilian or military traffic over Dalnegorsk on that night.

Sightings Continue

Regardless of its ultimate origin, the crash on Hill 611 was only the beginning of an intense UFO flap in Dalnegorsk that continues to this day. For instance, another report by Dvuzhilny indicates "on February 6, 1986, eight days after the UFO crash, there appeared from the north two yellow globes at 8:30 p.m. They approached the crash spot, made four circles over it and disappeared with a flash." By and large, however, the largest display of UFOs in the Dalnegorsk and Primorye areas occurred on the night of Nov. 28, 1987.

Again, according to one of Dvuzhilny's reports, "on Saturday November 28, 1987, 33 UFOs were flying at a low height over the Eastern coast of Primorye. Their flights took place between 9:10 pm and midnight. They were of different shape: cylinders, cigars, globes. They were flying over five regions and twelve settlements. None of the witnesses claimed they had seen UFOs. They thought they saw aircraft crashing. All were surprised to hear no noise."

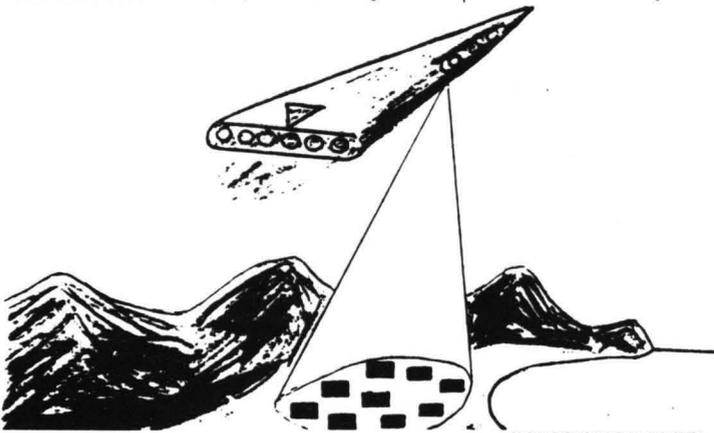
Inquiries made by Dvuzhilny showed there had been no flights of civil or military aircraft at that time, and that no carrier-rockets had been launched from Soviet cosmodromes. Moreover, continued Dvuzhilny, "the objects observed had nothing in common with the effects of rocket launching that are quite different. They were not like fireballs, ball lightning or plasmoids."

Further on, Dvuzhilny added that "out of the 33 UFOs, 13 flew over Dalnegorsk." There were over 100 witnesses, including military personnel, militia (police), border guards and sailors, as well as all kinds of civilian workers, who were questioned by the Far Eastern Commission. Finally, reports Dvuzhilny, "those objects caused a two minute cutting-off of HF [high frequency] circuits of TV, telegraph and other appliances. Computers were cut off, their programs spoiled. All that was due to powerful electromagnetic fields of UFOs (cover, engines) reaching hundreds and thousands of KWs."

Many other sightings have occurred in Dalnegorsk. According to the Far Eastern Commission, 45 UFOs were registered in 1987, 15 in 1988, and 32 in 1989 (up to the month of July). Nor have the sightings been restricted to Dalnegorsk alone. Other cases have been reported near the larger city of Vladivostok. These include a close encounter involving two separate cars on September 17, 1988, where one of the drivers seemed to lose control of his car; and a second, undated, event reported by the *Krasnoye Znamia (Red Banner)* newspaper, about a whole section of Vladivostok being illuminated between 2 and 4 a.m. by a light beam from an unseen source. Because of the late hour, only a few people who were not asleep observed the phenomenon. Interestingly, similar occurrences of an unknown light beam illuminating a city have been reported a few times in the city of Arica in the northern tip of Chile.

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J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written for publications in North and South America.



ARTIST'S RENDITION OF A UFO emitting a bright beam of light seen by villagers of Khamenka on the night of Nov. 28, 1987. Many other UFOs were seen that night around Dalnegorsk and Primorye.

Soviet Press Airs Startling UFO Evidence from Military Sources

Second in a two-part series.

Last week we revealed how the Soviet Union is experiencing an intense UFO wave and how, due to glasnost, what was once a forbidden subject is now covered in detail by the Soviet press. Even cases involving the Soviet military are now reaching the public.

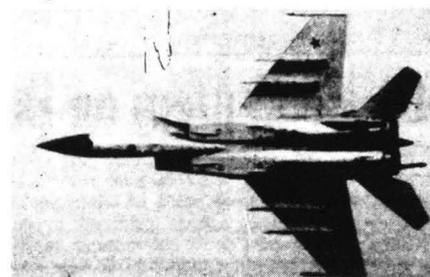
On Sept. 30, 1989, the newspaper *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* (Socialist Industry) quoted Anatoliy Listratov, chairman of the anomalous phenomena section of the All-Union Astronomical and Geodesic Society, that "Soviet military officers and pilots had recently started providing some documentation on UFO sightings." That and similar articles were translated by the U.S. government's Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). An FBIS "Foreign Press Note" entitled "USSR: Media Report Multitude of UFO Sightings" was dated Nov. 22, 1989.

The article described one of the most serious UFO injury cases ever reported, involving the scramble of two Soviet jets over the city of Borisov in Byelorussia: "The crews of two Soviet aircraft reported seeing a large flying disk in their vicinity with five beams of lights emanating from it: three beams were directed toward the ground and two were projected upward when the object was first sighted. The ground controller instructed one of the planes to alter its course and approach the object, at which point the disk flew to the same level and aimed one of its beams at the approaching Soviet plane, illuminating the cockpit."

The pilot's log stated, "At this time, the copilot was at the controls. He observed the maneuver that the object had just carried out and was able to raise his hand to shield himself from the unbearable light. The aircraft commander was resting in the adjoining seat, and a bright ray of light, projecting a spot with a diameter of 20 centimeters, passed across his body. Both pilots felt heat."

One Injured, Another Dead

Both crewmen later became "invalids," the article said. "The copilot was forced to leave his job due to a sudden deterioration in his health, including the onset of sudden prolonged periods of 'loss of consciousness.' The aircraft commander died within a few months. The cause of death was listed as 'cancer' and 'injury to the organism as a result of radiation from an unidentified flying object' was listed as a contributing factor on the official



SOVIET MIG-25 Foxbat interceptor.

medical record in the hospital where the commander died."

This is not the only military UFO incident to be reported in the Soviet press. In an unprecedented statement published in *Rabochaya Tribuna* on April 19, General of Aviation Igor Maltsev, chief of the Main Staff of Air Defense Forces, openly discussed a radar-visual and jet scramble incident on the Pereslavl-Zaleskiy region, east of Moscow, on the night of March 21. This article was also translated by FBIS and leaked to some American ufologists. We have also secured a Russian copy of the article entitled "UFOs on Air Defense Radars."

Due to its importance we shall quote Gen. Maltsev's statement in full. He said: "I am not a specialist on UFOs and therefore I can only correlate the data and express my own supposition. According to the evidence of these eyewitnesses, the UFO is a disk with a diameter from 100 to 200 meters. Two pulsating lights were positioned on its sides. When the object flew in a horizontal plane the line of the lights was parallel to the horizon. During vertical movement it rotated and was perpendicular to the ground. Moreover, the object rotated around its axis and performed an 'S-turn' flight both in the horizontal and vertical planes. Next, the UFO hovered over the ground and then flew with a speed exceeding that of the modern jet fighter by 2 or 3 times. All of the observers noticed that the flight speed was directly related to the flashing of the side lights: the more often they flashed, the higher the speed.

"The objects flew at altitudes ranging from 1,000 to 7,000 meters. The movement of the UFOs was not accompanied by sound of any kind and was dis-

tinguished by its startling maneuverability. It seemed the UFOs were completely devoid of inertia. In other words, they had somehow 'come to terms' with gravity. At the present time, terrestrial machines could hardly have any such capabilities. The object was observed as a 'pip' from a radar target on the screens of aircraft radar sights and on the screens of several electronic surveillance sub-units. One station did not establish an observation."

Rabochaya Tribuna also said unit commanders compiled "more than 100 visual observations" and passed them on to Gen. Maltsev. Lt. Col. A.A. Semenchenko "received the command to go on an alert exercise" at 21:38 hours. "I received my task of detecting and identifying a target at an altitude of 2000 meters," he reported. He established visual contact, although "the target did not respond to the 'identify, friend or foe,' request." Considering the Borisov incident, it is interesting to note his comment, "with the permission of the command post, I locked my sights onto the radiation after checking to be sure that the weaponry was switched off." The paper also published the testimonies of four captains and a radar post as well as a photograph taken of the Yaroslavlkiy Highway.

A 'Victory' for UFO Buffs

The newspaper editors commented, "UFO enthusiasts can celebrate a victory. It is the first time that the military so openly and impressively witness on behalf of 'flying saucers.' Especially pleasing is the fact that the disclosure was made by air defense representatives, people who possess unique technical possibilities for observations. Maybe now they will disclose past secrets, legends of which are very popular. Let us hope that the present publication is a good occasion for further disclosures."

The editors went on to say that these incidents "demolish a hypothesis which relate UFOs to atmospheric phenomena." This is particularly interesting since in June of 1989, the official *Soviet Military Review* published an article on "UFOs and Security," which concluded that UFOs were most likely related to "certain plasma formations."

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written for publications in North and South America.

New clue in rings mystery

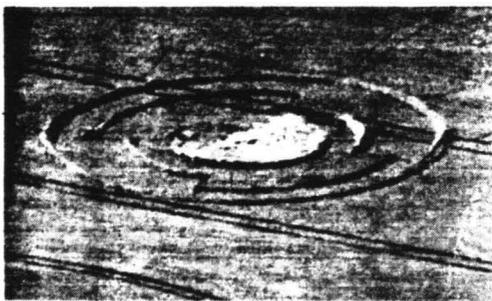
By SAMANTHA POWELL

A MYSTERIOUS formation of patterns in a Hampshire field is the work of another form of intelligence - a researcher claimed today.

Pat Delgado, an expert on the strange circles, said new patterns which have appeared for the first time in the Winchester area put paid to more conventional scientific explanations of the phenomenon. He believes the new patterns, which are distinguished by joining "pathways" and rectangular shapes, are an attempt by another form of intelligence to draw attention to itself.

"The answer to it is beyond the realms of orthodox physics," said Mr. Delgado, a retired NASA radar expert. He explained: "The patterns are created by an energy that we are not familiar with and don't understand. This energy is regulated by quite a high intelligence, because of the beautiful symmetry and complexity of the patterns."

He said of the creators: "I just happen to think they are attention getters. They are asking peo-



● STRANGE PATTERNS - The latest weird rings in Hampshire fields

ple to take note of these formations.

"So many hundreds of thousands of people are interested and talking about it - it's actually working."

