

UFO

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ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

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SEPTEMBER 1990

NUMBER 254

TIMES BOOK REVIEW, New York, NY - Sept. 9, 1990

Flying Saucers, Seriously



OUT THERE

The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials.

By Howard Blum.
300 pp. New York:
Simon & Schuster. \$19.95.

By John A. Adam

EARTHLINGS can be strange creatures. In Elmwood, Wis. (population 991), they serve U.F.O. Burgers and Flying Saucer Pizza and plan a multimillion-dollar spaceport to welcome aliens. In the Pentagon, secretly sequestered, other humans contemplate how extraterrestrials might be enlisted to boost American might.

These reportings, in "Out There," are not by some

U.F.O. kook or zealous debunker, but by Howard Blum, a former reporter for The New York Times. He began his U.F.O. sleuthing on a tip from an American spymaster while researching his 1987 book, "I Pledge Allegiance... The True Story of the Walkers: An American Spy Family." The hint set him off on a two-year journey on which he encountered scientists and spies, soybean farmers and archivists (but, alas, no aliens).

His story, often narrated in the first person, teases our emotions like a novel while raising some serious questions. Mr. Blum traces the actions of the Defense Intelligence Agency's U.F.O. Working Group, a 17-person camarilla of United States military and intelligence officials. Its lofty mission, as declared in its first meeting in February 1987, is to determine "whether or not the human race is alone in the universe," according to Mr. Blum. Consequently, the group — followed by the

John A. Adam is a Washington journalist who writes about technology and national security.

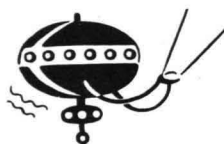
author — culls Government files on aliens since World War II and examines projects like NASA's efforts to find extraterrestrial intelligence in outer space.

Mr. Blum reports several anomalies. In December 1986, the Space Surveillance Center inside snowcapped Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado detected an object whose random flight did not resemble any known operational pattern. Detected and recorded over Texas by several radar stations, the object soon vanished as mysteriously as it had appeared. Its sighting prompted an alert and was mentioned in President Ronald Reagan's daily briefing.

Perhaps the object was a new Soviet satellite or weapons system, as Mr. Blum tells it, but at least one key person, Col. Harold E. Phillips of the Defense Intelligence Agency,



DRAWINGS BY RICHARD MAGURRI



thought it could be an alien spaceship. He put three psychics on the case. Employed with some success in the Government's Project Aquarius to scour the seas for Soviet submarines, the psychics independently

scanned the area over Texas. Each of them sketched a rounded, wingless aircraft. That prompted Colonel Phillips to convene the U.F.O. Working Group.

As part of its investigation (which apparently is continuing), the U.F.O. group sent two C.I.A. agents posing as NASA engineers to Elmwood, where the notion of aliens had captivated a whole town. No secret military projects are located in the area, but reliable townspeople say they have witnessed several strange occurrences — such as a flying saucer whose "blue ray" killed a police officer in 1976. The two C.I.A. agents, after checking local soil samples, medical records and the like, returned to the Pentagon with a souvenir U.F.O. T-shirt but no hard evidence.

After millions of years, the human race has finally developed the technology capable of scanning the heavens for alien signals. The U.F.O. group, tailed by Mr. Blum, visited sites where NASA has radio telescopes; these are expected to be expanded in 1992 to commemorate Columbus's voyage to the New World.

Along the way, the author treats readers to a nice cosmology lesson and explains the reasoning behind the scientist Frank Drake's research, which, if certain assumptions are followed, Mr. Blum says, postulates the plausibility of there being some 40 civilizations in the Milky Way able to communicate with other solar systems. Because it is impossible to disprove that aliens exist, the Government could be considered negli-

'The Government Is Worried'

Throughout lunch at a Greenwich Village restaurant, Howard Blum picked his words carefully, a savvy interviewee minding his p's and q's. When asked whether he was nervous about "Out There," Mr. Blum agreed that he was and said he had reason to be. After two years spent tracking down the United States military's covert searches for extraterrestrial life, Mr. Blum said, he learned that when it comes to U.F.O.'s, "everyone carries their own baggage."

"I get all these calls from people who think the book's great because I've proved that U.F.O.'s exist," he said. He has also received skeptical calls, like the one from a reporter who out of all the book's revelations — the existence of a secret Pentagon U.F.O. Working Group and a cover-up of official U.F.O.-seeking activities — wanted to know if Seymour Hersh, the journalist who first helped Mr. Blum locate his trail, was part of the cover-up. (He isn't, Mr. Blum said.) But all Mr. Blum said he

set out to prove, and all he believes he has proved, is that "the Government is worried about U.F.O.'s. I think it is an important news story. What the Government is doing with taxpayers' money is important, and that is what my book is about."

Misunderstanding, Mr. Blum acknowledged, may be a byproduct of his storytelling methods. To create what he calls a "true-life science fiction story," he delved into his subjects' psyches. He said he wanted to explore the common ground "between the scientists and the true believers. The belief that we would receive radio signals on a certain wavelength from another world is not that far afield from the belief that if you build a landing field in Elmwood, Wis., they will come."

But does Mr. Blum believe in U.F.O.'s? He said he believes in the statistical possibility that "life can exist elsewhere in this universe. As to whether or not this life has visited this planet yet, I'm still skeptical."

JUDITH SHULEVITZ

gent if it showed no interest in communication from far-off civilizations, at least in the form of radio contact.

What Mr. Blum authoritatively uncovers is decades of Government duplicity: making public assurances of a lack of interest in reported visits from extraterrestrials while having some spy types vigorously investigating U.F.O. phenomena. Perhaps most shocking is the U.F.O. Working Group's desire to overturn the State Department's advice that any contact with aliens be open and supervised by an international group of civilian scientists. Unfortunately, Mr. Blum does not report on the outcome of that debate. He also neglects to pursue his initial tip from a National Security Agency senior official, who said: "We're catching a

lot of crazy signals on our microphones and they're not from this planet. That's a fact."

With melodramatic flourishes, Mr. Blum no doubt has satisfied the producers of a projected television mini-series based on his book. But if he had included references to his 212 interviews and some 200 published sources, he would also have satisfied scholars and might have avoided the need for the unsettling refrain "This is a true story."

Nevertheless, "Out There" is a pleasure. As it progresses, the earnest reporter becomes more engrossed in the quest for intelligent life in other worlds and moves from skeptic to true believer. No doubt, many readers will too. □

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL - July 9, 1990

UFO convention a 'class act'

Unforeseen problems forced organizers to move across street

By Adam Lynn
News Journal

The 1990 Mutual UFO Network Symposium held in Pensacola during the weekend was great, but "The Move" was amazing, people who attended the convention said.

The symposium was supposed to be held at the Pensacola Hilton, but problems developed with air conditioning in the hotel's convention facilities, and organizers were forced to seek another location.

"Well, I thought, as symposiums go, it was a pretty class act," said Fred Whiting, public relations consultant for the Fund for UFO Research Inc., a Mount Ranier, Md.-based firm.

"I've been to a bunch of them, too. The folks from the local chap-

ter there in Pensacola were very gracious, especially Ed Walters and his wife (Frances).

Virginia Bolek of Deland agreed. "It was very well organized. Even switching from the hotel over here went very smoothly," Bolek said Sunday from a seat in the Pensacola Civic Center.

But according to Symposium Chairwoman Vicki Lyons, "The Move" was a headache.

Organizers came up with the Civic Center on short notice, Lyons said Sunday, but the group's audio-visual equipment was not big enough for the cavernous Civic Center.

New equipment was ordered, but a truck carrying the equipment wrecked on the way to the symposium, Lyons said. So more new equipment had to be rounded up.

When the equipment did arrive, a crew worked for almost 48 hours straight to get the Civic Center set up, Lyons said.

"The fact that those folks were literally able to pick up and move things literally across the road was amazing," Whiting said.

The new arrangements seemed satisfactory to most of the 600 MUFON members who attended.

"A lot more people are involved in this than I thought," said Barbara Coulter of Ormond Beach as she gazed around Sunday. "The speakers were great. They gave very accurate information."

Next year's convention will be held July 5-7 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago.

DATLY QUILL, West Plains, MO - Aug. 24, 1990

CR: K. Sandberg

Flashing lights bedazzle people

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A cluster of flashing, multi-colored lights traveling through the sky Thursday night bedazzled and confused onlookers in different parts of the state.

"It was moving quietly, and parallel to the ground," said Kristy Buckles, 36, of Lincoln. She said she was walking her dog about 9:30 CDT when she saw the lights, which were heading northeast.

"It appears there was something at the head of these lights, something metallic," she said. "They traveled hundreds of feet, then they went through some

clouds."

John Kobar, meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Grand Island, and a dispatcher at the Douglas County Sheriff's office said they received a number of calls about the lights, described like a July 4th fireworks display.

Radio station KLWN in Lawrence, Kan., reported flashing light sightings there, in Kansas City, and Topeka by a tower air traffic controller.

People said they saw two parallel lights with a streak of flaming light behind, like a comet.

1965 Kecksburg UFO case will resurface on TV show

By Sharon Santus
TRIBUNE REVIEW

A film crew from the NBC program "Unsolved Mysteries" will arrive in Westmoreland County today to explore the baffling 25-year-old Kecksburg UFO case.

Shannon McGinn, segment producer, said the story will be featured in one of the show's early broadcasts this fall.

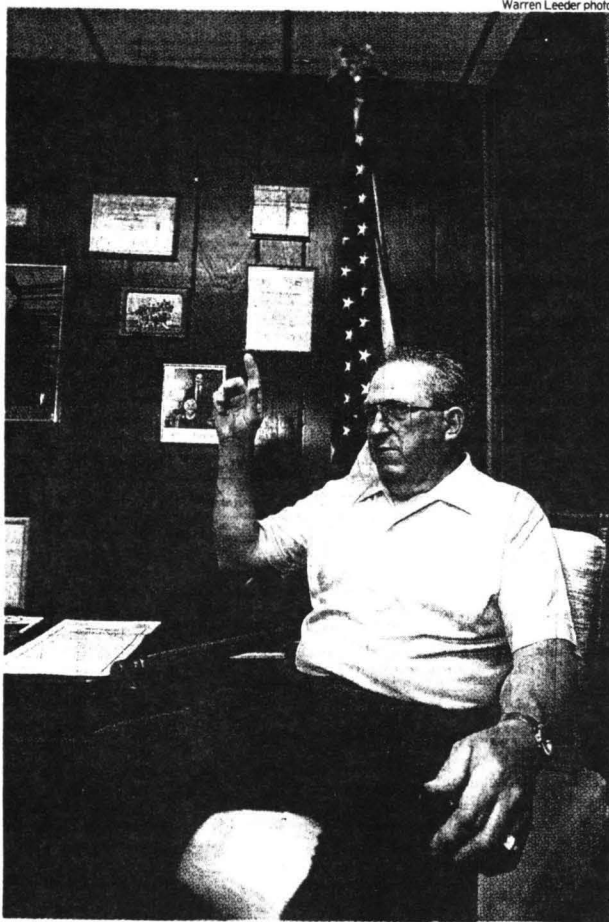
"We're very excited about this particular segment," McGinn said. "Usually, our film crews are on location for three to five days, but we're going to be in Westmoreland County for a full six days. This is a big story for us."

McGinn said her crew will conduct interviews at Mountain View Inn east of Greensburg over two days with various witnesses and with researchers and experts. She said the crew will go to Kecksburg Sunday to film the outdoor footage with a full cast of actors and extras over four days.

Shortly before sundown Dec. 9, 1965, witnesses reported seeing a fiery, bright orange object streak across the sky over Michigan, the tip of Ontario and western Lake Michigan. The fire ball continued its descent and finally glided to earth in a densely wooded area near Kecksburg.

Emergency personnel and the curious streamed to the scene, but only a few made it to the landing site before U.S. Army personnel arrived and closed the area.

Those who did see the object describe it as a gold, acorn-shaped metal craft that did not crash but glided to the ground at a speed similar to a Piper Cub making a slow, controlled landing.



Kecksburg's Robert Bitner tells of 25-year-old mystery

Witnesses reported seeing sparks, blue smoke and electricity arching from the object.

Robert Bitner, who was then president of the Kecksburg Fire Department, said firemen were dispatched after a caller reported "something had fallen out of the sky." He said when he arrived, state police and later Army officers prevented him from going to the scene.

"I don't know what rank these Army guys were, but it was clear they were big brass, not privates and sergeants," Bitner said. "We were all prepared to go down to the scene with them, but they stopped us."

Bitner said a military troop-transport truck was driven directly to the landing site and later that night was driven away.