Another researcher Dr Terence Meaden claimed at a scientific conference this month that the circles were caused by downward columns of spinning air, with possible buildups of electric charges.

Some explanations suggest they may be the result of supernatural forces, landing sites for flying saucers, or the work of hoaxers.

But Mr. Delgado, who has studied the phenomena for more than 10 years, said the formation of rectangles, joining lines and semi-circles, was a stumbling block. "These latest patterns are entirely new, they have never been seen before. They're going to have the whirlwind and plasma vortex theorists running around like headless chickens."

And Mr. Delgado believes his own explanation is not so strange. "Are we so arrogant that we think we are the only form of intelligence in the universe?" he asked.

SECOND CROP OF CIRCLES 'WORK OF PRANKSTERS'

A FORTNIGHT after eight circles appeared overnight in a cornfield at Bickington, five more circles were discovered less than a mile away.

Experts still keeping an open mind on the original circles at Little Chipley Farm, are virtually certain Saturday's find is the work of pranksters.

They also believe that the latest discovery in a field at Yeo Farm, within a few yards of the Newton Abbot - Ashburton road, has thrown doubt on authenticity of the first group of symmetrical circles.

Farmer Mr Colin Wrayford, on whose land the latest find was made, has his personal views that it is the work of students. "Some say it is whirlwinds, others say it is magnetic pulls from the earth, but I am yet to be convinced."

"Our postman told us there were circles down there when he arrived on Saturday and by the time I went to have a look several passers-by had been in the field and there were footprints joining the circles."

"Some of the corn was still standing in the circles, they were not symmetrical and the large one did not appear to be entirely round and the smaller ones were different sizes and were not evenly spaced."

"By what I hear, circles that have been formed by

whirlwinds nearly always appear on flat land. It is unusual for them to turn up on sloping fields as they have in these instances," said Mr Wrayford.

The central circle at Yeo Farm is 22ft in diameter and the four smaller ones are in the 8ft to 13ft range. Saltash ufologist Mrs Marilyn Preston-Evans was at the scene at 3pm on Saturday but is convinced they were a hoax.

"It was far too convenient to be genuine circles. They were near the road

Author's warning

A WARNING to people to take care when entering genuine circles was issued yesterday by Mr Pat Delgado, joint author of the best-selling book 'Circular Evidence.'

Mr Delgado, of Arleford, Hampshire, a retired electro-mechanical engineer designer who was a member of NASA and worked on the Deep Tracking Station at Australia's Woomera Rocket Range, said evidence showed that many people who had gone into them had felt uncomfortable.

They had headaches, got very irritable and had red sore eyes if they were sensitive to the acquired energy patterns in the genuine circles.

It was unwise for people to go into them unless they mentally asked for protection.

circles phenomena which have been found all over the world with over 1,000 reported in the past decade.

Balloon

Scientists are adamant that the genuine circles are formed by a plasma vortex which corkscrews into the ground and can occur on hot days which are followed by particularly cold nights.

One person who is convinced he knows the answer is the chairman of the Monster Raving Loony Party, Coun Alan Hope, of Ashburton. "You have to look no further than a hot air balloon," he said.

"When it landed the basket created the large circle in the centre and the balloons on the balloon caused the smaller circles around the outside," said Coun Hope, landlord of the Golden Lion Hotel, Ashburton, a few miles from Bickington.

Back to earth. If the circles at Bickington are the work of pranksters it must result in a lot of wasted time for experts. It is also costly for farmers involved.

Real scientists studying the circles always obtain permission first before entering the field, and an appeal is reiterated for people not to go into the fields and possibly damage crops.

Spaceships paying regular visits, UFO specialists claim

Editor's Note: Articles from the Northern News Service are taken from newspapers from nations around the north, translated and distributed by the Novosti Press Agency in Moscow. The Daily News publishes them to give readers a view of issues peculiar to northern areas and as a view of how the news is reported in other nations.

By YEVGENI BUGAYENKO
Northern News Service

In Khabarovsk in the evening of March 21, 1990, bright red spheres stole across the horizon and darted above the ice-bound Amur River. According to witnesses, they kept strict distance. They arrived in force, say militiamen who saw the UFOs and tried to videotape them. As always in such cases, the video ran erratically and through interference, and that was how Khabarovsk television explained the flickering and flashing image.

Witnesses were many. Numerous telephone calls came to the militia and city executive committee offices and military headquarters. Hospital No. 10 called for help: The cigar-shaped object which hovered above it caused panic among the patients and personnel. The militia patrol car hurried to the scene. Spotting it on the highway, the UFO took off.

That was not all. According to a witness, he and his

NORTHERN NEWS

wife were out for a walk in the evening and saw a low-flying "saucer" with a bright surface and running lights all along the board. The UFO was restless and its nose now dipping, now rising.

The sensational news came from a woman criminal inspector. On the day after, she reported an extraterrestrial visiting her while she was watching a TV film at night. Interference choked the screen. Then a breeze seemed to push aside the curtain and a tall creature in a "lustrous suit" with enormous shining eyes and arms which reached below his knees entered. He held an oblong object in his hand. Small wonder the criminal inspector blacked out, seeing the heavenly visitor. Remarkably, in the morning the balcony door knob was electrified incessantly.

The Suvorovski Natisk daily (the Far Eastern Military District organ), which never published untrustworthy reports, came up with the following. Asked if the radars had spotted the UFOs, the anti-aircraft defense headquarters spokesman said: "On March 21, the UFO was observed moving 100-120 meters above ground. It was a black cigar-shaped object 50 meters in length. In its rear part, a ruby glow was seen. The

information was phoned in by the duty officer. Our radars spotted nothing."

Flying saucers are flying above the Far East according to a timetable, specialists maintain. I leafed through the newspaper files for regularly published reports on UFOs. On Oct. 2, saucer-like, ellipse-shaped objects up to 10 meters in length were seen flying in broad light above the river near the Verkhnyaya Manoma village. The sky became a rosy tint. Children ran about, crying "Extraterrestrials have come."

In Troitski-on-Amur, Nainai National District center, many saw a mysterious phenomenon at around 11 p.m. Three bright beams cut the sky and then merged into one, which gradually faded in the dark.

Last January, inhabitants of the Tumnin village in the taiga on the Sea of Okhotsk saw a huge spherical gondo-shaped body, which slowly drifted to the southeast. There were no clouds. Weathermen made an entry in the log, which contains many such entries: "Red, yellow and green luminous spheres observed in the sky;" "an isolated large luminous object arrived from beyond the horizon and hovered above the village center;" "on November 29, an unidentified oval object hovered above the village and emitted three colour beams, lighting the ground."

The daily Magadanskaya Pravda appealed to its readers to establish a UFOlogists' society. The daily Sovetskaya Chukotka devotes an entire page to extraterrestrials. Khabarovsk television has shown two 90-minute "UFO Mysteries" round tables.

The mysteries are many. Trustworthiness and objectivity of observations cannot be always verified. In most cases, television and photo cameras fail when it comes to filming UFOs. But there are irrefutable proofs, which only make scientists shrug. The breath-taking one is the Dalnegorsk phenomenon.

On the fringes of Dalnegorsk (a city in the Far East) four years ago, a spaceship had an accident on Height 611. According to witnesses, it happened at 5:55 p.m. The low-flying reddish sphere was moving noiselessly towards Height 611. Reaching it, the sphere went down, then up and again down, eventually catching fire. Aflame, it made six attempts to take off. One hour later it slowly rose and flew away.

Expeditions from the Far Eastern Scientific Center and other notable institutions inspected the site. Opinions differ. Enthusiast Valeri Dvuzhinski, who was a teacher when the accident happened and now heads the anomalous phenomena commission Far Eastern group of the Academy of Sciences'

Siberian branch, gives the following facts. Instruments registered six anomalous points on the site. Strange iron and lead drops and welded, not charred, pieces of wood were found. Atop the hill extraordinary finds were discovered.

Firstly, the "grid," which no one can explain what it is. Scientists from the Institute of Chemistry say, "We don't know how this substance was formed. Nothing like it exists." Another mystery is the quartz-sheathed gold thread 17 microns (three times less than human hair) in diameter.

Three days after the accidents, scientists rose to the hill, where they lost coordination and fell down. They all registered unexplainable changes in the blood and high blood pressure.

Explanations of these mysteries also are many. Dvuzhinski cites dozens of other anomalous phenomena which occurred above the Far Eastern taiga. For example, on the night of Nov. 28-29, 1987, 33 UFOs were seen. Thirteen UFOs passed above Dalnegorsk. Five of them hovered and searched the earth with their beams, while the other four flew above Height 611 between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Too fantastic? But then again time will tell.

Yevgeni Bugayenko is a Novosti correspondent.

Prehistoric death rituals theory to crop phenomena

CIRCLES OF ENERGY FROM ANCIENT CULT

COULD THERE be a link between an ancient death cult and the mysterious outbreak of crop circles?

A local man believes there is. The strange phenomena has baffled scientists and has spawned theories ranging from UFO's to mini-whirlwinds.

The appearance of five circles in a cornfield near Alfriston three years ago heightened local interest in the mysterious appearances.

While experts gathered in Oxford last week for the first international conference to discuss the 'circles-effect', David Tilt was out and about investigating this year's bumper crop of circles in fields in Hampshire and Wiltshire.

He is a member of the newly-formed Circles Investigation Group and was one of the research team who worked with Colin Andrews, co-writer of 'Circular Evidence'.

Mr Tilt, of Hindover Road, Seaford, has been researching the problem for nearly a decade.

And he believes the key to this perplexing question lies in a vast prehistoric energy circuit.

He has traced a complex web of energy - or ley lines - running through the circles which inter-link with tumuli, ancient graves and stone circles or henges.

CHARLOTTE DAY talks to a local man who is investigating the phenomena of crop circles

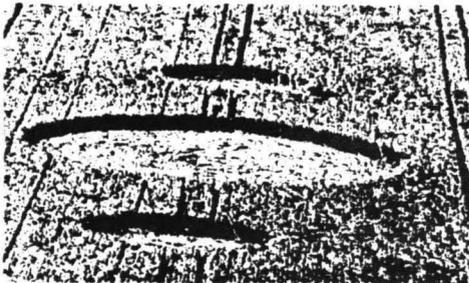
Mr Tilt, a member of the British Society of Dowers, painstakingly plotted the lines between sites using a set of divining rods.

Most people associate dowsing with water divining, he said, but it can be used for anything and he uses the technique to detect archaeological sites.

He stumbled on the seeds of his theory while dowsing Roman and Saxon ditches on farmland near Alceston in 1983.

There he discovered a series of energy lines radiating in all directions, indicating an unusual archaeological site.

He traced one line to a mound in a churchyard several miles away and from there others linking tumuli, long barrows and other church mounds.



TEN YEARS of research has provided David Tilt (below) with, he believes, the key to the sort of mysterious crop circles pictured left June 3/9/7



He said, 'This so startled me because I thought it was natural things we were dowsing and went over the whole area again and found out what it was. It was obviously a henge site.'

Using his dowsing rods, he plotted the whole area and then searched each section in detail, pegging it out and noting patterns.

Said Mr Tilt, 'The result was very interesting, a henge which had been constructed on a geological pattern of energy lines.'

He mapped eight energy lines radiating out from the centre point which appear to have been tapped in numerical sequence and lead to 56 pits dowsed around the perimeter of the site.

A large square shape at the centre features a ground pattern of squares and diamonds marking the tapping points and he believes these were shallow pits which could have had a decorative function.

Said Mr Tilt, 'My research also indicates that all of the sites, henges, mounds and stone circles were constructed in relation to underground water and linked with energy lines.'

Mr Tilt believes the electro-magnetic force-field created by water, combined with the presence of underground quartz deposits holds the answer to the appearance of the mystery circles.

His theory is that lunar gravitational effects on the water and land mass and a build up of electrical charge from the quartz produce periodic energy discharges.

'These appear to be the principle cause of circular field traces.' When this happens, air

which is normally non-conducting becomes a conductor because of the strong electrical field and creates an electric wind.

This not only causes the circles at the henge site but can have an overflow effect creating sister circles elsewhere.

He said, 'There seems little doubt the energy system is the work of a priesthood.'

'The discovery at stone circle sites of graves, each with a line of energy going into it, imply a

probable close association with the cult of the dead.

'It is possible that they possessed some extraordinary knowledge and it was seen as a life-force.'

'The idea that the circles are anything to do with whirlwinds or meteorological phenomena just is not on.'

'I'm 100 per cent certain that the energy lines and the energy system are involved in the creation of crop circles.'

Outback Martian rings riddle

DAILY NEWS, Perth, W.A., Australia - July 9, 1990 CR: P. Norman

MELBOURNE: Researchers have found weird, unexplained markings in Australia which bear an uncanny likeness to unidentified patterns on Mars.

They are some 400 mysterious rings on 60 square kilometres of Mallee land in north-west Victoria.

The UFO Research Society plans to carry out tests on the "ring phenomenon".

Society researcher John Auchetti said most of the rings were spotted on the ground although some formed three-dimensional patterns in the air.

He said they were found by chance while checking 12 sites where wheat had been flattened in a circular pattern.

"Wheat rings" are areas where wheat is bent but not damaged and where the magnetic characteristics of the soil are altered and the ground compressed to the hardness of a brick, Mr Auchetti said.

A special camera which took layered pictures from the ground surface to 600 metres found sets of layers of rings.

He said the society found 79 rings in one square kilometre paddock, some as big as 35 metres in diameter.

And the society drew an eerie parallel with markings spotted on Mars.

'Mini-whirlwinds? It's just not on'

Revealed - secret of new magic circles

WHAT A CORNY

HOAX!

Jokers run rings around experts

By SYDNEY YOUNG

THEY emerged from the darkness at dawn yesterday... the latest mysterious circles in a field of corn.

But in the harsh light of day the shapes were exposed as a sham - a hoax by jokers out to run rings around excited researchers.

An ouija board was found in each of the six circles, with electrical wire and wooden crosses nearby.

And glum Mr Pat Delgado, author of a book on the phenomenon of the ever-increasing circles, admitted he was "totally disappointed". Pat and other experts had kept watch for five days on this field below the White Horse landmark at Bratton, Wilts, in a study called Operation Blackbird.

And before daybreak yesterday they gasped in astonishment as a triangle of glowing orange lights hovered over the corn.

Could this be evidence that the hundreds of circles dotted around Wiltshire and Hampshire were made by visitors from outer space?

Amazing

Operation spokeswoman Petta Simmons hailed "an amazing event".

She announced: "We are studying films and collating data we have collected."

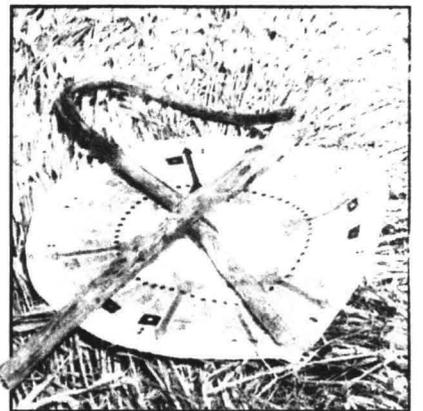
But before long the researchers found that they had been tricked.

Petta's colleague Colin Andrew said bitterly: "This hoax was totally irresponsible - only funny for about ten seconds."

He said his suspicions were aroused when a plane appeared over the site as they examined the evidence.

A local landowner said that young farmers might be to blame for the circles, rough-edged creations compared to smooth patterns seen elsewhere.

But investigations continue into the cause of all the other circles baffling international scientists.



THE CLUES: A wooden cross and ouija board

Theories include whirlwinds, electrical interference and even sex-mad hedgehogs running in ever-decreasing circles.

Visitors

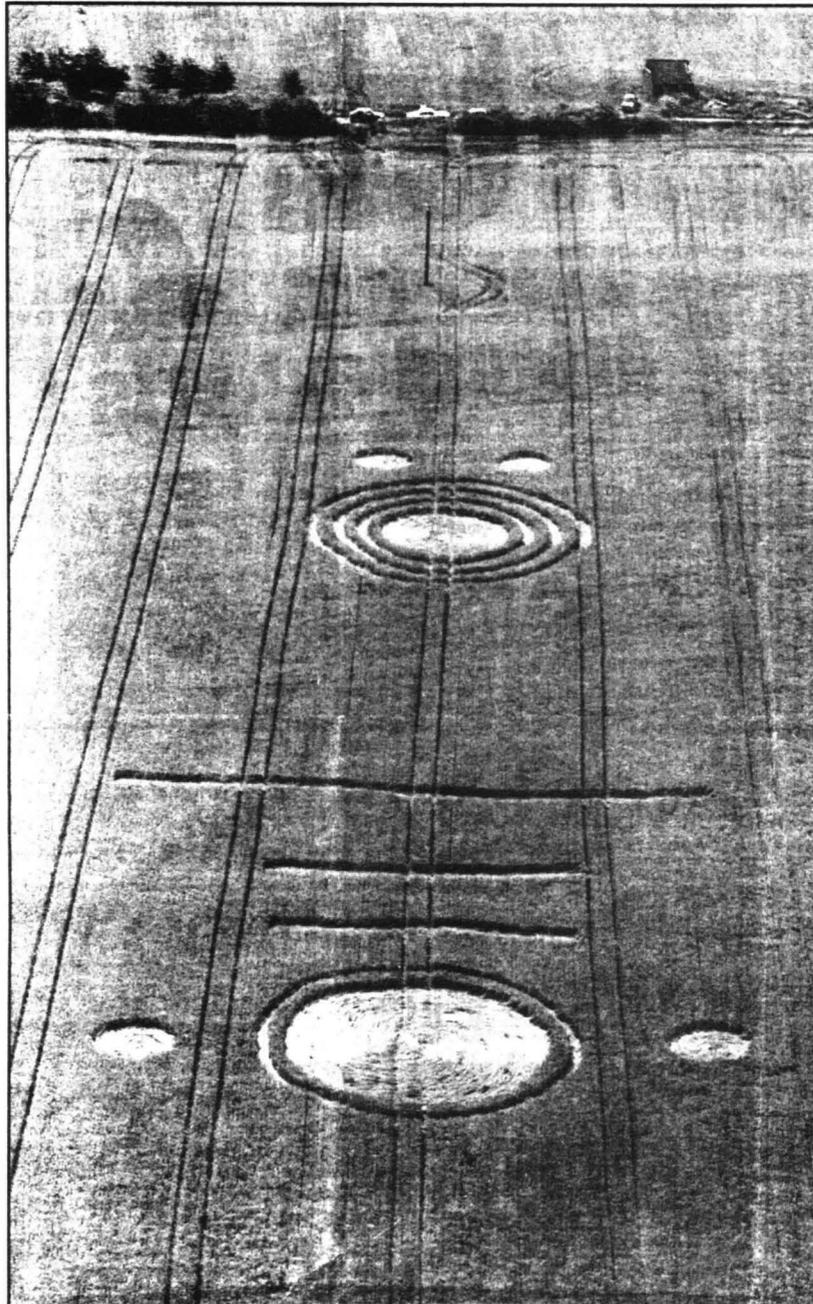
Some punters are betting £100 a time on the culprits being creatures from another planet.

One farmer's explanation is down to earth.

He reckons that crops are growing too quickly and falling over because they have been fed with over-rich manure.

Interest in the circles is helping to make farmers rich, too.

They are charging visitors £1 to look at the circles on their land. One has made £1,000. The corn is turning to gold.



THE PATTERNS: Six circles that appeared in the cornfield yesterday - and excited the researchers

NORTH-WEST STAR, Mt. Isa, Queensland, Australia - July 25, 1990

UFO made travellers stop, look and listen

An unidentified flying object was seen on the Mount Isa to Camooweal section of the Barkly Highway on Monday night.

Ray and Julie-Anne Edwards of Camooweal were driving home from a shopping trip to Mount Isa when they saw the object.

Mr Edwards said that at 6.35pm he and his wife had been about 90 to 100km from Mount Isa, when they saw a sausage-shaped object, which appeared to be about a foot long, from where they could see it.

He said that in the twilight, it was difficult to see the detail of the object.

It had a number of green lights, and one large, very bright, white light.

"It was a real big white, fun-

ny-looking light," Mr Edwards said.

"I have never seen a white light like it before. I have seen hot metal, but this was brighter."

They had stopped the car to watch the object, and kept it in sight for five minutes, before it took off.

He said it had not made any sound at all, as it moved off to the north.

"It looked about a foot long, shaped like a sausage, and it went down to a pinhead size in no seconds," he said.

"It went north, toward the Gulf, between Darwin and Normanton direction."

"I don't think any plane made could ever make that speed, and with no noise."

"Before it took off, I got out of the car to have a look at it and it moved and sort of hung there, then that's when it took off."

"I have seen Min Min Lights before and this was different. It was green and up in the air."

Mr Edwards said he had not been drinking at the time and his wife did not drink at all.

His wife usually had a camera in the car, but did not have it with her on Monday night.

He said two other cars had also stopped, so other people had also seen the object.

Sergeant Mick Brown of Mount Isa Police said yesterday that police had not received any reports of sightings of an unidentified flying object.

More mystery circles appear

MORE of the mystery circles which have been baffling experts have appeared near a South Devon village.

The first of the strange rings appeared about two weeks ago in a field near Bickington.

Now more have appeared in a cornfield near the Dartmoor Halfway Inn on the Newton Abbot to Ashburton Road.