"The whole back of the truck was covered, so if they did take something away, you couldn't see it," Bitner said. "I'm convinced they did."

When the area was examined the next day, nothing was found.

The Air Force maintains the object was a meteorite and has declined to comment further.

Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, said new evidence has surfaced to prove the object was not a meteor.

"People are coming forward now who have never talked about this before," said Gordon, who will be featured extensively on the program. "We've learned the object attempted to gain altitude and made several corrective turns before it landed. It seemed to be self-propelled."

Gordon said witnesses have described symbols on the side of the object that may indicate it belonged to a foreign government.

John Brandenburg, Ph.D., a Washington, D.C.-based theoretical physicist who works in the defense industry, has studied the Kecksburg case extensively. He said he is convinced the object was extraterrestrial.

"If a man-made spacecraft had fallen out of the sky, it would not have come down slowly," Brandenburg said. "It would have impacted at such a high speed that it never would have remained intact. This object was intact."

Brandenburg, who said the object's slow descent and sharp turns also rule out a meteor, said witness accounts clearly indicate the object was not earthly.

"It's the most believable explanation we have," he said. "It's the only one that makes any sense."

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



ADEL OWENS, 89 years young, explains the strange incident in which she broke her left elbow, to Cherie Kline.

Strange, but true

By Ralph Kline, Jr.

In my visits last week, to some of our elderly Gulf Breeze founders, I was privileged to meet and talk with Mrs. Adel Owens. A resident of Gulf Breeze for over 50 years now, Adel approaches her 90th birthday.

I had promised myself not to do anything about the U.F.O. ordeal, but I feel obligated to report the facts of this unreported incident.

While interviewing this gracious lady, I inquired about the sling on her arm. She explained the following details.

On May 9, 1990, Adel awakened at around 4:30 a.m. to an unusual event. Her bedroom was brightly illuminated by a very strong, blinking source of light outside her window. The radiance of the light through the curtains was unusual in itself. The fact that her only window faces the bay, with nothing between her and the bay except the high, sloping embankment under her 2nd story window down to the water's edge.

Being curious of this strange, intense blinking light, Adel went to the window to observe its source. She says she was so dazzled, when looking out at the light, that she lost her balance and fell to the floor injuring her elbow. After remaining

on the floor in pain for some time, she came to her senses enough to crawl back into bed.

I asked Adel if she could tell what the light was from. She only could explain that she imagined it was a fishing boat or something real close to the water's edge. She imagined it was perhaps a boat with a very bright and blinking light extended very high on its mast or something of that sort. Adel emphasized that the light was much too dazzling for her to see anything else. She did not recall ever seeing this before and has lived in the home for over 50 years. Nor did she recall any sound coming from the area of the light.

Adel made no referrals to a U.F.O., and it was not mentioned during our interview. I, however, went ahead and looked at the area to size up the possibility of her explanation. The water is very shallow for hundreds of feet from the shore and the private piers extend almost as far. The two story home sits high on a hill overlooking the bay.

My commitment to remain neutral and open minded to the whole U.F.O. subject has not changed, but probably means I can never become mayor; however, these facts are interesting in themselves.

JOURNAL, Alexandria, VA - Aug. 30, 1990 CR: L. Bryant

Wanted: Unidentified federal official

Editor, *The Journal*:

A groundbreaking expose of the U.S. government's behind-the-scenes grappling with the UFO problem may set the stage for an equally groundbreaking freedom-of-information challenge to the government's reticence and deception over the U.S. military's continuing role in the politics of UFOlogy.

The expose by investigative reporter Howard Blum bears the title "Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials," just published by Simon & Schuster. In part, the book, a product of nearly three years' research and interviews with Pentagon-insider sources, reveals that in 1987 the Defense Intelligence Agency set up a "UFO Working Group" to orchestrate a coordinated review of the evidence for extraterrestrial origin of reported unidentified flying objects.

Where are the records of the UFO Working Group's operations and findings? How much has the group cost (and is costing) the taxpayer in its pursuit of what many congressional members view as a taboo subject?

The answer to the latter question I'll leave to Congress' investigative arm, the General Accounting Office. As to the former question, I've just put it in the form of a Freedom of Information request to the Defense Intelligence Agency.

No, I'm not naive enough to expect DIA officials to admit to the existence of their clandestine UFO-research program. I fully expect that



Nick Galifianakis/Journal

my FOI request will end up in litigation — where I'll have to prove the existence of the UFO Working Group in order to gain access to its records. Of course, this Catch-22 situation faces anyone who tries to use the U.S. Freedom of Information Act to expose a covert U.S. operation or project.

Accordingly, for success in court, I need to have some success in the administrative stage of my probe. How can readers of *The Journal* help? If any of you with firsthand knowledge of the UFO Working Group are willing to leak some telling documents to

responsible UFO researchers, here's your chance to contribute to greater freedom of UFO information. If you're a former member of the group who can execute a John Doe affidavit certifying your identity (in confidence with the court's judge, of course), please contact me immediately.

Let's not let Howard Blum's efforts go to waste at this turning point in determining what the government knows, and when it knew it, about UFO reality.

LARRY W. BRYANT
Director
Citizens Against UFO Secrecy
Alexandria

Flights of Fancy or UFOs?

■ **Space:** Strange encounters aren't unusual in one small town. But mere mortals, not aliens, may be responsible.

By MIKE CLARY
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

GULF BREEZE, Fla.—As a hotbed of flying saucer sightings, this small town long ago earned its dot on the map—perhaps even the intergalactic map.

Nearby are five major military bases, including one where explosives are tested, and the skies overhead are often chockablock with blinking lights and fiery flashes. Reports of UFOs—Unidentified Flying Objects—are as common here as powdery white beaches and tourists with third-degree sunburns.

But now something more ominous seems to be hovering over Gulf Breeze, casting a long shadow over the once good-natured UFO hubbub. Three weeks ago, local police made a routine traffic stop and came up with six young soldiers, AWOL from their top secret Army posts in Augsburg, West Germany. According to friends, the soldiers had come here to witness the end of the world.

The soldiers are gone, whisked away by a team of CIA and FBI agents that swooped down on Gulf Breeze faster than swamp gas rises. Speculation as to what the GIs were up to, and why they came to Gulf Breeze, has caused a sensation here.

A Pentagon spokesman said the six were members of something called the End of the World cult. Mention was made of The Rapture, when some Christians believe the saved will be taken to heaven, as was a mission to kill the Antichrist. There also were reports that the group was preparing to ascend to heaven via spaceship.

"This was once known as a quiet bedroom community," complains Jerry D. Brown, the chief of the town's 15-officer police force. "But a lot of people are laughing at us because of this UFO business, and now this is what we're getting—weirdos, nuts, people we don't want here."

Visits from mysterious strangers, from Earth or any other planet, are unwelcome in Gulf Breeze, an upscale community of 6,000 residents proud to be an alternative to many of the tourist-hungry beach towns along the "Redneck Riviera," that stretch of scenic Gulf shore from the Florida Panhandle to New Orleans.

Not only is the town's reputation under siege, but both Brown and the mayor, Ed Gray III, believe the UFO hysteria was touched off by a clever hoax perpetrated by a local home builder.

"It's all negative for the community,"

says Brown. "And the only one who has gained is Ed."

"Ed" is Ed Walters, an affable, wiry man of 44, well-known in Gulf Breeze for his custom-built homes, his active role as a high school band booster and for his playful imagination.

Now Walters' renown has expanded beyond this city's two square miles with the publication in March of "The Gulf Breeze Sightings." Co-authored by Walters and his wife, Frances, president of the high school PTA, the book relates in diary fashion what the couple says were several months' worth of close encounters with four-foot gray aliens who sometimes speak Spanish. The visits supposedly began in November, 1987.

Due chiefly to notoriety attending Walters' accounts, the Mutual UFO Network, a national organization that tracks strange celestial activity, picked neighboring Pensacola to hold its annual convention. Just a week before the six AWOL soldiers showed up, busloads of MUFON conventioners toured Gulf Breeze, where they traipsed through the back yards of people who have reported sightings, stopped off in Shoreline Park to eyeball a swirl in the grass that not everyone believes was made by beavers, and gazed hopefully skyward over Pensacola Bay.

And, of course, there were T-shirts. One shows an alien family, back on their home planet, with the youngsters lamenting: "My folks went to Gulf Breeze and all I got was this lousy T-shirt."

For many locals, however, UFOs are no joke. "It was bright blue, and it had several smaller lights around it," said Louis F. Martin, 66, an Air Force retiree who, with his wife, Mary, was sitting under the tall pines in Shoreline Park on a recent Thursday morning. "I never told anyone but my wife here because I didn't know what people would think. I didn't want to look like a fool."

"But now," adds Mary Martin, "a lot of people are coming forward."

Indeed, Duane Cook, editor and publisher of the weekly Gulf Breeze Sentinel, estimates that in the past 2½ years, he's heard of UFO sightings from at least 200 people, including his parents. "I don't buy the visual hysteria bit," he says.

Links between the AWOL soldiers and Gulf Breeze's reputation as a UFO spaceport are intriguing, but vague. All were assigned to the 701st Military Intelligence Brigade. Each of the six—five men and one woman—had top-secret clearance in a unit charged with providing U.S. defense forces with secure communication and conducting research into "other electronic phenomena," according to the Army. Walters

says he heard that the group had come to contact him.

The soldiers were discovered after one of the men was stopped late on the night of July 13 because the van he was driving had a faulty tail light. He had no driver's license. But after the name was run through the military crime computer, Police Chief Brown was contacted, he says, by an officer at the Pensacola Naval Air Station who told him: "Call Washington. They want this guy bad. Real bad."

In fact, the government wanted all of them real bad. After being held briefly at the Pensacola naval base, the six were taken to Ft. Benning, Ga., and then to Ft. Knox, Ky., where the Army quickly cleared them in a routine espionage investigation, issued them general discharges and turned them loose.

Army Maj. Joe Padilla, a Pentagon spokesman, admits that the

punishment. Anna Foster, a Gulf Breeze psychic in whose house the five men had been staying for four days, refuses to talk about the visit. And so the locals are left to wonder.

Ed Walters tends toward the "major government cover-up" theory, the same one, he says, that has been applied to his UFO experiences. "The government can't afford not to [discredit me]," he says. "They have to do away with me. Then the people of Peoria are safe and can go back to sleep."

There are nights when Walters says he can't sleep, however, because that's when the aliens most often came. In his book, he describes being paralyzed by a beam of blue light, suspended four feet off the ground in a failed abduction attempt, and once coming face-to-face with an extraterrestrial, who communicated to him through a grinding sound in his head. He overheard the creatures discuss in Spanish a fondness for bananas. He was told repeatedly that they had come for him. "Photos are prohibited," he was warned during one confrontation.

But Walters got pictures anyway, lots of them, and as UFO photos go, his were pretty clear.

Anonymously at first, Walters began to publish his photos in the Gulf Breeze Sentinel, circulation 4,000. The pictures show a saucer-shaped vehicle cruising over Walters' back yard. At first, editor Cook says, he was skeptical. But Cook's parents said they, too, had seen the saucer.

"If this whole thing were just Ed's story and pictures, I would have gotten off the bandwagon a long time ago," says Cook. "But my folks and half a dozen others saw what Ed saw that first night."

One who isn't joining those he dismisses as "Ed's followers" is Mayor Gray. "I had a great deal of respect for Ed Walters at one time," says Gray, a 38-year-old senior vice president of a Pensacola bank. "I was a friend of his. But I think he's committed a fraud, a public deception for personal gain."

Police Chief Brown, who shares Gray's opinion, admits that he has spent considerable time trying to discredit Walters, and even checked to see if anything he was up to was illegal.

But Brown found no legal wrongdoing. "Using the city to make money is morally wrong if not criminal," says Brown.

In June, however, News Journal reporter Craig Myers turned up a model of a spaceship that looked like those photographed by Walters. The model, constructed of Styrofoam plates and an old blueprint, was found hidden in the attic of a house formerly occupied by the Walters family. The newspaper published photos of the model,

demonstrating how it could have been used to fake UFO sightings.

Days later, Gray and Brown called a press conference to announce that they had interviewed a young Gulf Breeze man, a one-time friend of Walters' son Dan. They said the man told them he had helped Walters make phony UFO pictures by double-exposing Polaroid film. According to a transcript of an interview with Tommy Smith, Walters made his photos with models, a flashlight and colored paper.

Walters denies Smith's allegations. And the model, he says, was planted in the house as part of a plot to discredit him. He says he can prove it was built well after his 1987 photos were taken.