"It's most strange," said the landlady of the pub, Marlene Huggins. "They weren't there one night but our chef, Ian Davey, spotted them on his way in to work in the morning."

One large perfectly formed ring with four smaller ones can be seen in the cornfield which is just off the road.

"There are no footprints in

the field so I've no idea how the circles got there," said Mrs Huggins.

"I'm not convinced by any of the explanations that have been given."

Everything from UFOs to mini hurricanes have been given as causes of the strange phenomenon which is baffling experts nationwide.

The latest field to be attracting their attention belongs to farmer Mr Colin Wrayford.

Explanation

His mother Barbara thought the explanation was an earthly one.

"I think it's probably Scale Hayne students having a prank!" she laughed.

But the agricultural college has denied all knowledge. So the mystery lingers on.

CR: P. Norman

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, Devon, England

June 25, 1990 CR: T. Good

Sapa-Reuter

Moscow
THE Soviet Union will overcome its economic crisis within five years, possibly helped by beings who circle the earth in flying saucers, according to the 400-year-old Russian Order of Wizards.

The Order is so determined to spread the word that it has appointed its first Press officer.

In a long interview with the Communist Party daily, Pravda — published on Sunday — the Press officer, Mr Yuri Tarasov, said the Soviet people should be patient and let the government sort out the ailing

Red wizards look to UFOs for help

economy.
Mr Tarasov took pains to portray the Order as a serious scientific body far removed from the hordes of faith healers and magicians who have surfaced since Soviet President, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev encouraged the media to be more open.
"We are seriously worried by the appearance of masses of

charlatans and semi-literate grandmothers who are ready to do things for large amounts of money," he said.

Russians are notoriously superstitious and faith healers, Mr Anatoly Kashpirovsky and Mr Allan Chumak regularly attracted many millions of viewers when they had their own television shows last year.

Pravda described Mr Tara-

sov as an intelligent, well-dressed tee-totaller, far removed from the evil old wizards with gloomy faces who frequent the books of Russian fairy tales.

Almost inevitably, the interview turned to flying saucers, a favourite topic among Russians who were transfixed by reports that pistol-packing three-eyed aliens had landed in the southern city of Voronezh last year.

Mr Tarasov said: "Flying saucers do not come from outer space, but are manned by representatives from a parallel civilisation here on earth, which is much more advanced than we are."

Lovers entertained by UFO

NORTH BAY, Ont. (CP) — A couple says they got more than they bargained for when they parked at night at a lakeside dock.

College student Dawn Stanger, 29, and boyfriend Jake Johnston, 42, say they saw a bright, silent ball of light with colored lights spinning around it. They say they watched it for about 20 minutes, saw it split into two smaller balls, join up again, and hover.

"It wasn't lightning and it wasn't swamp gas and it wasn't a weather balloon," says Johnston.

He said he also spotted a UFO when he was a teenager in the Bruce Peninsula area.

For Stanger, the experience lingered — "I felt like someone was watching me the whole night."

"It scares you. There may be something out there. Another life on other planets."

They reported what they saw Monday night to CFB North Bay.

Maj. David Kiley, squadron operations officer at the base, said most reports of UFOs turn out to be weather phenomenon, aircraft or falling satellites.

"We get a lot on the Northern Lights," he said.

Denise Cardinal, who files UFO sightings at the Herzberg Institute for Astrophysics in Ottawa, said the North Bay case can't be explained because there isn't enough information.

"Once in a while, we get an unusual one, but most of the time it's bright lights in the sky — very normal — it could be anything at all," she said.

Belgians, air force mystified by UFOs

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUSSELS, Belgium — This country's air force has joined scores of Belgians befuddled by hundreds of UFO sightings across night skies in recent months.

In the latest report, two air force F-16 jet fighters used their radar screens to track an object that, according to a military official, "exceeded the limits of conventional aviation."

Speaking at a news conference Wednesday, Belgian Air Force Col. Wilfried de Brouwer said the UFO dived from about 10,000 to 4,000 feet in two seconds. At the same time, it increased its speed from 600 to 1,100 miles an hour.

De Brouwer said the air force decided to wait before announcing the sighting in the early hours of March 31 "because we wanted to compare the radar sightings by our pilots with observations from radar stations."

Since last fall, hundreds of nighttime sightings of UFOs have been reported over southern Belgium.

Many have been explained. In one case, the UFO turned out to be a vertical laser beam used by a discotheque to attract clients.

However, de Brouwer had no explanation for the sighting by the F-16s, which approached within 12 miles of the UFO.

Soviet defense unit scrambles to check sightings of UFOs

Pilots, radar spot 'flying saucers'

By David Wood
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — The Cold War may be over, but the Soviet Union's military air defenses are struggling with a new threat: an apparent invasion by flying saucers.

Dozens of sightings of unidentified flying objects — disk-shaped spacecraft with blinking lights and performing impossibly high-speed maneuvers — have been recounted in the past few months, including eyewitness reports from Soviet interceptor pilots that reportedly have been corroborated by surveillance radar.

"I am not a specialist on UFOs, and, therefore, I can only correlate the data and express my own supposition," said Gen. Igor Maltsev, chief of the main staff of the Air Defense Forces.

And what is Maltsev's supposition? That UFOs exist and are piloted by extraterrestrials, he indicated in an interview with a Moscow Communist Party newspaper, *Rabochaya Tribuna*.

And they may not be friendly. Vladimir Akhaltsev was driving his milk tanker truck one night in May when he noticed a shining ball following him. He tried to outrun it, gunning his rig to 60 mph on the twisting road several hundred miles south of Moscow before the UFO gave up the chase.

Farmers who also saw the shining ball were said by the local newspaper to have demanded, "If thirsty humanoids steal our driver, who is going to deliver the milk?"

Other Soviet reports, monitored and distributed without comment by the U.S. Air Force's Technical Information Division and by the State Department, have UFOs sniffing around politically restive Estonia, probing with mysterious light rays a buried gas pipeline in Siberia, and hovering over the village of Dalnegorsk in the eastern Soviet Union.

The Soviets, a deeply superstitious people with a historic mistrust of foreigners, have a ready explanation: Space aliens, perhaps running out of supplies at home, are after their natural resources.

Whatever their purpose, reports of alien visits are exhaustively checked by the Soviets' elite Air Defense Forces, which operates the military's most sophisticated aircraft and the most powerful system of ground-based surveillance radar networks in the world.

The Soviet air-defense unit has had a bad case of the jitters since 1987, when a 19-year-old West German on a lark flew a single-engine Cessna unmolested through 400 miles of Soviet airspace before buzzing President Gorbachev's Kremlin office and touching down in Red Square.

Today, with those unpredictable Americans flying around in "Stealth" aircraft, no general or lowly radarman is going to overlook an unexplained radar blip or ignore a hysterical phone call.

An example is the call from several Soviet policemen who breathlessly reported last spring that they had been shadowed by "two disk-shaped UFOs" near Krasnoyarsk.

Or, the ominous report from Maj. V. Stroynetskiy, who along with "several hundred other witnesses" claimed to have seen numerous blinking, iridescent UFOs cavorting over a highway outside Moscow.

Soviet Lt. Col. A.A. Semenchenko was properly cautious when he and other pilots recently were sent aloft to check out a UFO at 6,000 feet over Pereslavl-Zaleskiy, a city northeast of Moscow, according to after-action reports released by Maltsev and published by *Rabochaya Tribuna*.

"I visually detected the target, designated by two flashing white lights, at 2205 hours," Semenchenko reported.

Capt. V. Birin said the object "looked like a flying saucer with two very bright lights along the edges."

In confirmation, ground-control radar said, "At 2203 hours, a fighter aircraft appeared in the field of observation. . . . While the fighter was approaching the object, the latter disappeared."

Capt. V. Ivchenko and other pilots said the UFO's lights flashed more quickly as the spacecraft accelerated.

DAILY EXPRESS, London, England - June 25, 1990 CR: T. Good



UFO 'shot down by Russians'

From GRAHAM LEES
in Munich

SOVIET fighter planes shot down a giant UFO, and the wreckage was later recovered, it was claimed yesterday.

The close encounter was described by Soviet scientists at an international conference on UFOs in Munich, West Germany.

The scientists said the incident had been kept quiet by the Soviet military authorities, but documents and a picture of the UFO wreckage had recently been leaked.

Two MIG 25 fighters allegedly intercepted the UFO in a remote region of Azerbaijan in 1983. They fired two rockets when it turned on to a collision course.

The pilot's report said the UFO turned a bright colour and fell to earth.

The wreckage was discovered by two mushroom pickers who later died — apparently from exposure to radiation.

TIMES, London, England - July 5, 1990

Nicholas Beeston

People in southern Russia appear to have developed a fascination for UFOs rivaling even that of the supermarket tabloid press in America.

After an initial sighting last year of a UFO near the city of Voronezh, which was at first dismissed as the side-effects of the city's notoriously considerable consumption of vodka, hardly a week goes by without another claim being reported.

The UFO crews, who normally speak perfect Russian in their conversations with earthlings, appear recently to have become more aggressive, according to witnesses in the region. Two new cases this week in the northern Caucasus town of Nachik enabled the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* to conclude that women are more than twice as likely to be the victims of an abduction attempt by UFO aliens than men.

CR: T. Good

Corn circle peril?

CORN circles continue to inspire debate in Saltsah.

The town's leading UFO spotter has advised people who come across the circles not to enter them without protection.

Marilyn Preston Evans, of Higher Port View, believes aliens have caused the circles using spacechips.

Last week she visited some circles in a field near the Dartmoor Halfway Inn. She sat in the middle of one to meditate on the mystery.

But since then international UFO expert Pat Delgado has advised her this is a dangerous thing to do. Said Mrs Preston Evans: "His advice was it is unwise to enter the circles without protection."

"He said many people feel uncomfortable, have headaches, and feel irritable.

"They can even suffer red and sore eyes if sensitive to the energy patterns."

MERCURY, Leicester, England - July 3, 1990 CR: T. Good

Corn rings not easy to explain

YOUR correspondent, like many others recently, tries to explain the cause of the corn circles with a quick, easy solution (in this case aircraft exhaust gases) without really taking the basic facts into consideration.

■ The so-called "circles" are progressively developing in complexity year by year and in fact this year some have presented a complex dumb-bell appearance for the first time.

■ They tend to occur particularly in a limited area in the south of England

(although they are found in other countries).

■ Once they occur in a field they tend to re-occur in a more complex form in the same field in the following years.

■ The force which produces the effect bends the corn but doesn't break the stems.

Until I hear of a more convincing explanation of this very complex phenomena other than whirlwinds and hoaxers, I will keep a completely open mind on the subject.

DAVID SPENCER,
Oakham.

Ever-increasing circles of bewilderment

Marks that are left by a non-human intelligence



By George Wingfield

No doubt whatsoever that they are intelligently produced. In the last month thousands of people have travelled from all over this country to see them. They may not clearly have understood the meaning of what they saw, but none doubted its importance. Almost all these excited visitors suggested that here lay some symbolic message, which might be understood in time.

If we accept that the circles are the product of non-human intelligence, what then is the nature of it? Certainly the indications are that this is some form of non-physical consciousness, hardly a new concept. Its precise nature is more difficult to describe, but it does not seem alien or hostile. The following account gives some indication.

In June 1989, following a circles surveillance project near Winchester, six people including myself sat in a crop circle late one night. A high-pitched trilling, or whirring, noise started up, which we could all hear, and this moved about in the barley field. Although there was a full moon, nothing was visible. The noise persisted for over three hours, and came right up to the edge of the circle where we sat. The noise moved around us like some living entity, seemingly aware of our presence. Colin Andrews and I recorded this sound, which was later scientifically analysed, but this provided no conventional explanation. When it grew light next morning, a new ringed circle was found 500 yards away in the direction in which the noise had directed. There had been no new circles anywhere near there for three weeks.

spheric event such as a vortex descent. *This energy appears to be intelligently directed.*

The number of circles found in England has dramatically increased over the last few years. There were about 20 in 1986, 75 in 1987, 115 in 1988 and 300 in 1989. So far there are well over 400 in 1990. This is a genuine increase, and not because many escaped attention in earlier years — though no doubt some did.

The extraordinary variety of circle formations and multiple-ring circles is quite unlike what one would expect for a natural phenomenon, such as an atmospheric vortex. The complexity has increased through the 1980s, and this year it has developed at a startling pace.

In May there began to appear what researchers call pictograms. Initially these consisted of two circles joined by a straight channel of flattened corn, with extra features such as rectangles or semicircular rings. There have now been about 20 of these. The latest have quadrupled the length to about 150 yards and consist of complex arrangements of up to nine plain or ringed circles with new features, like "keys", which can be seen in photographs of the Alton Barnes pictogram. Nothing like this was observed in previous years.

To those who visit these prodigious hieroglyphs, there can be

SILLY season press coverage of a faked crop circle formation, which temporarily hoodwinked the Operation Blackbird team at Bratton in Wiltshire last week, has left many people more confused than ever about this phenomenon. The easy assumption that all circle formations are hoaxes will no doubt be made by some, but that is definitely not the case, as all investigators agree. Nevertheless there have been hoaxes, usually easily detected.

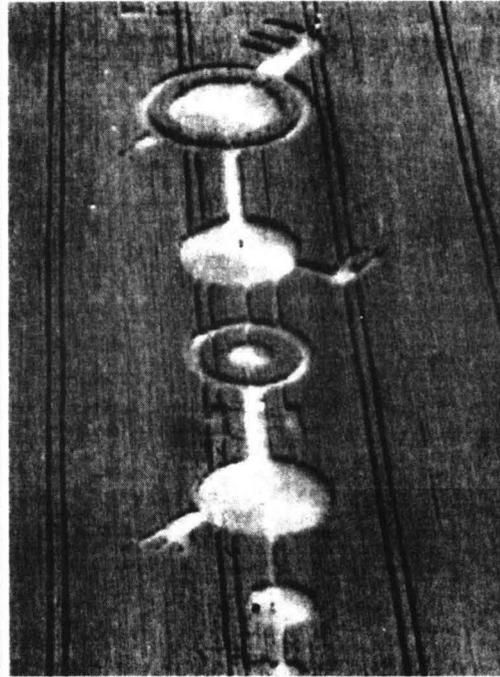
A few people claim to have seen single circles form, and we have no reason to doubt their accounts. They usually agree that nothing is seen as the corn is rapidly laid flat in a circular pattern, though a humming or high-pitched sound is often heard. There are also several accounts of luminous aerial phenomena ("UFOs" in general parlance) preceding the appearance of crop circles, though this is the exception, not the rule. We do not understand the UFO phenomenon and should not assume, as many do, that these are extraterrestrial craft. This is often falsely represented by sceptics as the standpoint of those who maintain there is an intelligence at work here. We can be quite sure that no solid object has landed in the circles.

Then who, or what, is producing the crop circles? First we should rule out absurd explanations trotted out by some sections of the media: hedgehogs, lovesick badgers, helicopters, fungi, subterranean archaeological features and so on.

Equally impossible is the supposedly scientific explanation that the circles are formed by spinning balls of partially ionised air, or "plasma vortices". Although this explanation is superficially plausible to those unfamiliar with the circles, it is at variance with the facts.

For one thing, circles never straddle field boundaries or roads. If they descended from the sky with any degree of randomness whatever, this would soon be the case with the giant formations we are getting in 1990. Another characteristic is that sets of circles often "sprout" new ones close by at a later date. In June I discovered, when flying over a giant triple-ringed circle near Devizes, that it had "grown" a fourth, perfectly concentric outer ring 1,000ft in circumference a week after it had first formed. This seems clear evidence that some energy field causes the corn to fall in geometric patterns (and can be reactivated) rather than a one-off atmo-

This week: are crop rings natural phenomena?



URGED ON by critics who complain that journalists propose explanations for the formation of crop circles on the evidence of aerial photographs but don't go and see for themselves, I went down to Wiltshire last Saturday to have a look.

It was a heavenly day; brilliant sunshine, larks above the cornfields, even the odd butterfly that had escaped the pesticide sprays. The corn was rich and ripe and golden. But here and there, just as promised, it lay flattened in neat circular swathes, the stalks swirling clockwise like the crown of some giant corn goddess's head.

Circles have been occurring since at least the mid-Seventies, mostly in southern England but some as far away as the Grampians in Scotland. Reports have been received of others in France, Japan, the United States, Canada and Australia.

Many have appeared at the aptly named Devil's Punchbowl, near Cheesefoot Head in Hampshire — to the fury of farmers, who lose at least £20 worth of crop per circle, and sometimes more through damage caused by spectators.

It is almost impossible not to be drawn into philosophical speculation. Are the circles evidence of an alien, non-physical intelligence? If so, what is it trying to say? Why has it chosen this method? Is it true that the circles are being monitored by Ministry of Defence helicopters, and that it's all very hush-hush?

If nothing else, the circles live up conversation, but the important thing is that exploring them makes a perfect excuse to while away a sunny weekend. Perhaps the alien intelligence is simply telling us, "Relax, earthlings... enjoy."

Evidence of a new topic in physical meteorology



By Terence Meaden

The circles being found close to hills. In several cases the behaviour of the air and the weather is known; and there have also been several eyewitnesses to the formation of the circles.

A prior condition is often near-calm weather. This happens more commonly by night than by day. When an oncoming wind interacts with a hill, the airflow develops small-scale but violent vortices in the initially quiet air downwind. The energy source of the vortices is the upstream windfield. When the eddies break down they move towards the ground, sweeping out the circles in the crops.

As this happens, the air draws in or separates electric charges, and their concentration rises to produce humming noises reminiscent of high-tension power lines. Luminous effects also develop and have been seen on a number of occasions.

The rotating charges give rise to measurable electric fields, just as they do for the better-known whirlwinds whose electrical origin is the triboelectrical effect — the separation of charge by the frictional passage of air over dust-laden ground.

In the case of the vortex-making circles, the constant rubbing of the stalks and ears of the crop adds to the electrostatic charges and this may lead to vortex lights of a whitish or bluish hue.

The intense spin may also contribute to direct molecular excitation; this would colour the lights orange or red because it corresponds to the emission spectrum of nitrogen and its oxides. Such colours have been reliably reported.

Four circle-formation events have taken place in daylight with witnesses a few metres distant. The circles formed rapidly, in a matter of two or three seconds at most, under the effect of locally gale-force winds, while the observers stood nearby in virtually calm air.

A fifth event, in Wales, happened at dusk, when the movement of charges flowing across the crop canopy was visible as they proceeded towards a large orange-yellow ball of light spinning just above the wheatfield.

Two other events happened in the middle of the night last summer, one in Wiltshire, the other in Kent. In one an orange ball of light was seen descending into a wheatfield, its base flattening as it bounced on the crop. At its second approach the luminosity vanished as the spinning vortex screwed itself into the ground.

It is fair to ask why so many and such complex circles occur in central-southern England. The answer lies in the nature of the low, smooth, rolling hills: they are made of chalk, which, my preliminary research indicates, plays a role in the electrical process.

As for the other shapes reported recently, such as the rectangles and three-fingered "claws" at Alton Barnes in Wiltshire, these display parts of the internal structure of the vortices resulting from irregular impact with the ground.

In short, nothing has been discovered that is incompatible with the concept of electrified vortices as the origin of the circles. Research along these lines has begun.

University professors and other professional scientists recognise that the circles effect is a completely new topic in physical meteorology and that it offers an unexpected research tool in understanding the microscale behaviour of the atmosphere.

Following the success of the Oxford conference on circles a month ago, steady progress is to be expected as more professional scientists apply themselves to this intriguing problem.

The writer is a former professor of physics and is now head of the Circles Effect Research Unit.

CIRCLES have been reported in many countries for many years. A splendid tale dated August 1678 and reported in a contemporary pamphlet deals with an argument between a mower and a farmer in Herefordshire. The dispute led the farmer to declare that he would rather the devil mow his oats than the poor mower, but he was taken aback when a strange light was witnessed in the field that night and a circle found the next morning. Such stories confirm the validity and historicity of the circles.

Since August 1980 I have investigated the phenomenon in which neat rings and circles ranging in diameter from that of a cartwheel to a circus arena appear in farmers' fields. In 10 years I have surveyed hundreds of circles and compiled statistics on more than 1,200. Plain, single circles predominate, but marvellously complex patterns and groups are occasionally found.

These complicated patterns cannot all be hoaxes. Everyone who examines circles on site is impressed by the outward swirling of the corn, the interwoven layers, the twisted straws and the occasional double centres — evidence enough to show how impractical it would be to fabricate them.

Yet, as a crop specialist, Dr John Graham (head of agronomy at Shuttleworth College, Cranfield Institute), has recently confirmed, the bending of the stalks is no different from that caused by ordinary wind-blown "lodging".

Indeed, there is no evidence that these tantalising circles are anything other than natural. They are certainly not caused by aircraft or animals, and there is no proof that they arise from the influence of some alien species.

This sort of suggestion — typical of non-scientists — is an entertaining diversion, but a wild guess nevertheless. Its supporters arrogantly reject the applicability of the physics upon which our technological civilisation is based, and prefer instead to devise a pseudo-scientific nonsense drawn from the pages of science-fiction writers.

On the other hand, considerable proof exists of my proposal of an aerodynamical origin for the circles, an origin topographically related to vortex formation. (This is detailed at length in my book *The Circles Effect and its Mysteries*.)