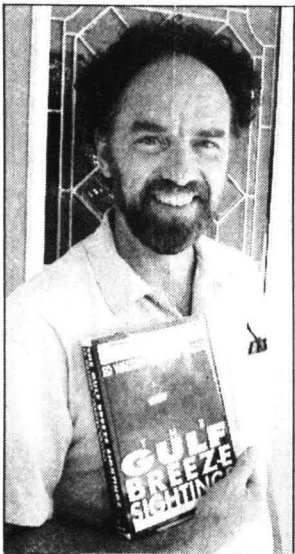
Walters admits he has made money from his UFO encounters. Although he wouldn't say exactly how much, his editor at Morrow & Co., Randy Gil, says Walters received a \$200,000 advance for both the hardcover and Avon Books paperback rights. A television movie is also in the works, Gil says.

Walters has his supporters. Cook says that although he has been troubled by the fact that the only good spacecraft pictures have been taken either by Walters or an anonymous photographer called Believer Bill, too many other credible eyewitnesses have come forward.

Boots Eckert, a math teacher at the high school and a MUFON member, says that from her classroom she can see a large circle of burned grass in a nearby field that experts have been unable to explain. And recently, she adds, her son, now a Ph.D. in geology, told her he witnessed something odd when he was a boy, "but he never told me because he was afraid I'd think he was crazy."

Some Gulf Breeze residents say they are afraid the rest of the world will think the whole town is crazy. "This has hurt the community," says Gray, a Gulf Breeze resident for 28 years. "I get made fun of every day. I try to laugh it off. But others can't." As an example, Gray cites the case of a resident who recently traveled to Tampa to present a scientific paper. "She was asked not to present the paper simply because she was from Gulf Breeze and people wouldn't take her seriously," said Gray.

As for the sincere testimony of others, including a respected councilwoman and the county medical examiner, that they, too, have seen unexplained phenomena in the skies overhead, Gray insists he is willing to believe. "It would be naive to think we're the only life forms in all these galaxies," he says. "They may come. But I can tell you right now, they haven't come to Gulf Breeze."



MIKE CLARY

'The government can't afford not to [discredit me]. They have to do away with me. Then the people of Peoria are safe and can go back to sleep.'

ED WALTERS

desertion of six GIs with top-secret clearance and forged leave papers, who travel 7,000 miles to a tiny town in Florida, "was not a routine AWOL."

But, he added, after all waived their rights to present a defense, the commander at Ft. Knox decided to let them go without further

Network TV returns to Gulf Breeze for UFO follow-up



Recent controversy surrounding the Gulf Breeze UFO photos and mysterious spiral depressions in the grass at Shoreline Park South have sparked new interest by the television networks.

NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries* spent most of this week interviewing key witnesses and reenacting major events.

It is unknown at this time when show host Robert Stack will return or when the show will be telecast. Meanwhile *Inside Edition* also took advantage of the opportunity to update their account of the Gulf Breeze Sightings too.

As always, *The Sentinel* will try to keep our readers informed when these segments will be shown.

The *Unsolved Mysteries* filmcrew rests (and gets some sun) between SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL interviews at the Dunes Motel penthouse. (l-r) Kris Palmer, producer; Liz Elwell, coordinator; Mick Fowler, soundman; Ken Peterson, cameraman, July 26, 1990 CR: R. Reid Steve Schwart, graffie; and Raymond Bridgers, Director.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - July 19, 1990

LETTERS To Ed

Dear Mr. Ed Walters:

I saw and read an article in the *St. Petersburg Times* about the MUFON yearly meeting in Pensacola. I have read your book and was going to write to you before this, but now I feel is the correct time.

Photo #17 in your book is what I saw passing over my car one night in St. Petersburg in the year of 1982. I believe you had all the events that took place as written. What I saw on a night over my car was the same object that you photographed #17.

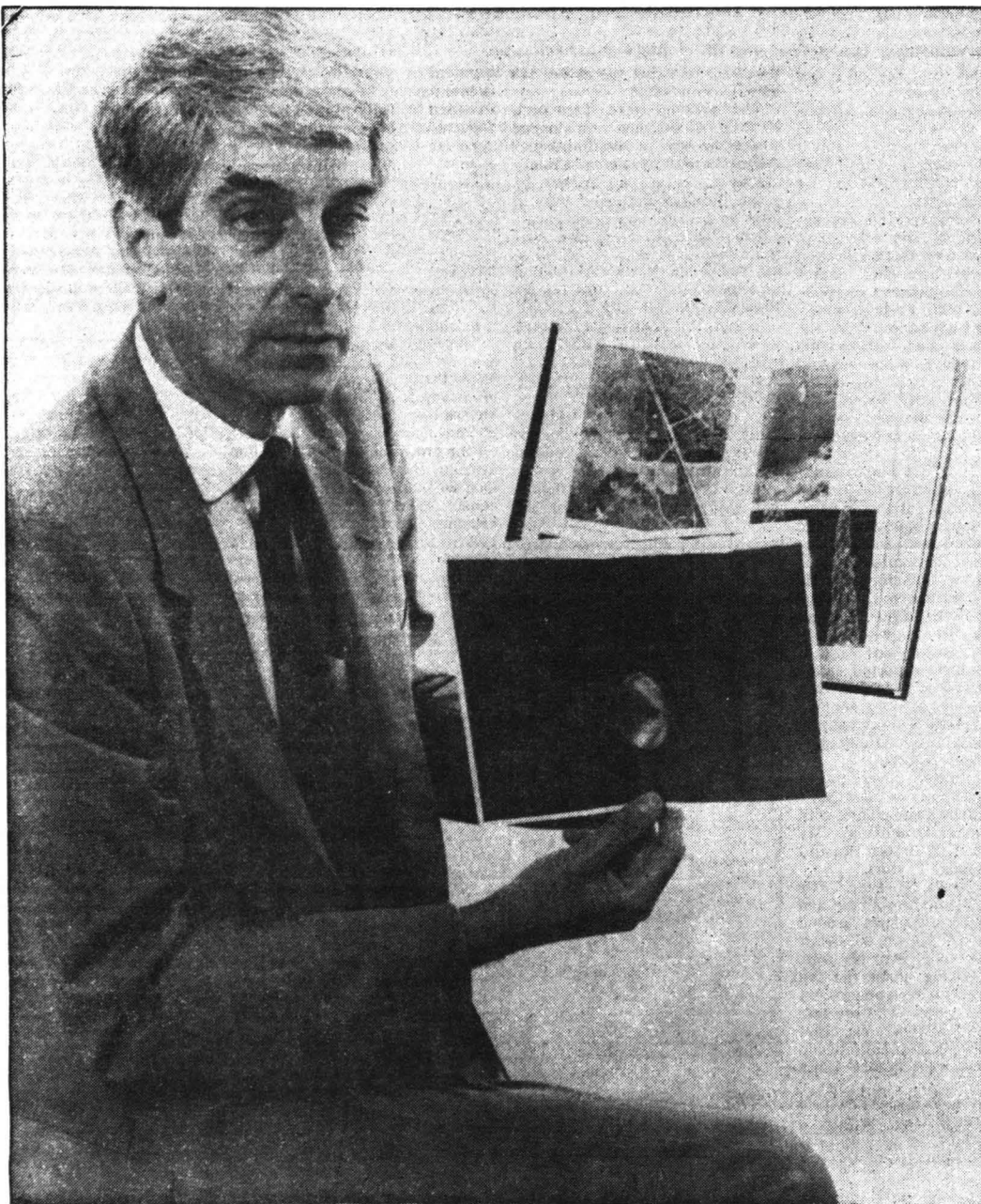
I was just driving down the road in St. Petersburg in the city limits, around 62nd Ave. N. and near 28th St.

It was a very nice night, the temperature outside was nice. I had my door windows a little down and enjoyed a drive going east down 62nd Ave N. towards Tampa direction. For some reason I felt a ring in my head and felt something above me. I looked out the windshield above to the night sky, seeing what looked like a rim of a very, very large object just showing past the top of my windshield view. It was or looked like it was slowly floating above my car 15 to 20 feet. Just clearing the streetlight lines and silently moving past my car. The object very slowly rotated or turned, but I saw silver streaks of metal or swirling gray smoke or gases in the center of the bottom. It was so low I couldn't see the sides of the object. At first I couldn't believe it and then thought it was an air balloon. I rolled down my window and looked up to see it was no balloon and it was metal and real.

Next, I was tapping my horn, flashing my lights on and off - waving my arm out the window - not being afraid. It slowly rose up and away towards Tampa city across the Bay.

Mr. Henthorn
Bay Pines, Fla.

CR: R. Reid



By Roy H. Williams/The Tribune

Jacques Vallee was the prototype for the French scientist in 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind.'

Putting E.T. in his place

Scientist calls UFOs an earthly phenomenon

By Janet Silver Ghent
The Tribune

ASTROPHYSICIST JACQUES VALLEE believes unidentified flying objects (UFOs) are a well-documented phenomenon, although they may be neither flying nor objects. But he doesn't believe they are extraterrestrial. Nor does he expect to find E.T. in a California desert, munching Reese's Pieces and chatting with the folks back home. He believes UFOs have hostile potential.

An alien, he said, is not "a nice, fuzzy, warm visitor from another planet. It's more complex, and to some extent, more interesting than that. I believe there is life and intelligence on other planets, but that's not what the UFO phenomenon is."

"What witnesses tell me is that they see objects coming out of nowhere that disappear on the spot, like the light on a TV screen." These

objects change shape and cannot always be attributed to weather balloons, atmospheric conditions, airplanes or spacecraft, he said.

"My personal speculation, and I could be wrong, is that we are dealing with a form of consciousness, an intelligence that is capable of manipulating space and time in ways that we can't understand, and that this form of consciousness has been around for a long time."

"If the Lady of Fatima happened today, we would call it a UFO phenomenon." (The reported 1917 sighting in Portugal was interpreted as an appearance of the Virgin Mary.)

Vallee is not having close encounters with little green men or selling tall tales to the tabloids. In fact, he rigorously eschews sensationalism. He is a scientist and San Francisco computer consultant who finances his own field investigations into UFO phenomena.

Vallee was the prototype for an investigator in Steven Spielberg's film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," played by Vallee look-alike, the late Francois Truffaut.

His credentials are impressive. Trained in France as an astrophysicist, he came to the United States in 1962, completing a Ph.D. in computer science at Northwestern, where he worked with J. Allen Hynek, former Air Force consultant on UFOs. He later served as a principal investigator to the U.S. Department of Defense on computer networking projects.

He has written several books on UFOs, including "Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma" and "Dimensions." He came to Oakland recently to talk about "Confrontations: A Scientist's Search for Alien Contact" (Ballantine Books, \$19.95).

Vallee's investigations took him to France, Brazil and Costa Rica, as well as to sites in Northern California. His conclusions: Aliens do not come from outer space. If these beings were visitors on fact-finding missions, he said, why would they keep re-collecting the same kind of data?

Instead, he believes that aliens coexist with humans on the earth and belong to the same class as elves and other folkloric creatures. Stories of abductions of human beings by such creatures, he said, have persisted for hundreds of years in nearly every culture.

He also believes that 80 percent of all reported sightings of UFOs can be attributed to more mundane phenomena. But he thinks both naysayers and true believers have impeded scientific investigations by leading witnesses, misusing hypnosis and destroying and discounting information that does not fit in with their preconceived hypotheses.

In 1961, while serving on a French team of professional astronomers, Vallee and his colleagues spotted "a light in the sky," and began recording data. Their supervisor confiscated the tape and erased it, afraid that his own reputation would be discredited.

"This self-censorship on the part of scientists continues," he said.

In addition, he said, journalists have contributed to a plethora of misinformation and distortions. During October's reports of sightings in Voronezh, U.S.S.R., he said American articles "made fun" of the phenomena.

An Associated Press story that ran in The Tribune mentioned "a three-eyed alien with a robot sidekick." The story was based on Soviet news reports, not on interviews in the field. Vallee said witnesses actually reported two-eyed beings wearing a device on their foreheads similar to equipment used by geologists.

"The press has been grabbing the most sensational things to make (UFO phenomena) look weird, when there could be a reality behind it that makes sense," he said. "They're missing the real story."

And what is the real story? According to Vallee, there is a plethora of documented medical evidence. In Brazil in 1981 and 1982, two people were killed and two wounded following UFO encounters.

At the time, their bodies bore puncture marks, strange lesions and burn-like injuries. At least one of the survivors, a fisherman named Cosmo, still suffers from injury-related pain.

In 1968, a French physician spotted two large identical disks, computing their size. After the sighting, he developed a strange discoloration on his abdomen. However, the "permanent disability" on his right side, the result of a 1958 war injury, disappeared and did not return.