The vortices, and hence the circles, are caused by windflow past natural obstacles: practically all



Evening Tribune photographer Matt Page reports on crop circles at Haslemere Research of the British Crop Circles Society in a field near Coventry Gilding Club.

Appeal to help solve crop mystery

EVENING TRIBUNE, Nuneaton, England - July 20, 1990 CR: T. Good

North Warwickshire residents have been urged to watch out for sightings of the bizarre crop circle phenomenon.

The plea comes from a group of scientists who are helping to keep Mrs Thatcher up to date on the strange sightings in Britain's crop fields.

They are currently recording ten to 15 sightings a day, and one of the latest was at Husborne Bosworth in Leicestershire.

Mr Colin Andrews, the Anderson scientist in charge of the investigation into crop circles, said: "Since the first week in May there have been well over 300 sightings of these circles."

"There have been all kinds of theories such as UFO landings and whirlwinds but really the truth is that no one knows for sure what does cause them to appear."

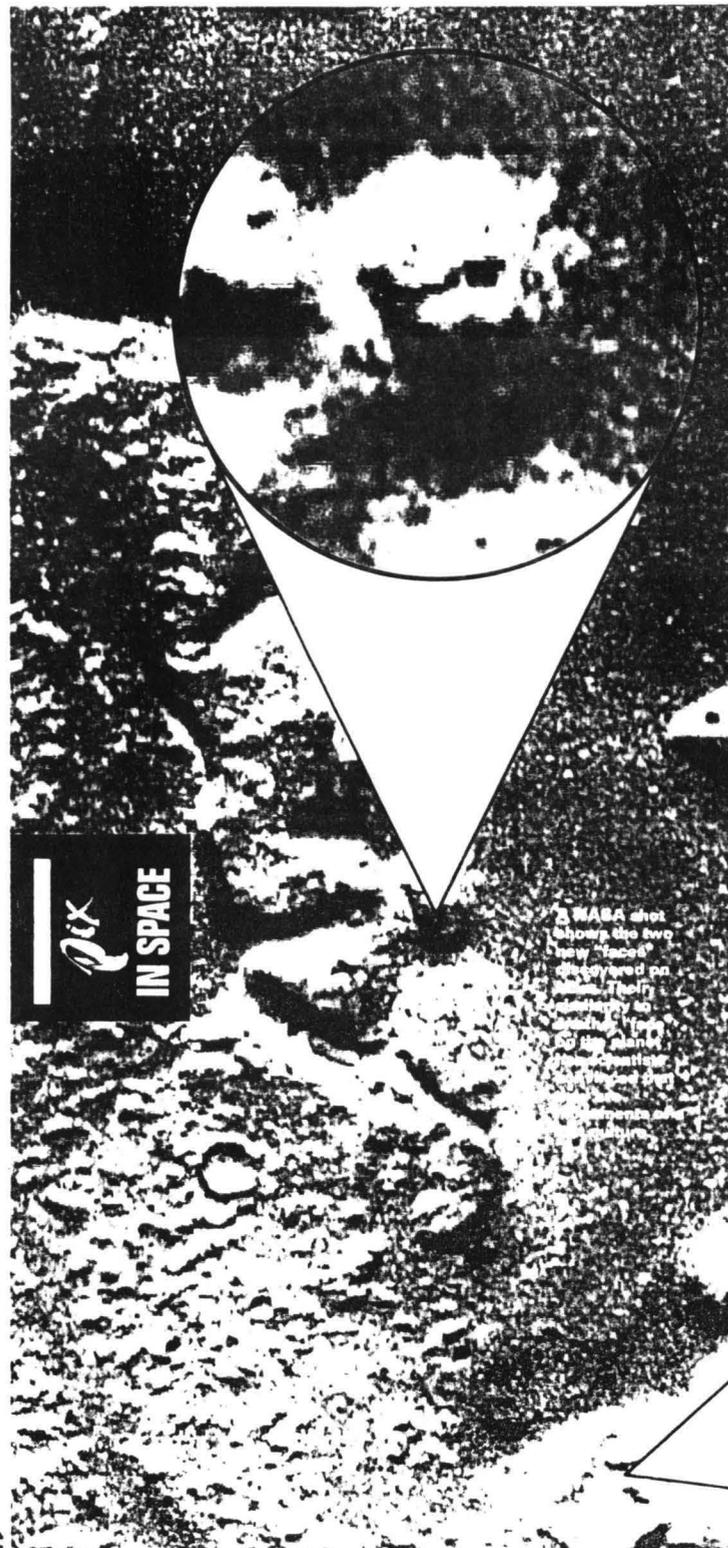
"We would like to hear from anyone in Warwickshire who may see sightings of crop circles, or oblongs and so on, some can keep bringing the evidence up to date and discover what on earth is happening."

Mr Andrews said 50 other scientists were working closely with him on the investigation and that they were hopeful central Government would properly fund research as well. Anyone with sightings should ring Mr Andrews on 0254 58402.

Forget men on the moon. Here's...

NEW PROOF OF LIFE ON MARS

As these exclusive NASA photos show, the 'men on Mars' myth now takes on a startling new significance with the discovery of two new 'faces' on the red planet



A NASA shot showing the two new 'faces' discovered on Mars. They are believed to be the remains of a lost civilization.

Was there life on Mars? Scientists haven't stopped arguing about the red planet's unique features since American space missions photographed them in 1972 and 1976.

Recently the debate has heightened with the confirmed discovery of two more "faces" on Mars, in addition to a visage-like structure spotted on one of those missions.

Some scientists claim these "faces" are actual monuments from a lost civilization, while others maintain they are merely random geographical patterns.

But there is one thing they agree on — the space missions' shots revealed several highly unusual rock designs on Mars.

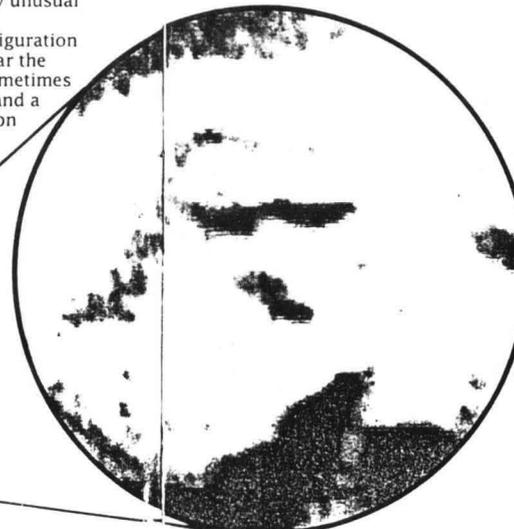
They include a configuration of huge "pyramids" near the planet's South Pole, sometimes called the "Inca City", and a giant "face" in the region known as Cydonia.

The face looks like a giant sphinx, set squarely in the

By Brian Crowley
red planet's timeless sands, and is about the same size and shape as our own Ayers Rock.

This enigmatic visage has been described as "simian" and "monkey-faced", with some scientists even claiming it resembles Jesus Christ and comparing its features with those on the controversial Shroud of Turin.

More conservative scientists believe it is a natural formation, possibly caused by wind erosion. Their views reflect established scientific theory, which dismisses the idea of a former civilization leaving behind great monuments.



However, meticulous computer image-enhancement work by two former National Aeronautics and Space Administration workers, Vincent DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar, supports the alternative theory that the face is an artefact built by a lost civilization.

DiPietro and Molenaar used their unique techniques to develop some startling colour-enhanced details of the Cydonia face that reveal, among other things, an eyeball in

its one visible eye-socket. Another US computer enhancement specialist, Dr Mark Carlotto of the Analytic Science Corporation in

Reading, Massachusetts, has since produced separate blow-up pictures that clearly show teeth in the mouth area.

And the latest research from DiPietro and Molenaar suggests that there are two other faces on Mars — at least one of which matches the Cydonia face in many key details.

This new evidence points away from the "wind erosion" theory and backs up the higher culture argument.

DiPietro and Molenaar discovered the two new faces in the region known as Utopia.

The first face bears a particularly strong resemblance to the Cydonia face.

The first Utopia face and its Cydonia counterpart share three key aspects: an indentation above the right eye cavity, a distinctive notch in the cheek below the eyes and an Egyptian-style "headdress" (or is it a space helmet?).

Unlike the Cydonia face, the nose of the Utopia face seems to have been damaged — like our own



This is the red planet's famous Cydonia "face", which started NASA staff speculating about life on Mars.

famous Sphinx in Egypt, which had its nose smashed by a Muslim fanatic around 1400 AD.

The Mars face dwarfs its Egyptian cousin,

measuring about 2.5 kilometres long and 2 kilometres wide. It would have taken considerably more than a passing Bedouin to deface it!

According to DiPietro and colleagues, the second Utopia face, further south, also has the three key markings, but its image is nowhere near as sharp as the other Utopia face.

But why do we need a third face to confirm the existence of a Martian high culture? Shouldn't the two faces already discovered be exciting enough evidence?

PIX GETS THE PICS

FORTEANA NEWS

Does this shed hold the secret of gravity?

ON A freezing winter night in 1984 Sandy Kidd stood in his garden shed, staring in awe at the tiny machine in front of him. There it floated, three inches above his work-top, as if of its own volition.

It was the culmination of three years of almost inhuman toil. Sandy Kidd had just invented an anti-gravity machine, breaking all the laws of physics known to Man. At least, that's what he thought.

Of course, from that incredible moment on, he had to convince a highly sceptical world that he was a brilliant inventor, not a madman.

Today, six years and 40 prototypes later, there lies in the tiny, six foot by five foot garden shed a device that he believes will send aircraft around the world in minutes, and airships through the solar system in hours — on just a teaspoonful of fuel. It may have taken a decade and hundreds of thousands of pounds to perfect — but if Sandy Kidd is right, he can expect to go down in history as the man who pushed back the frontiers of space.

I have not seen it work, even less understood how it is supposed to. But British Aerospace is impressed enough to invest in Sandy. Tomorrow, at a modest Press conference, it plans to announce trials at Edinburgh University. It's far too important a possibility to ignore, said Dr Ron Evans of the defence aircraft division. There will be no displays, no details, for fear of someone stealing what may be one of the most significant discoveries this century.

It will be an important day for Sandy. Most men keep their dreams for their midnight hours — never to be shared. Few follow them relentlessly, against all odds.

The little machine he has invented looks childishly simple — two gyroscopes, like children's spinning tops, one at each end of a flexible cross arm. At its most basic, it works by using a model aircraft engine to rotate both the device and the gyros at the same time, creating a mixture of forces to produce lift-off.