In 1965, Michel Figuet, helmsman on the French submarine Junon, spotted a "huge ball of light" making loops in the sky over Fort-de-France, Martinique. There were 300 witnesses, including six naval officers who watched the phenomenon through binoculars.

There is an aerial photograph, backed up by a negative, of a peculiar disk-shaped object that appeared in 1971 over Lago de Cote, Costa Rica.

In Happy Camp, about 40 miles from the Oregon border, Vallee himself corroborated local UFO sightings. In 1978, he and his team of observers saw "a very bright light, white with a tinge of red." Several years earlier, five witnesses reported seeing two silhouettes wearing helmets, surrounded by an eerie light.

Vallee prefers to investigate after the brouhaha surrounding a sighting has died down and the press has left. The typical method of investigation, he said, is to arrive on the scene soon after the incident. Hypnosis, he said, is usually done by people, who don't have medical degrees, on witnesses who have been traumatized by the sightings.

"There are too many incompetent people using hypnosis to prove a particular theory," he said. "Most ufologists hate me for saying this, but I think it's unethical and unscientific. It's so easy to exploit a witness."

UFO 'witness' to plead guilty to charge

Review-Journal

Bob Lazar, known in the UFO community for his claims the U.S. government is testing alien spacecraft at the Nevada Test Site, agreed to plead guilty Monday to a pandering charge.

A District Court arraignment date of June 18 was set for Lazar, who police allege ran a brothel and outcall prostitution service in two Las Vegas apartments.

Lazar was an important source for KLAS-TV, Channel 8 reporter George Knapp's award-winning series, "UFOs: The Best Evidence."

A former employee at the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico, he spent much of the series explaining alien craft he claimed to have seen at the test site.

The felony charge carries a sentence of one to six years and a fine of up to \$5,000.

Answers for Sentinel Readers' UFO Forum

Ed Walters:

Q: Why has Gulf Breeze been made the chosen site for UFOs?

A: I don't believe there is more of a UFO presence in Gulf Breeze than there is in Pensacola or Ft. Walton or in any other city in the world. I believe it is a world wide phenomenon. I think many of our residents simply take the time to look. Those of us who go for a walk at night are more likely to see the UFOs than those of us who are at home watching TV. Plus, as two of our local police said, "...had we not been at the foot of the Bay Bridge on April 18, 1990 with a large group of people we might not have seen what we saw. We try to have our eyes on our jobs and not in the sky." When asked what they saw, they answered, "It wasn't a plane, helicopter, balloon or a flare but we are not saying it was a UFO, we don't know."

Q: Were you involved in any government or CIA training while living in Costa Rica?

A: I have never had any connection with the CIA or any such government agencies.

Q: You speak a lot about "debunkers", so I'm hopeful that you would be able to tell us how the NSA and CIA debunking tactics operate, could you tell us how the FBI and the AFOSI and CIA and NSA keep UFO witnesses silent?

A: As far as the NSA, CIA, FBI and AFOSI are concerned I have no information. I can only speak about debunkers from personal experience. I have learned that debunkers will go to any level to discredit the UFO phenomena.

*They have tried to label me a prankster.

*They have tried to make people believe that I am a "ghost/demon" master.

*They planted a foolish looking UFO model in a house that I once lived in over a year and a half ago.

*They took fake UFO photos in my front yard and tried to tell the press the photos were mine. (The real photographer came forward and exposed the debunkers' plot.)

*The debunkers have ignored the 2 different stereo cameras that prove the UFO is a large object, hundreds of feet away.

*Most importantly the debunkers ignore the scores of other witnesses. ALL WE ARE SAYING IS THAT THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE SKY THAT IS STRANGE TO US AND IS UNIDENTIFIED AND IS THEREFORE A UFO.

Chip Holston:

Q: At the church the night the UFO pictures were taken, most people also remember seeing helicopters although the government denies they were in the area? Why doesn't someone take a picture of the helicopters as some type of proof that the government must be involved or are knowledgeable?

A: We were more worried about the U.F.O. than a helicopter because you see helicopters everyday.

Chief Jerry Brown:

Q: You mentioned that you believe that the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings may be explained as some type of secret military project. We find your viewpoint quite rational and worthy of further development.

A: I never made that statement. I do believe they have something to do with the military.

Q: Have the UFO sightings been compared with government activities in the Pensacola area?

A: Not that I know of.

Q: What were the results of the Chicago trip?

A: Hank Boland never admitted that he anticipated a hoax with Ed, but he never denied knowing about the accusations against Ed Walters. A statement was made that Ed was to receive the book rights and Hank was to receive movie rights.

Q: Has Tommy Smith taken a lie detector test?

A: That was never discussed.

Frances Walters:

Q: Is it true that you had been trying to get a book published for years prior to the UFO saga?

A: It is not now, nor has it ever been, a secret that I write romantic fiction. I'm an active member of the West Florida Writers Guild and the Romance Writers of America and have always openly discussed my writing with my friends.

Q: Were you ever involved in trying to make, or reconstruct UFO photos by holding props?

A: Except for the experiments and re-enactment photos requested by investigators I have never held props for photos.

Mayor Ed Gray:

Q: Did Ed Gray and Chief Brown use city funds to go to Chicago?

A: I paid for the trip out of personal funds. Brown paid from city funds.

Q: Mayor Gray, on what basis did you decide that the UFO reports in Gulf Breeze were not real? What is your position on UFOs in general?

A: Originally, I felt the U.F.O. reports from Ed Walters were not legitimate, because on a common sense approach, others would have seen it in the same neighborhood simultaneously with Ed's sighting.

When Ed first reported the U.F.O. sightings, he called and told me before he was made public and before the photos were printed to make me aware he'd had these sightings. I had responded to him because of the extraordinary nature of this report, and thought he'd need some backing and official status in terms of someone else on what he'd seen. Because of this, I asked him to call me anytime, day or night, the next time he had a sighting. He never called. That's another reason I think it's a hoax.

As to U.F.O. s in general, I think it's entirely possible that there are other life forms in our universe which may some day visit Earth.

Q: When did the U.S. Intelligence community first contact you in regards to the "Operation Gulf Breeze" project? And is "Operation Gulf Breeze" an ongoing U.S. Intelligence Community Project specifically designed to further the mind control project known as "Operation Crystal Ball"?

A: Mr. Wales, I don't know what you're talking about.

Councilwoman Pollak:

Q: Could you please explain why your description of the location of the helicopters on the 1-8-90 sightings did not match up with Ed Walters?

A: I do not know where Ed described the helicopters to be, but I have a possible explanation why our reports may differ, if they do: Ed and I were not together the entire time. My husband and I left the area of the church after the

sighting ended, and went to Shoreline Park South, hoping for another glimpse of the UFO. After a time, when nothing appeared, we returned to the area of the church, where we saw helicopters flying very low over the church grounds with big searchlights scanning the ground. (We also saw helicopters and airplanes in large numbers circling the UFO during the sighting, and circling Gulf Breeze while we were at the park.) Since Ed and I were in different locations at different times, we could have easily observed different things.

Q: Have you ever been contacted by the FBI, or the CIA, NSA or AFOS with regards to a project called "Operation Crystal Ball", having to do with mind control and advanced UFO/Identified Alien technology.

A: No I have not, and I have not previously heard of "Operation Crystal Ball."

Duane Cook:

Q: When did the FBI and /or Air Force Office of Special Investigations first contact you about keeping the published UFO reports local, (wasn't this soon after you had published non-local UFO sightings)?

A: I'm sorry to say that apparently the government hasn't thought we were important enough to bother contacting *The Sentinel*. I'm still looking forward their call or visit.

Q: Do you feel that Paul Bennewitz, Gabe Valdez and Betty Cash have been able to speak freely to the press, without gross and unfair pressure from the U.S. Intelligence community, and "Operation Crystal Ball." UFO Coverup Security, and mind control tactics being employed?

A: I don't know anything about Bennewitz or Valdez, but Betty Cash was able to speak as freely as she pleased with *The Sentinel* when you brought her to my office, Mike.

The McConnells:

Q: How large do the crafts appear? Is everyone seeing the same type craft?

A: "Fenner describes it as the size of a small aircraft," Shirley said. I'd say it looks 20 feet across, but it's hard to judge when something is so high in the sky.

What I saw looked exactly like the photos Ed Walters took.

Q: Have the eye witnesses heard any sounds and if so does everyone agree on the noise?

A: There was no sound, none at all.

The Pollaks:

Q: How large do the crafts appear? Is everyone seeing the same type craft?

A: It is very hard to judge how large something is if you do not know its distance, and vice versa. However, because our sighting on January 8th of this year could be pinpointed as being near the base of the clouds, which were at 1300 feet altitude, scientists were able to calculate a size range of the object of from 12 to 20 feet in diameter—clearly NOT a small model made from styrofoam plates and drafting paper!

We do not know if "everyone" is seeing the same type craft. Since there have been many hundreds of witnesses reporting sightings, that is impossible to say. However, MANY people have seen the same type craft that appears on the cover of Ed's book. Also, keep in mind that even Ed saw and photographed more than one type of craft.

Q: Have the eyewitnesses heard any sounds, and if so, does everyone agree on the noise?

A: During our sightings, none of the UFO s made any noise. It is particularly interesting that on the night of January 8, 1990 at the time of the sighting, the air was abso-

Open letter to Paul Harvey

Mr. Paul Harvey
Paul Harvey News
333 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60601
Dear Mr. Harvey:

I listen to your news and commentary on WIOV-FM in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area. I have never written to you before, although I have been tempted many times to add my positive comments on the Neutrogena Hand Cream product. I am writing today, however, about a comment you made on your June 20, 1990, "lunch hour" newscast. You told about Ed Walters, the man who has had numerous encounters with unexplained objects in the sky over Gulf Breeze, Florida. You said, "there is evidence he faked the photos and planned to profit from a book he wrote on it." And, that was all you said.

Mr. Harvey, I've been listening to your news show for over 20 years, and I find you fair and truthful in your reporting. Too often today people judge someone guilty until proven innocent; too often the reason for the guilty verdict is because of an incomplete or one-sided story heard in the media. Although I'm not judging the guilt or innocence of Ed Walters, I thought I'd send you some other facts that I recall from following this story for the past 2-1/2 years.

Gulf Breeze, Florida, is a small "bedroom" community near Pensacola, Florida. The Pensacola Naval Air Station, where all Naval aviators are trained, is about 20 miles west of Gulf Breeze. Eglin Air Force Base is 25 miles east of Gulf Breeze. The city lies on a peninsula surrounded by Pensacola Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. There are many professional people, military officers, and retired military people who live there. It is not a "stereotyped" Southern town. It is a great place to raise a family; I know — I lived there from 1981 until 1987. If I ever get transferred back to the Pensacola area, I would move there in a minute.

UFO s have been reported being sighted over Gulf Breeze since 1973. The most recent sightings began in November, 1987, and have continued through April, 1990. There were three independent reports of UFO s the night Ed Walters took the controversial photographs, including a respected newspaper editor. Ed reported 20 other encounters with these UFO s, took numerous pictures with multiple camera types, including a video camera and stereo camera, and a few times had witnesses with him when pictures were taken. Other witnesses of UFO sightings include a minister, an 11 year old boy, a sheriff's deputy, a professional engineer, a city council woman, and a retired Air Force officer. Ed's pictures, as well as other witnesses' pictures, have been analyzed by numerous experts and declared authentic. If Ed faked the pictures, he would have to be a photographic genius, and would have had to have the cooperation of many different people. There is no evidence Ed has the knowledge or the equipment to fake these pictures.

The second fact is that for the first two years, Ed kept his name anonymous. He said, "I am a respected Gulf Breeze businessman, and revealing my name would not benefit me." It was only after many requests from his friends and associates, he agreed to write his book. He is not the first person to write books about UFO s.

The so called "evidence" of a model "UFO" was discovered in the attic over the garage of the house that Ed Walters previously lived in. He and his family moved from the house in 1989; it was vacant for almost a year before recently being occupied by a new family. During the time it was vacant, there were many realtors and other people who had access to the house as it was being shown for sale. There is no hard evidence that this model was "hidden" in the attic by Ed; it could have been placed there by anyone viewing the real estate. Also, if Ed had used this model to "fake" photographs, how can you explain the many other sightings and photographs taken by Ed in front of other witnesses?

Mr. Duane B. Cook, editor and publisher of the *Sentinel* newspaper in Gulf Breeze, has followed this story since November, 1987. He has spent time with Ed and other UFO witnesses, and has done a good job of reporting what people witnessed, without passing judgement. Copies of all articles published by his paper over the past 2-1/2 years are available for viewing.

Mr. Harvey, I know Ed Walters. He is a respected businessman, a school and community leader, and a member of a local church. I do not believe he had anything to gain by making public what he witnessed, but instead put himself and his family up for close public scrutiny and ridicule. However, I am interested in what he encountered, and I intend to read his book in order to learn more about this subject. Only then will I decide in my mind if he is a fake or indeed had an encounter that cannot be explained under normal world standards.

Mr. Harvey, I hope you share some of my letter with the public in order for them to hear "the rest of the story." If you do, please let me know when you would broadcast this so I can be sure to listen. I would also like to talk to you about this subject. My daytime number is 717/396-2390. Thank you for hearing my story.

CR: R. Reid

Very truly yours,
Steven J. Rempala

lutely still, and the noise of airplanes and helicopters could be heard from great distances, often before they could be seen. However, no sound could be heard from the UFO at any time during the sighting.

Buddy and Brenda Pollak

Tom Smith:

Q: Did you have any involvement for business or personal finances with Ed Walters that was alluded to in Tommy's statement?

A: No, not at all. Our firm closed one to two sales of some property Ed had and one or two of the houses he built, but no financial involvement.

Craig Myers:

Q: Did you have prior knowledge of the model before you went to Ed's old house?

★★★

Q: Have you been asked to take a lie detector test? If not, would you be willing to take one?

A: Myers says he'd rather not get involved, and preferred not to answer.



"He was removed from his truck by three beings; they were short and bald, with skin of a grayish hue. All wore silver-colored uniforms with patterns traced in gold on their collars..."



STORY BY JIM FORREST

In Weare, a woman driving home on Route

114 suddenly loses the signal of a powerful local station that she had been listening to on her car radio. Farther down the road, she sees several other vehicles pulled over, and also stops. Her eyes are drawn to the cause of the traffic pile-up: a huge white ball of light is hovering over a nearby building. She watches it for a minute or two, then hears a high-pitched buzzing noise. The white light dims, and the object zooms off to the north at high speed.

This incident, which occurred on March 18 of this year, was one of sev-

eral New Hampshire sightings of unidentified Flying Objects described by Peter Geremia at an April 24 lecture at the New Hampshire Technical Institute. Geremia is the director of the NH chapter of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, and has investigated many of the sightings.

"New Hampshire is probably one of the top ten states in terms of the number of UFO sightings," Geremia noted. Though he himself has never seen a UFO, his interest in the subject began when a rash of sightings were reported in the mid-1960's. A co-worker took him to a meeting of MUFON in Maine, where he was then living, and he recalled, "I was hooked."

The approximately 20 active volunteers of New Hampshire MUFON investigate reported sightings with strict scientific methods. "We start by

getting topographic maps of the area where the UFO was seen, and determine the location," Geremia explained. "Next we go to the site to search for physical evidence, and interview the person who made the sighting in depth. Then there are reports to fill out, and back-up research, such as checking with neighbors and police departments."

Another recent investigation involved sightings in the town of Boscawon. Beginning in January, witnesses reported seeing several flying lights, some white, others green and red, forming a rough V-shape. The lights usually appeared on Wednesday evenings shortly after sunset, and would head east until reaching the Merrimack River, then returning in the direction they had come from.

The next day, beneath the spot near his home where he believed he first saw the UFO, the man found several holes, two inches in diameter and two-three inches deep, melted into the powdery snow.

What is undoubtedly the most bizarre episode took place in January, 1989, on Interstate 93 near the Salem/Windham line. A highway crew supervisor was returning home at about 6 a.m. after spending the night preparing for a predicted ice storm. Driving north between Exits 2 and 3, he saw a silver-colored object descending rapidly. His first thought was that it was an airplane crashing. The object was waiting for him as he drove beneath an overpass; he saw beings looking from a row of windows at the bottom of the object. He drove past it and, glancing back saw it take off.

Troubled by what he had seen, the man eventually sought information from MUFON investigators. It was agreed that he be hypnotized to provide a more detailed description of the craft. Further details, including the craft's markings and a bright green light, came out under hypnosis.

Instead of ending the matter, the man began to suffer increasing effects of anxiety after the hypnosis session. He lost weight, was unable to sleep, and had recurring flashbacks of details of the incident. He was then placed again under hypnosis to relive the occurrence, and the complete story unfolded.

In the hypnotized version, the man recalled his vehicle being levitated into an entry port under the

silvery craft. He was removed from his truck by three beings; they were short and bald, with skin of a grayish hue. All wore silver-colored uniforms with patterns traced in gold on their collars. They took him to another part of the craft and administered some kind of physical examination.

The examination was extremely painful. One of the beings seemed angry — no effort was made to keep the man comfortable. "He was going through real torment while under hypnosis," Geremia said.

Geremia has not formulated any theory to explain the abduction. However, he notes that there was a similar incident that occurred within a short time of, and in close proximity to, this incident. Also, the individual's background reinforces his credibility.

"This guy went through hell," stated Geremia. "Most of the people who have had experience with UFOs have a lot of difficulty afterwards, not only in terms of dealing with what they saw, but in the reactions of others. Usually they receive little or no support from their family and friends. We protect the confidentiality of those making reports if they so desire. They are often reluctant to speak, and when they do come forward, we attempt to get a thorough interview at the first meeting, because it is common for them not to discuss the incident afterwards."

Those attending Geremia's lecture held a wide variety of viewpoints on the UFO issue. Some expressed a conviction that UFOs are spacecrafts from other worlds,



PHOTO BY JIM FORREST

UFO TRACKER: Peter Geremia, director of the New Hampshire chapter of MUFON, stated that "New Hampshire is probably one of the top ten states in terms of the number of UFO sightings."

while many others harbored doubts. "I'm still uncertain," said a Hampton woman, "but you have to be a little arrogant not to wonder."

"Some of the things that were described may have happened to me," added another woman who declined to identify herself. She said she did not want to provide details of her experience.

Joseph Morris, a science teacher at Manchester's West High School, is often questioned by students about the nature of UFOs.

"I don't profess to be an expert," Morris observed. "I advise them to look at the existing evidence and decide whether it supports the hypothesis. Statistically, life should

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL

July 19, 1990

Son saw UFO in 1950s

I have never seen a UFO but something is out there, I believe. I believe because my son and a friend saw one in about 1952 when he was 12 or 13. It was important enough for an Air Force major and captain to come from Elgin to interview the young people.

It was an evening in the early '50s when sightings were happening. The two drove out to the airport with her mother and father to look at planes and get a snack to eat. That was fun in those days. Both of them were and are intelligent young people, good grades, not given to making untrue remarks.

My son and his friend left the parents and walked down the fence looking out at planes. Suddenly they saw it, sort of a cigar-shaped object blinking at terrific speed; it hovered silently, seconds later it was gone. The light was very bright on the object.

They were wildly excited, went to tell her parents, who discounted it. My son said, "I'm going to call the Air Force." I said, "I wouldn't do that, they'll not believe you." But he did the next morning and the Air Force made an appointment.

I was surprised to see an official car drive up with the two officers with notebooks, dressed in full uniform and very serious. They asked a lot of questions. I ventured one question to the officers, "Do you have sightings often?" The major said quite a few.

Both young people — now grown, married to other people — still recall it when they bump into each other at church and with all the new sightings say, "we told you so."

Many people here are very reputable people whose sightings have been sort of swamped by the Ed Walters' case. I believe those people saw something. My son firmly believes them. The UFO stays firmly in his memory.

So whatever it is, something is out there, someone a lot smarter than we are, probably.

Maybe they don't want to meet us.

Frances Willings Gaines
Pensacola

Would you believe, flying saucers over Lava?

By RICK DAVIS
Journal Staff Writer

LAVA HOT SPRINGS — Flying saucers at dusk, called down from Venus by a telepathic ex-rancher from Howe?

It would, obviously, be easy to dismiss Paul Solem as a kook. But there are a few disturbing facts, which may not of themselves lend credence to his claims, that are likely to send the curious to this resort town to see for themselves.

Solem, self-proclaimed "flying saucer prophet," will present a lecture, with the blessings of the Lava Chamber of Com-

merce, at dusk Saturday in Lava city park where he will deliver his version of the Hopi Indians' Warning and Flying Saucer Message.

It will mark a 21-year anniversary of sorts, of the time Solem lectured 175 people at Tilden Bridge, after which several mysterious star-like objects reportedly appeared in the sky.

No kidding.

Solem's 1969 talk was covered first hand by the *Idaho State Journal*, whose reporter, Barbara Boren, wrote that "as many as five moving star-like lights were spotted" by various observers, but that she saw only two, the latter of which Solem

said was a spaceship from Jupiter.

Solem, who claims aliens from Venus first contacted him in their luminous ships when he was a youth on his family's ranch near Howe in the late 1940s, will try to use his alleged powers to make the craft appear over Lava after his talk.

Solem also claims to have support from some elders of the Hopi Indians who practice the oldest native religion in America.

He visited Oraibi, Ariz., which has been continuously inhabited for more than 2,000 years and nearby Hotevilla, soon after his gathering at Tilden Bridge and claims to have made the ships appear for several

tribal elders, who told him that ancient prophecies were being fulfilled.

Several Hopi chiefs soon afterward publicly revealed their teachings, and two of the chiefs, Ralph Twangyawa and Dan Katchongva, said that Solem had called alien ships to visit their wind-swept mesa villages in northeast Arizona.

Solem's lecture July 21 will revolve on his perception of the Hopi message, including their history, arrival in North America, migrations, flying saucers which guided their actions, broken treaties with white men and the arrival of the Hopi True

White Brother.

Afterwards, if the skies are clear, Solem promises to communicate telepathically with bright star-like ships and convince them to make a pass over Lava.

The Hopi prophecy was revealed by several others besides Katchongva and Twangyawa, both since deceased. No mention of flying saucers was made in some of the other prophecy disclosures of the early 1970s.

For his part, Solem accepts Katchongva's version of the Hopi prophecy, and points to a picture of a 4,000-year-old flying saucer-like petroglyph on Second Mesa, near Hotevilla as proof of alien influence on the tribe.

Solem claims to have met alien beings, who told him they hailed from "an outer dimension of Venus." He also claims to have lived among them in a previous life.

"They're just beautiful, perfect little people," Solem said. "You can't even tell the males from the females until they talk."

His most recent "visit" with alien craft, he says, was two weeks ago on Crystal Summit where a craft hovered above him, local mechanic Dennis Wallin and another man.

Contacted Thursday, Wallin said, "I saw a bright, bright light that appeared to circle in the sky above us, then just shot out of sight."

Wallin, a Pocatello native, said that he met Solem after working on his car.

If Solem is unsuccessful calling down the ships July 21, he will try again on successive Saturday nights. He said clear conditions are needed for contact but also added that saucers are sometimes associated with clouds.

At Tilden Bridge 21 years ago, Solem predicted that an explosion would shortly boil across the face of north America, hitting politicians the hardest. He claimed to be ordained by Jesus in a past life in Jerusalem and when asked why the lights didn't approach close enough so that a sighting could be verified, said that not enough "true believers" were in attendance.

The *Journal* reporter could not say what the lights she saw were, and interviewed several people at the meeting who said the entire sighting was a hoax.

Solem's talk has been OKed by the Lava Chamber of Commerce. "The city has no rules about a gathering of people at the city park," said Chamber spokesman Bob Bergendorf. "In a resort town like this if someone wants to do something a little spectacular, that's fine. I think I'll be there just to see what happens."



PAUL SOLEM

TIMES, Los Angeles, CA - July 28, 1990 CR: D. Clements

Space Tourists No Longer Alien Concept

By BOB POOL
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Businessmen who are looking to travelers from France, Japan and Australia to help end a slump in summer vacation business have been advised to raise their sights by a few hundred billion miles.

The ultimate foreign tourists—space aliens—are ready to drop in for a visit. All they need is an invitation.

At least that is what 450 business executives were told as they gathered at the Biltmore in Los Angeles for a lecture that was greeted with a mixture of awe, humor and some understandable skepticism. To be sure, this was no ordinary business meeting.

Spacemen from the planet Erra in the constellation Pleiades are already visiting Earth with regularity, the business leaders learned. Until now, the Pleiadians have apparently spurned Los Angeles with what travel agents call "overflights"—passing overhead without stopping.

The space aliens are skipping over to Switzerland to land, said Michael Horn, a 46-year-old Marina del Rey company vice president and UFO enthusiast who delivered the unusual visitor report.

Horn screened films and photographs taken by a Swiss farmer named Eduard Billy Meier that supposedly showed 25-foot-wide spaceships floating over Alpine mountain pastures.