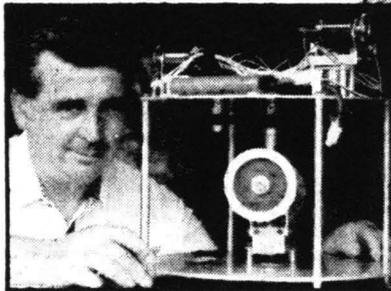
Carried

A conversation with Sandy inevitably sounds like an episode from a sci-fi comic. He talks blithely about the day when a flight to Mars will take 34 hours, while one to Australia will be 20 minutes maximum.

Sandy was an RAF radar technician when one day he removed a gyroscope, still spinning in its box, from a Vulcan bomber and carried it backwards down a ladder. On reaching the ground he suddenly felt a sledgehammer blow, and found himself flat on his back.

He realised that the blow came from the gyroscope reacting to the sudden change in direction.

A leading authority on gyroscopes, Professor Eric Lathwaite, later demonstrated a machine that he claimed produced vertical lift without any external reaction — defying Newton's Laws of Motion which state that every action needs an equal and opposite reaction. It was



SOARING AMBITION: Sandy Kidd and his anti-gravity machine

by ANNE BARROWCLOUGH

all the encouragement Sandy needed.

Family life was lost in space. His wife Janet became used to a solitary existence and started taking all the responsibility for the home. Holidays were abandoned as Sandy put his machine together, using spare parts from the lawnmower, from a car aerial found on a rubbish tip, from any piece of spare metal he could find. At the same time he was working on a book*, charting every move.

The moment of truth, the day he saw his machine go through the earth's gravity barrier for the first time, came on his 47th birthday.

Sandy felt profound relief, but more importantly, anxiety. He believed he had shown it was possible to defy gravity — but didn't know how he had done it.

Regret

'You don't know what you've done when you create a monster. It has taken over my life. In many ways I regret that first success, because of the hassle it has caused me and those around me.'

For years he struggled, his work as an engineer taking a back seat. His colleagues laughed, neighbours whispered, academics scowled. He wasn't the sort they took to easily. Sandy is arrogant and stubborn, a maverick in a

world ruled by the strictures of scientific law. His demonstrations were greeted with contemptuous disbelief.

'They saw me as a charlatan — a Paul Daniels who appeared to be doing magic, but who they believed was just conning them.'

It was not until 1987, when BWN, an Australian high-tech company, offered to fund Sandy throughout his research, that he saw light at the end of the tunnel.

Locked

His battles with British industry and academia left him scarred and embittered. But they also made Sandy determined to prove he was right.

'There were days when Janet would pack her bags and tell me she'd had enough, and nights when I was locked in my freezing shed with the rest of the world asleep, wondering what the hell I was doing there.'

'But I knew that if I dropped it, people would say I had failed, and I would always be regarded as nothing but a crank.'

He may still be, of course. The scientists of British Aerospace will give us the next instalment of this sci-fi obsession. History will decide in the end.

* Beyond 2001: The Laws Of Physics Revolutionised by Sandy Kidd with Ron Thomas (Sidgwick and Jackson, £14.95)



PICTURE: JEFF HOLMES

IDAHO STATE JOURNAL, Pocatello, ID - June 20, 1990

Can't we solve this?

One of Idaho's most vexing mysteries is the question of who, or what, is responsible for killing and mutilating cattle. The latest case to come to attention of authorities appears identical to scores of others in recent years. A 400-pound bull calf was found dead on a farm in southern Bannock County, with some organs neatly excised, and no indication of the cause of death. As usual, there were no footprints or vehicle tracks in the vicinity, and of course, no witnesses.

A rash of mutilations last year in Bear Lake County spooked ranchers and resulted in legislation to strengthen the penalty for such acts. However, someone has to be caught first.

Speculation on the explanation for cattle mutilations has ranged from theories of extraterrestrial beings to satanic cults. Some think sharp-toothed wild animals are responsible.

Those who think unearthly forces are responsible also believe little green people land from flying saucers. There must be a more logical explanation, though ranchers and lawmen alike are baffled. The Idaho Cattle Association has offered a reward for information leading to apprehension of mutilators. Bannock Crime Stoppers also invites anyone with information to telephone 232-1983, and offers a cash reward of up to \$1,000 in case of an arrest.

If humans are involved in killing cattle, someone somewhere knows about it. Let's hope the motive is strong enough for them to speak out.

NEWS-SENTINEL, Ft. Wayne, IN - April 12, 1990 CR: J. Fry/COUD-1

'Hugo Jesus' photo bogus, experts say

From Knight-Ridder Newspapers

GASTONIA, N.C. — Like hundreds of others who flocked to the photo lab at Wal-Mart yesterday, Brenda Cobbs clutched her two copies of "The Picture" and clung to believe.

The 5-by-7-inch photographic prints she bought (\$1.47 each, 23 cents for wallet size) showed what some people say is a robed figure, arms outstretched, floating among sinister dark clouds.

"I believe it's Jesus," the Gastonia resident said. "He was standing over us, watching over us during (Hurricane Hugo)."

The grainy shot, rumored to have been taken at the height of Hugo, is, for some, the area's hottest new article of faith. For others, it is only a fake.

"It's a picture we've seen many, many times before," said Kevin Moran of Piedmont, an expert on the famous Shroud of Turin, "but was made in a dark room."

Copies have circulated in Gaston County for months. Since the Wal-Mart received the picture from a local woman and began peddling copies a month ago, its photo lab has processed more than 1,000 reprints.

"I've had people call on their car phones, I've had requests from as far away as Georgia," said assistant lab manager Paul Greene, who sold another 200 copies yesterday.

Greene and Orville Edwards, manager of the Jack Rabbit One-Hour Photo store, where the picture first appeared, said they have examined enlargements but can't find a flaw.

"Anything's possible, but if it's a fake, it's hard to find," Edwards said. He is giving away copies in exchange for a donation to a Gaston library organization.

At Charlotte's Light Factory Photographic Arts Center, photographers who examined the print proclaimed it bogus. "It doesn't look real to me," said manager Carl Bergman.

Last night, Moran examined the photograph under a computer that measures a photograph's density. It showed the image was not three-dimensional as a photograph of an actual image would be, he said.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - Aug. 6, 1990

Yeti trek

Tass reported that Soviet Yeti enthusiasts left Dushanbe for the Tian Shan mountains, hoping to find traces of the elusive "abominable snowman." Local shepherds and hunters claim that a giant creature more than 9 feet tall and covered with hair lives there. Vasil Koroteyev, leader of the National Cryptozoology Society, based at Moscow's Charles Darwin Museum, has made several trips alone to the region in the past six years. He claims to have once found a footprint 14 inches long on the banks of the Shirkent River in central Asian Tadzhikistan. Koroteyev believes that "we are apparently dealing with a dying branch on the tree of human civilization, although the Yeti's possible extraterrestrial origin cannot be ruled out."

CR: C. Carpenter 18

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - July 18, 1990 CR: G. Conway

Ogopogo seen from kitchen, couple say

Canadian Press KELOWNA — Ann Kline thinks she saw legendary sea monster Ogopogo on Tuesday morning from her Okanagan Lake home — but she's having a hard time believing it.

Kline and her husband Richard were in the kitchen overlooking the lake when they saw a snake-like creature with three humps, a head and a tail swim by.

"I took the binoculars and I couldn't believe it. . . . It wasn't a wave, I have seen lots of waves," she said. Her husband, who is a former seaman and works

part-time as a ship's pilot on the B.C. coast, said the creature was about six metres long and seemed to be swimming at about 10 knots, about 250 metres from shore.

"It had a determined direction, it was just going across. It was weird."

Kline said the humps looked like truck tires and the head had the appearance of an overgrown snake.

She said she had never believed in Ogopogo.

"I feel stupid about this. But if there is an Ogopogo I saw it today."

SOMETHING BIG

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - July 25, 1990 CR: G. Conway

By Glen Schaefer
Staff Reporter

A Japanese film crew looking for Ogopogo yesterday recorded sonar readings of something big moving deep in Okanagan Lake. "They had a sighting this morning on sonar," said Gerry

Frederick, manager of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce. Frederick said the six-person Nippon-TV crew — in Kelowna this week filming a documentary on the mythical sea monster — told local officials about their results at an afternoon reception.

"They tracked it twice — it was moving," Frederick said, adding that the Japanese told him the object was about 10 metres (30 feet) long, and was at a depth of about 100 metres (300 feet). Crew members were unavailable for comment. Frederick said they went back to their search right after the chamber reception.

The crew came to Kelowna on Sunday, and will continue filming until Friday. The crew was searching south of the Okanagan Lake floating bridge when they got their sonar results. Frederick said the results were evidence of "a phenomenon" in Okanagan Lake. "You can't have a 30-foot-long beaver," he said.

EXPLORERS

IN THE TRADITION OF STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE, SOME SCIENTISTS FORGONE THE LUXURIES OF CIVILIZATION FOR LEATHER BOOTS, FUR HELMETS, AND A MUSSET TO NOTHING.

THE OLD-FASHIONED METHOD IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL.



By J. Holland

A

hundred years or so ago, society would have viewed Frank Poirier much differently. He would have possessed that strange aura of men who had seen the ends of the earth and lived to tell the tale.

He would have been called an explorer, an adventurer. And mere mortals would have reveled in his stories of wild lands and the odd people who inhabit them. He would have been a romantic, a loner, a rugged individualist.

But today, Poirier, an anthropologist, is just an ordinary scientist who happens to be facing extraordinary challenges.

A professor at Ohio State, Poirier has spent the last several years chasing legends in the remotest parts of mainland China, hoping against hope that he doesn't succeed. If he is successful, he will have found the mythic Wildman of China. And that discovery will surely spell the end of a creature that has up to now eluded modern man's quest for knowledge.

Poirier has been chasing the Wildman myth for almost a decade, although stories about the beast date back more than 2,000 years. Ancient Chinese poets and historians included the Wildman in their texts, and over the last 30 years, the number of reports has increased considerably.

For centuries, people on many continents have spun stories of a strange, rarely seen man-ape, almost as if there is a basic need to bridge the gap between human beings and other primates. The tales of the Yeti or Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas and of Bigfoot or Sasquatch in the Pacific Northwest have pointed to such creatures. Nearly every culture has tales of similar beasts, almost all of them imaginary.

But the Chinese Wildman may be different.

First of all, the reports of sightings

are far more numerous. And there are the claims of physical evidence—footprints, hair, droppings, alleged offspring of forced unions between human women and the Wildman. But most of these have been easily discounted—until now, perhaps.

In the mid to late 1970s, reports of sightings of the Wildman seemed to be concentrated in the area of the Shennongjia mountains of Hubei Province. The Shennongjia is an ancient relict forest, so remote it has yielded a host of previously unknown species. The Chinese government restricts access into the region, and non-Chinese are seldom allowed in. Poirier was one of the first Westerners permitted access.

In 1982, he traveled through the mountain region of central China looking for the endangered snub-nosed golden monkey. While there, Poirier himself was mistaken for the Wildman. Never having seen a foreigner before, the local residents thought him to be the beast.

Those who claim to have seen the Wildman describe it as six feet or more in height and covered with reddish hair. It is supposed to walk upright but does not use tools or language. It's thought to be herbivorous rather than carnivorous.

Although Poirier was shown supposed hair samples and plaster casts of footprints attributed to the creature, he remained unswayed. In fact, he was all but convinced that the creatures that were being seen—when something actually was seen—were the endangered golden monkey, an animal not recognized by the ordinary Chinese because of its rarity.

He returned home convinced the mystery was solved. But the reports continued, and last year he was invited to lead a British film crew in search of the creature. Along with former University of Arizona researcher Richard Greenwell, they set off to discover if the Wildman was a myth.

They returned to Hubei Province and Sichuan, Yunnan, and Kwangsi provinces as well, talking with the

locals, seeking out testimony from alleged witnesses, viewing more supposed casts and hair samples. Poirier and Greenwell, an officer in the International Society of Cryptozoology, remained unconvinced. But at the end of their trip, Chinese researchers offered to run a series of tests on the supposed hair samples in hopes of classifying the animal from which they came.

They examined the outer structure of each hair, looking particularly at the cells or scales that cover the hair itself. Poirier said that these scales are "quite distinctive, enabling researchers to distinguish between certain species."

The second analysis was a microscopic inspection in which researchers looked for microfibrils or filaments in a cross-section of the hairs. "It's my understanding that most animals don't have these microfibrils," he said, "that only a few higher primates have them. I'm told that they are species-specific; that is, you can tell an orangutan from a chimpanzee from a gorilla, for example."

The third test looked at the chemical content of the hairs, particularly at the iron-to-zinc ratio. That ratio also seems to vary from species to species, is not necessarily tied to diet, and, Poirier says, can be used for identification.

For each of these tests, the supposed Wildman hairs were compared with hairs from various primate and non-primate species, as well as with synthetic fibers. The technicians doing the analyses did not know which sample was which.

In each case, they were able to identify the hairs of other primates—chimpanzee, orangutan, gorilla, and human—as well as the other samples. But the Wildman hairs matched nothing known, according to the Chinese results. They were, however, confirmed to be those of a higher primate and were not those of any known modern ape or human being, Poirier said.

"We haven't proved conclusively that such a creature exists, but we

(continued on page 20)

OHIO STATE QUEST [Ohio State University], Columbus, OH - Summer 1990 CR: J. Fry

(continued from page 19 - OHIO STATE QUEST
[Ohio State University], Columbus, OH - Summer 1990)

have shown the scientific possibility of its existence," he said. "Conclusive proof will only come when someone finds a body."

So, because of the hair analyses, Poirier and his colleagues left China convinced that the Wildman stories might have some basis in fact, but they would concede nothing else.

And that was the end of the story until Poirier was told of a letter sent to his film producer in London. Inside the envelope, carefully wrapped, were

three individual hairs—a portion of the small sample the Chinese had guarded. He had been told that the samples could not be taken out of the country, so he was surprised they had been sent in the letter.

Those three hairs offer Poirier the chance to validate or discount the earlier tests in perhaps the only way left—DNA fingerprinting. Recent improvements in molecular biology coupled with other technological advances now allow scientists to

check the genetic makeup of a sample with only a few cells. They can determine an animal species simply by identifying the common DNA shared in the cells of the sample.

Such a test could tell whether the DNA was that of a known primate or of one science has yet to classify. Poirier is now discussing the possibility of DNA fingerprinting of the samples with colleagues at Ohio State and in London. Similar tests are planned now in China on other samples.

"It wouldn't prove that the Wildman exists, but it would allow some easy answers to be ruled out," Poirier said. "The animal could be a new species or simply one we thought became extinct centuries ago. That test would determine which it was."

So the question of the Wildman legend may be closer to an answer than even Poirier had imagined last year. But that answer would carry its own price: if the Wildman were proven to be a new lost species or giant ape, he's convinced that discovery would spell the death of the creatures. Being involved in the events that would inevitably lead to the loss of such an animal troubles his soul.

The real question, Poirier said, is if they do exist, should they be discovered.

"I'm not so sure that they should. The Chinese are, in fact, concerned about this point as well," he explained. "If they do exist and they aren't a known primate, if the hair analysis proves correct and they are closely related to modern humans, it's going to raise some interesting questions about evolution."

The real dilemma, however, is not one of science but, rather, of human nature. Once found, throngs of researchers, naturalists, and zoos will be fighting to get their hands on this "new" creature.

"Our history with conservation of species isn't very good. If they are there, once we find them there's no doubt in my mind that they'll be gone in no time," Poirier said that the Chinese record in conservation is no better than ours, so the threat to the animal is greatly increased.

"If there is only a small population, then forget it. They'll be completely wiped out in no time. That's the more serious problem," he said. "And I don't know if I really want them to be found or not."

Earle Holland is editor of Quest.

Note: The documentary on the Wildman of China featuring Ohio State anthropologist Frank Poirier is scheduled for airing on the Public Broadcasting System on August 6, 1990, at 8 p.m. EDT. WOSU-TV in Columbus will carry that program at a time and date to be determined.

ANTHROPOLOGY-A FIELD ON THE FRINGE

Sensational scientific puzzles like that of the Wildman often fall within the realm of anthropology, and that is used as a reason by some researchers to discount such stories.

But, in fact, the history of anthropology is filled with stories of radical theories initially discounted but later proven to be true.

"Who would have thought back in the early 1900s that *Australopithecus*, the earliest human ancestor, would have looked anything like the fossil record has shown it to be," said Professor of Anthropology Frank Poirier.

"If any *Australopithecines* had existed and were seen by natives anywhere, and if those natives were interviewed by scientists, I'd bet that every scientist who took down that information would turn up his nose and walk away."

It may simply seem like a case of information becoming available before we are able to handle it, but there's more to it than that. Poirier believes racism and elitism play a strong role in such disbeliefs.

"Anthropologists [and other scientists] aren't willing to accept a native report until they see it with their own eyes. Nevertheless, if the report came from a European scientist rather than an educated native, it would have much greater credibility. We ought to be more attuned to the potential for racism than other researchers, but we aren't."

"When peasants make reports as they do in China about the Wildman, I think a lot of people discount them because they are coming from peasants. 'After all, what could they know?' is the typical response."

"I think that's very, very unfortunate." Much of the problem may lie in the very nature of the science of anthropology. Poirier said that until recently, it was a field on the fringes of science, and it tended to draw in people who were contentious and often egotistical. One well-known study compared anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists, and zoologists by examining their writings.

"In terms of contentiousness and name-calling, anthropologists were far and away ahead, and there is ample evidence to support that conclusion."

"But in their defense, a lot of what anthropologists do cannot be replicated as it can in chemistry, physics, and other 'hard' sciences," Poirier explained. "There is always the potential for argumentation, and that is a big part of the field itself."

—E.H.

Big stink raised over Bigfoot

By ZIVA BRANSTETTER
The Tulsa Tribune

TAHLEQUAH — Two reports of a hairy, stinky creature estimated to be up to 10 feet tall have sent Bigfoot rumors flying again in eastern Cherokee County.

But a state wildlife official says he's sure it's a bear.

Undersheriff Dan Garber said the hairy creature was sighted first on Aug. 1 near a mobile home 10 miles east of Tahlequah in the community of Eldon near the Adair County line.

The second sighting was Wednesday at a residence three miles east of the mobile home, he said.

Garber said a woman who lives in the mobile home reported she "heard a noise and smelled a horrible smell" the evening of Aug. 1. He said she spotted the creature from her window.

"She estimated it to be 10 feet tall and about 400 pounds. It was by her trailer and it took off into the woods," Garber said.

Deputy Joe Weavel, who investigated the reports, said he found several "impressions" in the area where the creature was spotted.

"They were pretty good size. I could stick both my feet side by side into the track."

Garber said on Wednesday, 8-year-old Janet Doss reported seeing the creature near a trash heap in back of her house.

"It was in a garbage pile, just rummaging through it. She saw it and her mother saw it too," Garber said.

"The mother said it stood up and walked down a hill away from the house. Their dog ran out into the woods after it and ran back with his tail between his legs."

Garber said the girl and her mother described the creature as 8 feet tall with "frizzy hair."

"It has a lot of similarities to a bear, but what is unusual is that it's always described as walking (upright) on its feet."

Weavel said the girl "said it was covered in dark brown hair but the face didn't have hair. It had skin."

Joe Adair, district chief of the Oklahoma Wildlife Department, said he has received several calls about the animal.

"I believe it's a bear but I have nothing to base that on . . . I don't believe it is a Bigfoot," he said.

Adair said it is unusual for a bear to walk on two legs for very long. "Most of the time they are on all fours but they can rear up on their hind legs."

Garber said people across the county are talking about the sightings.

"About half the people think it's a bear and the other half is kind of fascinated by the idea that it's a Bigfoot."

The legend of Bigfoot "is not a new phenomenon in this area," he said.

"In the early '70s there was a big ruckus in Adair County" after a creature was sighted several times in the area.

Last year, a creature believed to be the legendary Bigfoot was also spotted in McCurtain County, in far southeastern Oklahoma.

TRIBUNE, Tulsa, OK - Aug. 14, 1990 CR: R. Runnels



FRANK POIRIER

Nippon-TV hunting for Ogopogo

Kelowna grins at the publicity

By Holly Horwood
Staff Reporter

Ogopogo is putting Kelowna on the world map again.

The search for the legendary slithering serpent has introduced B.C.'s Interior city to millions of North American television viewers.

Last year, ABC-TV crews captured several minutes of film showing a mysterious, dark creature leaving a rippling wake on Okanagan Lake.

This week, a Japanese crew from Nippon-TV hopes to have even better luck in an underwater and aerial search for Ogopogo.

"It's definitely good for the community," beamed Kelowna's Mayor Jim Stuart.

Said Chamber of Commerce manager Gerry Frederick: "We're meeting the crew (today) and have an official reception Tuesday.

We're hoping to have them include something about the city in their documentary."

The Japanese plan to spend five days in Kelowna and are hiring five local divers, said author Arlene Gaal, Kelowna's Ogopogo guru.

Last year, resident Ken Chaplin caused a stir when he marketed to the highest bidder some home videos of a "snake" undulating through the water. He got the film on network television, but his efforts flopped when scientists concluded the object was a beaver or fresh-water otter.

Last Tuesday, there were two reported sightings of Ogopogo. Richard and Ann Kline said they saw what they believe was Ogopogo from the window of their lakeshore home. Two men driving over the Kelowna Bridge also reported a sighting.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - July 23, 1990 CR: G. Conway