Despite the 500 light-year distance between Los Angeles and Erra, the Pleiadians are a mere

seven-hour flight away, said Horn. "There's a good chance they may be hovering to take a peek at us right now," he added.

Meier has described Pleiadians as humanoids with a blond, Nordic look that is accented by long earlobes. A few eyebrows went up as Horn screened a blurry photo of a purported Pleiadian woman who resembled Britt Ekland with big ears.

Hotel waiter Abel Cervantes came the closest to matching the Pleiadian description during Wednesday night's flying saucer discussion. He hovered with a tray of hors d'oeuvres and sported a pair of plastic Dr. Spock ears from a Hollywood costume shop.

Nearly everyone else seemed to be playing it straight, however.

Hotel executives staged the lecture as the elaborate centerpiece of a midsummer cocktail party for their best clients. They mailed printed invitations that included one of Meier's flying saucer photos beneath a quotation from the late author Louis L'Amour: "We cannot discover new oceans until we have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Many guests claimed to have an open attitude about space aliens. "I believe they could be," said printing salesman Stafford Lindsay. Said petroleum company executive Grant Ivy: "I hope they exist. There's got to be some hope for our society."

Lana Ashford, a Biltmore administrator, had urged guests to come "just for the fun of it" but "with an open mind." She said recent news reports of mysterious,

alleged spaceship landings in England triggered interest in the lecture.

Some who sat through the hour-long talk suggested that the Pleiadians will need open minds if they visit Los Angeles.

"If they landed on the weekend, they'd encounter the usual 12 gang killings," said stockbroker Jay Eagan. "They'd find a lot of negative feelings here. Maybe that's why they land in Switzerland."

Law firm recruiter Bege Burdette predicted that arriving spacemen would all but be ignored by Los Angeles residents who are already accustomed to weirdness on their streets.

"It would depend on how they looked and dressed," agreed her friend, insurance investigator Dee Dugan. People loved them in "Cocon," "The Abyss" and "E.T.," she said.

Hotel officials said about half of the staff of the Los Angeles Convention & Visitors Bureau attended the lecture. Bureau Vice President Michael Collins, who said he missed the lecture, joked afterward that his office won't turn away any visitors who can help compensate for a soft domestic-traveler market.

"I have no reticency about reaching out and welcoming space aliens," Collins said.

"Technology aside, I'd be most interested in their currency. If there's an established exchange rate, I'd be the first to welcome them."

STAR, Kansas City, MO - Aug. 16, 1990 CR: V. White

Investigators sharing their research on UFOs, other strange phenomena

By SARAH KRANTZ
Staff Writer

A large circle found last month in a Belgrade, Mo., man's field hasn't been explained. Investigators at other sightings spend weeks testing soil for radiation and searching for answers. Sometimes the answers aren't found.

This week, the sixth national UFO Information Week, members of Mutual UFO Network Inc., or MUFON, are telling their tales of alien crafts, extraterrestrial sightings and unexplained phenomenon.

"Something made the circle, we just don't know what it is," said Bruce Widaman, the group's state director. The 38-year-old works in shipping and receiving for a St. Louis hardware company.

The circle was less than 12 feet in diameter and was reported after the man cut the grass in the

field next to his house, Widaman said. "It's not real good evidence," he said.

So the part-time UFO investigators are tucking this report away with thousands of others that are awaiting further evidence.

MUFON members refer to their research as ufology and consider themselves ufologists, Widaman said. The group takes the work seriously, training its field investigators for a year.

The several thousand ufologists in Missouri usually have at least one thing in common. "They're curiosity seekers," said Alex Horvat, MUFON's state public information officer.

"They are people that have a sincere interest, that have taken the time to read and investigate to some degree and found there is serious validity to investigate this further."

Horvat, also 38, markets hair replacement products and services in the St. Louis area.

Only one out of 10 bizarre sightings are reported, Widaman said. Of those reports, about 70 percent are explained in prosaic terms, such as being caused by a meteor.

Of the 30 percent that go unexplained, many are thought to be connected with the government, he said.

"There are frequent mentions of government conspiracy," and a continuous cover-up, he said. "If there's nothing to UFOs, then why all the secrecy?"

MUFON has a fledgling group in Kansas City that is still organizing, but the 30 or so members plan to hold a public meeting within a month or two, said Erich Aggen Jr., state section director for Kansas City.

Light may be spy satellite, but from which planet?

By David Wenstrom
The Stockton Record

There's still no explanation for that mysterious, flickering red light that inched across the skies above Stockton Thursday night — the second sighting in six weeks.

Dennis La Clert, president of the Stockton Astronomical Society, tracked it for about 15 minutes with a 4-inch telescope and thinks it might have been a secret rocket launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base near Santa Barbara.

"Coming from the south like that and traveling due north, that's a good orbit to fly a spy satellite," La Clert said Friday.

Spy satellite? We haven't seen any spy satellite, retorted a Vandenberg spokeswoman. Of course, she conceded, if there had been a spy satellite launch, she couldn't admit it. That's why they're called spy satellites.

One thing is certain: It's not the first time people have pondered strange things in the sky.

■ Last October, the official Soviet news agency Tass reported a three-eyed alien with a robot sidekick landed in a UFO and made a boy vanish by zapping

him with a ray gun.

■ In 1977, Grenada Prime Minister Eric Gairy led the first and last United Nations debate on UFOs, then took the delegates to see "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." He failed to have the U.N. proclaim 1978 the International Year of Unidentified Flying Objects.

■ Former President Jimmy Carter said he saw a UFO in Georgia in 1973.

■ In 1967, Frank E. Stranges, head of the National Investigation Committee on UFOs, told the world that then-Gov. Ronald Reagan and Art Linkletter were card-carrying members of his organization. Stranges also said he once talked to a man from Venus.

As Robert Gribble, who heads the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said, "Something strange is going on."

Tens of thousands of UFO sightings have been reported to the private, non-profit UFO Reporting Center since it was established in 1974.

About 95 percent of the sightings reported to Gribble's organization turn out to have some kind of earthbound explanation — air-

craft, weather balloons, flocks of geese, a couple of six-packs of Budweiser.

There's still 5 percent that defy explanation.

"We're convinced they're inter-planetary, probably from planets outside our solar system," Gribble said.

That may explain why California and New Jersey, of all places, are the most popular spots in America for UFOs.

"Both are pretty densely populated with aerospace industry and lots of electronics industry, and they might be watching them," Gribble said.

Numerous UFO sightings have been made in the San Joaquin Valley and the Mother Lode. In fact, Gribble said UFOs are rather partial to the area.

"There's been some major cases down there," he said.

Marv Taylor, a Modesto real estate agent and founder of UFO Data Research and Intelligence Center, agreed.

"There's been a heavy dose of close encounters" in the Knight's Ferry area between Oakdale and Sonora, Taylor said.

Taylor, who hopes to reopen

his UFO museum in a new location in Modesto soon, said his organization, with the help of a NASA scientist, has used hypnosis to uncover three abductions near Knight's Ferry by UFOs.

The victims supposedly are plucked from their automobiles, taken into spaceships and examined, Taylor said. After they are returned to their vehicles, they can't account for the lost time.

This weekend, Taylor and 12 other UFO trackers are going to camp out in the Berry Creek canyon near Oroville, hoping for a close encounter of their own.

"There's been an extremely large number of sightings in this canyon, so we're hoping to get some night video shots," he said.

If UFOs really want to meet some nice folks, Elmwood, Wis., is where they should look. Following a rash of UFO sightings and close encounters, the town of 1,000 inhabitants in 1977 changed the name of its annual fete from the Stars and Stripes Festival to UFO Days.

"We even have a light plane come over and drop paper plates to simulate small UFOs," said Thomas Weber, a local elected official who owns the T&S Hardware store.

In 1988, another Thomas Weber proposed building a UFO landing pad.

"He approached the town board to see if we had any objections to him building a landing strip," the hardware store owner recalled. "We didn't, but he just couldn't get enough interest to get it off the ground."

Few people in Elmwood are skeptical about the existence of extraterrestrial beings. They'll never forget what happened in the mid-'60s to their late police chief, George Wheeler.

"He saw a red glow up by the stone quarry and went to investigate," Weber recalled. "And here he saw this large cigar-shaped object off the ground."

The chief tried to radio, but the radio went dead and his engine stalled.

"A strong blue light came at him," Weber went on. "That's the last thing he remembers."

The chief came to about a half an hour later as a neighbor was rousing him in his car.

"It's those things that sort of make a believer out of you," Weber said.

IDAHO STATE JOURNAL, Pocatello, ID - July 31, 1990

Some see UFOs, others see satellite

By ANNETTE HELMICK
Journal Correspondent

LAVA HOT SPRINGS — Approximately 60 people assembled in Lava City Park at dusk Saturday night to see "General" Paul Solem summon an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO).

That was fewer than the previous weekend, the premiere of a summer season of spacecraft calling. Some participants then said they saw something unexplained, some didn't. The second week was much the same.

Solem gets his title from his professed affiliation with the spacecraft, which he claims are piloted by Kachinas, or Hopi spiritual beings.

"I was a general before I came here to mortality," Solem said. "I am a field general over the 10 lost tribes ... (the Kachinas) are a military force thousands of years ahead of us; my commander-in-chief is Jesus Christ."

That eminence was lost on many who turned out for his first promised celestial sightings. While most persons reported no more than a crick in the neck, Solem reported the appearance of "the mother ship" and some witnesses reported seeing as many as seven crafts.

Last Saturday, skies were cloudy as Solem gave his talk, a mixture of folklore, spiritualism and a spirited question-and-answer period. In some respects, Solem follows the pattern of a fire-and-brimstone preacher as he describes the fate sure to befall the unbeliever.

"When the Kachinas arrive, there will be vengeance to all, the Hopi first. The Hopi were

allowed to survive the Great Deluge to spread the word, and they lost their faith. After the Hopis, the people of the United States will be the next to perish," he said.

There was a break in the clouds, and those gathered watched the skies for almost an hour while David Petty, local businessman, beat a ceremonial drum.

At 10:38 p.m., a small white light, similar to a satellite, lazily traversed the sky, to cries of "there's one." Solem concurred, but that wasn't the main show. A few minutes later, in the western quadrant of the sky, another light seemed to do a slow counter-clockwise banking maneuver.

"There it is — the great star of the Hopi. Isn't it beautiful?" Solem said.

However, the light in no way matched Solem's answer to an earlier question: "What will they look like?" He reminisced of his Tilden Bridge experience when "a bright red light moving 2,000 miles per hour made a hard right, and sped out of sight." He explained this apparent contradiction by telling his audience there are many types of spacecraft.

Most people saw something. Joe Osterman said, "The first one was a satellite. The second one was probably an aircraft on maneuvers from Mountain Home Air Force Base. I'm not impressed."

Nathaniel Nappo, on the other hand, said: "That was no airplane. I believe it was the Great Star."

Said Solem: "The day is soon coming when I can call the ships in the daylight, and they will hover overhead.... My spiritual guide will show himself at the door so he can be photographed."

Someone snickered, and a girl queried, "Do you think they could plug the hole in the ozone layer?"

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - July 12, 1990

Pensacola News Journal
Dear Sir/Madam,

At your request I rewrote the attached letter in less than 300 words and resubmitted it to you nine days ago. I have not seen it published, although Ed Gray's 1000-word plus Opinion 2 was published. Since I know more than anyone about the Gulf Breeze UFO encounters, I think your readers would be interested in my statement. Please print it, perhaps as Opinion 3. There are events taking place that Ed Gray's mind is unable to comprehend.

Am I correct in understanding that you are not interested in the UFO abduction phenomenon in the Pensacola area, or in alien interaction with UFO investigators?

Craig Myers' article of 20 June was well done. I commend him.

Sincerely,
Donald M. Ware

OPINION 3

The UFO model found in Ed Walters' old home is totally unrelated to his 46 UFO photographs, his video tapes, and the alien vehicles sighted by hundreds of other witnesses. The model is a poor representation of a Gulf Breeze type-1 vehicle, apparently made to resemble Ed's drawing rather than the vehicle in the photographs. The height-to-width ratio and exterior markings are unlike those of the vehicles in any of the photographs taken by Ed or the other witnesses.

The Mutual UFO Network thoroughly investigated the sightings of Ed Walters and his family, along with those of over a hundred witnesses. Our investigators nearly lived with him during the five months that he took most of the photographs. The sealed stereo camera he used on 26 Feb 88 showed he was not photographing a small model up close. The 1 May photos taken with the self-referencing stereo camera rig showed a type-1 and a type-3 object. The type-1 object was 14.8 feet from top to bottom and 475 feet away over the sound. The type-3 object was 132 feet away. Ed passed two lie-detector tests, and he revealed considerable information, while under time-regression hypnosis.

Four debunkers have tried for years to discredit the Gulf Breeze sightings. They are Phil Klass, Willy Smith, Bob Boyd, and Zan Overall. Willy said he could make photos of a model that looked like Ed's pictures, and I challenged him to do so. Then, with the help of a professional photographer in New York he produced a photo of a model and reported it as one of Ed's. His scheme was exposed by the New York photographer. When Willy visited the circle of dead grass at the Gulf Breeze High School, he said, "I smell gasoline." The others present could not. Soil analysis showed no trace of petroleum products. Since it was a model, made with the help of local investigators in Switzerland, that the debunkers used to discredit the important Billy Meier case in other nations, we should expect debunkers would try the same here.

Your June 10 article by Craig Myers contains several inaccuracies. For example, he reported I said five other people reported objects they described as being very similar to the UFO Walters photographed. He failed to mention those five saw the object on 11 Nov 87, before Ed photographed it. There were many other witnesses to type-1 objects later. Also, Bob Boyd of Mobile, Ala. was relieved of his MUFON duties because he provided false information to the media, and he failed to cooperate in the analysis of physical evidence.

The evidence concerning the Gulf Breeze UFOs can be found in: A History of the Gulf Breeze, Florida, Sightings by Bruce Maccabee, Ph.D., Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mt Ranier, MD 20712, \$25; the MUFON 1988 Symposium Proceedings, MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155, \$15; or in Ed's book, which Charles Flannigan and I encouraged him to write on 7 Jan 88. We believe his experiences are reported there as they happened. I suggest Craig Myers read the evidence before he reports again on Gulf Breeze UFOs.

Donald M. Ware
MUFON Regional Director, Eastern USA
Former State Director

CR: R. Reid

FORUM, Fargo, ND - Sept. 5, 1990 CR: J. Salter

Mysterious circles in field spark record enrollment in UND class

Turtle Lake, N.D. (AP)

Mysterious circles in a farmer's hay field have led to record enrollment in a University of North Dakota class on UFOs.

Registration for the class called "UFOs, ETs and Close Encounters" was closed with 148 students, the most ever to register for a course not required at UND, Professor John Salter said.

"Obviously, it shows a broad recognition that UFOs are real," he said Tuesday.

The Turtle Lake circles in Allen and Sharon Wagner's hay field are among a dozen or more in four sites that have appeared in North

Dakota over the past two years.

No one has come up with a logical explanation for the dead grass, loosened sod and straight-sided depressions that range from 3 inches to 24 inches deep at the perimeter.

Some have suggested the dead grass is the result of insects, hay stacks, badgers or chemical spill, but none of those theories accounts for the size and type of depressions at the site.

Salter, the chairman of the UND department of Indian studies, said he became interested in UFOs after he saw one in Wisconsin in 1988. Though he has not visited the Wagner field, he said, he is con-

vinced the circles are a "clean and clear example of a UFO landing site."

Similar mysterious circles have been found in grain fields in England and Manitoba.

Salter's UFO class will meet once a week for two hours, and students will receive three credit hours for passing the course. Salter plans to talk about his own experiences, as well as use films and encourage discussions.

But that isn't much consolation for the Wagners, who still are looking for an explanation for the circles — even after hundreds of people have looked at the site.

UFO News

Tommy Smith's statements questioned

BY ED WALTERS

On July 24th the *Sentinel* interviewed Tommy Smith concerning his accusations that I hoaxed UFO photos. When asked him about the 'Road Shot' UFO photo taken on Soundside Dr. by me, Tommy stated that Ed told him all about it, describing the "perfect place" and how the UFO was supposed to land on the road. But, as documented in the *Sentinel*, six weeks earlier Tommy was interviewed by Ed Gray, and when asked about the 'Road Shot' with the illuminated roadway beneath the UFO, Tommy said, "Illuminated roadway?" Ed Gray and Mark Curtis described the photograph to Tommy who said, "No, I don't think I could help you there."

Also documented in the *Sentinel*, on June 15, Tommy Smith was asked what "may have caused him (Ed) some financial loss and given him reason to pursue this?" Tommy said, "My father knows a lot more about that than I do." But, in the July 19 *Sentinel*, Tommy's father said "No, not at all" when asked about what his son had alluded to. Recently during an interview with *Inside Edition*, a national TV show, Tommy claimed that I was bankrupt and desperate for money. But, bankruptcy is a matter of court records and there is no record of bankruptcy. In fact, I am well known for my generous community donations.

A close friend of Tommy Smith, Rob, reported to friends that in early November 1987, Tommy told him a completely different story about seeing and photographing the UFO. "Tommy was white with fear as he described what happened and showed me his photographs of the UFO. As I recall, this was before anything was in the newspaper about UFOs."

These examples of different and conflicting stories told by Tommy are confusing. Several days before Tommy Smith was interviewed by several reporters the main headline news in Gulf Breeze was the SIX SOLDIERS AND THE CULT/ANTICHRIST connection. During one interview Tommy claimed that Hank Boland said Ed was the Devil... he (Ed) looks like a Devil, yea... just look at him." Tommy appeared serious in all his answers, including that Ed looks like a Devil. Hank Boland refuted the stories told by Tommy Smith.

After a complete review of Tommy's accusations as transcribed directly from Tommy's June 15 interview with Ed Gray, it is clear that most of the accusations by Tommy begin with "Ed told me..." and none of those "Ed told me..." stories check out. The 13" circle of dead grass can not be made by jumping up and down on an upside down trampoline. The blue beam photo can not be made by peeling the film back and exposing some



light. The stereo photos can not be made by photographing an airplane landing at night. So the question is, do we believe that I told Tommy these stories? I only knew Tommy as a High School band member who was two years older than my son. I would see Tommy at some of the Band parties at my house. He was a very quiet boy."

On June 19, I was challenged by Tommy's father to take a lie detector test. On that same evening I took the test and passed. Ed Walters has now taken four separate tests with three different examiners and passed them all. My wife Frances and Hank Boland were also tested previously. I have been tested over and over for the past two and a half years. Every time somebody makes a negative accusation I end up having to take another lie detector test. Enough is enough. All four tests prove that I have never, ever, had a UFO model and we have proven conclusively that the model that somebody planted in the house I lived in over a year and half ago, did not even exist until after Sept 1989, two years after I photographed the UFO in 1987.

The photographs have been studied by independent computer image experts and Certified Photogrammetrist, who agree that they find "no evidence of photo trickery." If the model theory is to be further considered it must be applied to all of my photographs, even the stereo photos. For example, on March 17, 1988, seven people (as reported in the *Sentinel*) witnessed a pair of (SRS) stereo photos develop only moments after a UFO sighting in South Shoreline Park. The stereo photos prove that the UFO is not a small model but a large object hundreds of feet away.

I insist that "professional model builders, paper plate models and odd conflicting accusations by Tommy Smith do not explain away what so many people have seen in the skies over Gulf Breeze. It only shows how close the UFO witnesses are to exposing the UFO truth and how important it is to cover up that truth at the official level."

Did mysterious note influence release of Gulf Breeze Six?

An interesting piece of the puzzle of the six army deserters who showed up in Gulf Breeze, were arrested by the FBI, were taken to Fort Benning and Fort Knox, and then were released with General Discharges, has here-to-for not been shared with the general public.

That puzzle piece came in the form of an unsigned typewritten note presumably sent to the US Army and all the major TV networks and wire services demanding the release of "The Gulf Breeze Six."

The note was accompanied by two photographs and threatened the release of "500+ photos and plans you want back...unless they are released"

The note ended "Answer code AUGSBB3CM".

Mark Curtis at WEAR Channel 3 first shared this intriguing note with *The Sentinel* two days before the announcement that the Gulf Breeze Six were discharged from the army and released.

The photos shown here are courtesy of Lea Sinclair at WALA TV 10 and appear to be the same ones sent to WEAR.

ARC, NBC, CRS, AP, UPI

US ARMY:

FREE THE GULF BREEZE SIX.

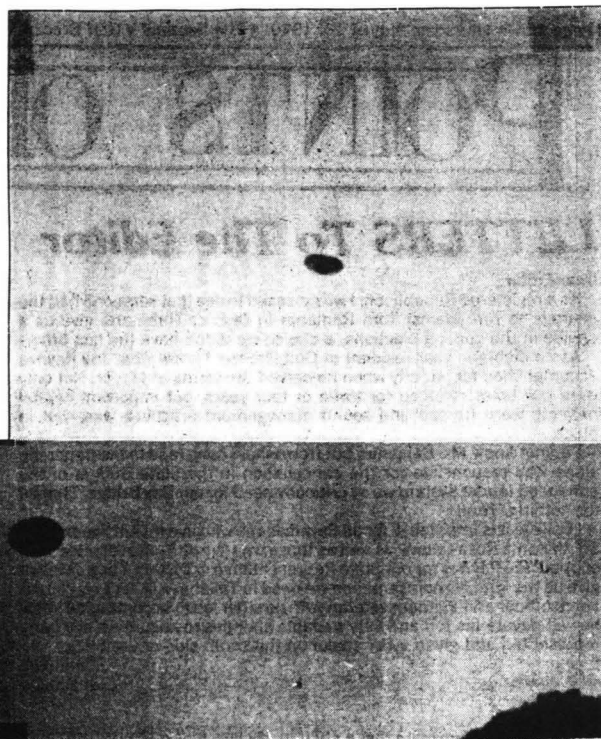
WE HAVE THE MISSING FILES, THE BOX OF 500+ PHOTOS AND THE PLANS YOU WANT BACK.

HERE IS PROOF WITH CLOSE-UPS CUT OUT.

NEXT WE SEND THE CLOSE-UPS AND THEN EVERYTHING

UNLESS THEY ARE RELEASED.

ANSWER CODE AUGSBB3CM



DAILY NEWS, Fort Walton Beach, FL - Aug. 5, 1990

CR: R. Reid

Ex-soldier denies UFOs their goal

GULF BREEZE (AP) - One of six former soldiers who deserted their intelligence brigade in West Germany has confirmed they came to this Florida Panhandle city for religious reasons.

But Kenneth Beason, 26, originally from Jefferson City, Tenn., Friday denied reports that their action was connected to UFO sightings, a mission to kill the antichrist or a belief in an end-of-the-world theory.

Beason and two of the other soldiers have returned to this Pensacola suburb following their discharge from the Army last week at Fort Knox, Ky. Five men and a woman were arrested here July 13-14 on charges of deserting their unit in Augsburg, West Germany.

"We didn't really leave the Army; we left Europe," Beason said.

He said the group came to Gulf Breeze because of friends. All six had received code training at the Corry Station Naval Technical Training Center in Pensacola.

Also back in Gulf Breeze are Annette Eccleston, 32, of Hartford, Conn., and Michael Hueckstadt, 19, of Farson, Wyo., but they declined to be interviewed.

The three are staying at the home of Anna Foster, described by Police Chief Jerry Brown as a psychic, where the five men had been living at the time of their arrests. Ms. Eccleston camped at nearby Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Beason denied the six were part of a cult, saying they were Christians whose study of the Bible led them to leave Europe. They eventually may discuss details of their action, but only as a group because the public has identified them as such, he said.

A friend and relatives said Beason told them the group was coming to Gulf Breeze, a hotbed of reported UFO sightings, because of interest in unidentified flying objects and their religious beliefs. They said the group believed the world was coming to an end and expected Jesus to return on a spaceship.

A man who sold them their van said they told him they were coming here for the Rapture, a belief by some fundamentalist Christians that believers will be taken to heaven before the world ends.

An Army spokesman initially said the troops were part of a group called "The End of the World" but later retracted that statement.

However, a member of their brigade told the unofficial military newspaper Stars and Stripes that there indeed was such a group and the six were on a mission to find and destroy the antichrist.

Various sightings reported Beach residents say UFOs viewed

A report was received Tuesday from Navarre resident and Mutual UFO Network member Rex Salisberry of a UFO sighting over the Gulf of Mexico at 11:30 p.m., June 8.

SALISBERRY WROTE that "the Bridges family" on Navarre Beach had reported seeing a total of 20-30 lights that appeared to be low over the water approximately 10 miles away.

The unidentified lights would at

times seem to join in a circular orbit and then shoot out in many directions, according to Salisberry.

Some of the paths, he wrote, were jagged, with sharp turns and abrupt stops, while others were smooth arcs.

The UFOs would then regroup and repeat the process randomly, he said.

He said another group of about 20 individuals, who were visiting rental units, also observed the dis-

play. WITNESSES COULD not explain the activities by natural phenomena, such as fireworks, naval gunfire, flares, or lights from a ship, said Salisberry.

On May 11, at 9 p.m., a Navarre family was at their swimming pool at 9 p.m., according to Salisberry, when they noticed a UFO in the sky to the west of their home. They described it as twice the size of a star, with red, blue, and white lights on it.

As they watched, he said, they saw a large airplane approach the UFO from the north. The plane first appeared to circle beneath the UFO, and the above it. After a few minutes, the plane departed to the east toward Ft. Walton Beach.

THE FAMILY continued to watch the UFO as it moved slowly

to the west. Thirty minutes later, two smaller planes flew toward the UFO from the direction of Milton, he said.

At that point, the UFO moved abruptly toward the south, then back toward the west and suddenly disappeared. There was no sound from the UFO, although the witnesses could hear the airplane engines.

At least five witnesses observed this event for more than an hour, he said, and are convinced that what they saw cannot be explained as natural phenomena.

SALISBERRY SAID shortly after midnight on April 8, a Navarre Beach resident and companion saw a large orange light low above the Gulf of Mexico, to the south. The light was first seen as they drove toward Pensacola Beach over the Bob Sikes Bridge.

When they arrived on the beach road between Pensacola and Navarre Beach they stopped the car and could again see the UFO from one of the walkovers to the beach.

They drove home, where they could again see the UFO from the deck of the south side of the house.

They reported to Salisberry that they could not see the UFO from ground level on the beach, which would indicate that it was perhaps as much as four miles off shore.

AFTER HOVERING in the same position for more than two hours, the light suddenly "blinked out," according to Salisberry.

Salisberry said to report a UFO, spotters may call the MUFON hot line, 436-2700.

PRESS-GAZETTE, Milton, FL
June 14, 1990

Local UFO group detects new respect

By Barbara Solow
The Pittsburgh Press

FOR STAN GORDON and his Greensburg-based research group, "respectability" has been a long time coming.

Since he founded the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained almost a decade ago, the organization has gained steady credibility with the media, the police and the general public, Gordon said.

That's no small feat for a group that investigates reports of unidentified flying objects, Bigfoot sightings and other mysterious encounters.

Since 1981, PASU has logged thousands of calls from people across Pennsylvania and neighboring states who have seen strange objects or creatures.

Now, the group is moving into the national spotlight with an appearance on the NBC television show, "Unsolved Mysteries."

The episode, scheduled to air on WPXI-TV this fall, will focus on an incident in Kecksburg, Westmoreland County, that Gordon has been investigating for years.

On Dec. 9, 1965, a huge fireball was seen streaking through the skies over northern Canada, New York, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Eventually, it crashed in a wooded area near Kecksburg, where PASU believes it was confiscated by a special military unit called Operation Moondust.

The show's producers say the episode on the local sighting, which begins filming Sunday, will focus on information gathered by PASU, including interviews with eyewitnesses.

Gordon, an electronics salesman whose interest in UFOs began the night of the Kecksburg incident, hopes the television show will help turn up further clues to the origins on the fireball. He says new leads already have been uncovered through reviews of declassified government files and contact with witnesses who have decided to break their silence about the event.

"The data we've uncovered shows we're dealing with a Firsthand experience of UFOs is not a requirement, explained."

More recent sightings have occurred in parts of

"The data we've uncovered shows we're dealing with a very important scientific phenomenon. But for many years, there was so much ridicule ... it was hard to know what really happened."

— Stan Gordon

very important scientific phenomenon," Gordon says. "But for many years, there was so much ridicule involved, it was hard to know what really happened."

Since 1969, when the Air Force decided there was not enough evidence to support continued UFO research, no federal agency has kept track of UFO sightings. Working as volunteers, the members of Gordon's group aim to fill that gap.

At PASU headquarters in the basement of his Oakhill Avenue home, rebuilt radios and computer terminals create a buzzing, blinking canvas across three walls. A row of battered file cabinets stands at attention toward the rear of the room and a sagging bookcase is loaded with titles ranging from "Goblin Universe" to "Toward a New Astronomy."

As he shows a visitor around the room, Gordon sounds more like a teacher than a UFO enthusiast. His speech is peppered with references to astronomical bodies, government agencies and regional weather systems.

A professional image is something Gordon has been striving for since he founded the area's first UFO research organization in 1970. While membership in the Westmoreland County UFO Study Group was open to anyone, membership in PASU is limited to those who can demonstrate expertise in astronomy, psychology, law enforcement or other fields related to the study of the unexplained.

Firsthand experience of UFOs is not a requirement, explained."

More recent sightings have occurred in parts of

Pittsburgh. In May, two women reported seeing a large oval blimp pass over their car at about 3 a.m. at Beacon and Wigham streets in Squirrel Hill.

Last Wednesday, PASU received calls about an unusually bright light in the skies over Monroeville. Later that evening, a similar glow was reported by people living near Harrisburg.

When a call comes in, PASU volunteers immediately fill out an incident report that includes the time of the event, the duration of the sighting, whether there were any witnesses and a general description of the object or creature seen. Names of callers are kept confidential.

The report is then logged onto a computer disk and a copy is sent to a national information bank kept by the Mutual UFO Network, based in Seguin, Texas.

Depending on where the incident took place, teams of volunteer investigators are dispatched to the site, Geiger counters and notebooks in hand.

"We always try to find a logical explanation for things," Gordon said. "A lot of these events are scientifically explainable."

Incidents that cannot be dismissed as shooting stars or aircraft landings are referred to PASU members for further investigation. Of the 219 sightings reported to the group in 1989, 76 percent were termed unidentified.

PASU member Keith Bastianini has been working on a case reported in March by two elderly women in Upper Burrell, Westmoreland County. The women, whom he would not identify, were driving along a desolate stretch of road when they saw an object in the field that was so large it seemed to block out the stars.

Because the women were upset by the experience, their memory of it is dim, said Bastianini, a graduate anthropology student at the University of Pittsburgh. PASU investigators have suggested placing the women under hypnosis so they can more freely describe what they saw, a technique used on rare occasions.

How do investigators know when people are telling the truth?

"It's a very subjective thing," Bastianini said. "That's why a lot of people in the sciences stay away from this. You try to maintain your skepticism and look for discrepancies in the stories."

As one of the few PASU members who has seen a UFO (the event took place when he was 12 years old in South Park), Bastianini can sympathize with the reactions of hot line callers. But he has no explanation for where the unidentified objects come from.

"Everyone's got their own theory," he says. "It's like a big puzzle."

Following a sharp increase in UFO sightings which began two years ago, the number of calls to the PASU hot line has declined in recent months, Gordon said. While 350 cases were reported in 1988, only 219 were reported in 1989.

Richard Hunger, director of emergency management for Westmoreland County, said UFO sightings have been "a very quiet item around here for some time now."

When he does get calls about unusual objects, Hunger refers them

to Gordon, because "his credibility is good. He takes the time to investigate these things."

Paul J. Oles, head of the observatory at Buhl Science Center in Pittsburgh, also refers calls to the Greensburg group. But he is not as quick to give an unqualified endorsement.

"All I know is that they are an available resource," Oles said. "I can't really comment on their techniques. There is always a danger with this kind of thing that the reports begin to feed on themselves."

Gordon has no fear that the presence of PASU will encourage false reports of UFOs. "People who've had close-up sightings do not appear to be people in the crackpot category," he said. "When you hear hundreds of people describing the same situation, you have to know you are dealing with a very involved phenomenon."

Can he envision a time when the unexplained will become explainable?

"I think we have to keep an open mind to all possibilities," Gordon said.

For more information

Area residents looking for information on UFOs, Bigfoot sightings and other unexplained events can contact the following organizations:

- The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained in Greensburg operates a 24-hour hotline at 412-838-7768. Write to Director Stan Gordon at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg 15601.
- The group will be sponsoring a UFO display at the Westmoreland Mall on Aug. 18 to mark National UFO Information Week.
- The Center for UFO Research also takes reports of strange objects. Write to Paul Johnson, 721 Old Greensburg Pike, North Versailles 15137.
- The Mutual UFO Network runs an information bank and publishes a regular journal. Write to MUFON at 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155.
- The Center for UFO Studies in Chicago publishes the "International UFO Reporter." Write the center at 2457 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60659, or call 312-271-3611.
- PASU recommends several UFO computer networks that are up and running around the United States and Canada. They include:
 - PARANET, P.O. Box 97797, Las Vegas, Nev. 89193-7797.
 - UFO Data Base, 1800 S. Robertson Blvd., Box 355, Los Angeles, Calif. 90035.

HERALD TRIBUNE, Sarasota, FL - July 18, 1990

In Washington, and particularly at the Pentagon, people are whispering, talking and nervously biting their nails over former New York Times investigative reporter Howard Blum's coming expose "Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extra-Terrestrials."

This work carefully and exhaustively documents how the United States government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars studying the possibility of life on other planets and investigating all those UFO sightings, despite denials to both the media and Congress that such activity exists. Howard Blum's latest book has - not surprisingly - already piqued the interest of Hollywood. David Wolper and Warner Bros. have bought the film and TV rights and plan to produce a four-part miniseries for NBC.

Author Blum boasts an impressive track record. His first book "Wanted: The Search for Nazis in America" was a best seller, and his second "I Pledge Allegiance," about the Walker spy ring, became a CBS miniseries. "Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extra-Terrestrials" will hit the bookshelves in early September, from Simon & Shuster.

CR: B. Greenwood

GLOBE, Boston, MA - July 10, 1990 CR: B. Greenwood

ASK THE GLOBE

(617) 929-2990

- Q. Are there any unidentified flying objects (UFOs) over Cape Cod?
P.K., Dedham
- A. Bud Hopkins, a New York artist who claims to investigate sightings on behalf of the UFO Center in Evanston, Ill., says he thinks there are. He has told newspapers about strange objects spotted since 1978 in the sky or on the ground near Hyannis, Wellfleet and Truro. The most memorable, he says, was his unsuccessful investigation of a 1978 report by Brett Binns of Trumbull, Conn., and Ellen Gorgonzola of Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y., of a triangular space object carrying three bright lights that they say they spotted in the sky over Hyannis.

present a paper dealing with evidence of recent UFO phenomena in the Soviet Union. "Col. Gen. Igor Maltsev, Soviet chief of air defense forces, made a public statement published in newspapers that a UFO had been detected last March 21 on radar screens at several radar facilities northeast of Moscow and jet fighters had been sent to intercept them," he said. "But the UFO was moving about two to three times faster than any modern jet fighter."

Send items to Around Town, Babylon Special, Newsday, Long Island, N.Y. 11747.

BY THE WAY

Don't panic. The UFOs have arrived, but they're friendly.

So far the only problem they've caused is more traffic at the Vanderbilt Planetarium in Centerport, whose UFO show has been drawing full houses and - on occasion - an extra show.

"This show is the most popular we've ever had. A lot of people do believe there are UFOs and are going crazy over it," said spokeswoman Jo Walner.

"UFO," which lasts until Dec. 31, is a program presented with scientific detachment; arguments pro and con are dramatized without judgments. To complement the show, the planetarium organized two talks and a debate. The first talk was given Wednesday by Rockville Centre-born UFO investigator Antonio Huneus,

who lives in Astoria, Queens. He will also preside at the debate to be held at 8 p.m. Aug. 1.

Huneus, the son of a Chilean U.N. diplomat and a free-lance science writer, believes so-called unidentified flying objects should be studied scientifically. "This is done to some extent," he said, "but not enough, because institutions and universities think it too controversial and don't want to get involved."

Soviet reaction to UFOs is more serious, he said in a phone interview before leaving for the annual symposium last weekend in Pensacola, Fla., of the Mutual UFO Networks,

the largest such investigative group in the world, he said.

Huneus said that the Soviet Union's Soviet Academy of Sciences has an official commission that deals with UFOs. He said he has received reports from Soviet delegates he met at a recent international UFO Congress in Frankfurt, West Germany, in late October, a meeting "that drew almost 2,000 delegates from all over the world," he said, "and was the first time that a delegation of Soviet scientists and investigators came to such a meeting in the West."

In Pensacola, Huneus was to



FOREIGN NEWS

FARM RING MYSTIFIES

Sun photo by Joe Bryksa

*Nothing unusual ...
except dog's barking*

By JAMES O'CONNOR
Sun Staff Writer

St. FRANCOIS XAVIER —
It's large, round and flat.

Called a crop circle, it mysteriously appeared near the corner of a wheat field late last week — and it's had a strange effect on local residents in this agricultural area west of Winnipeg.

It's making them scratch their heads. "I'm trying to figure out what the heck it is," George Friesen said, as he stared in disbelief at the 18-metre diameter circle of flattened grain.

"I never saw anything like this before in my life — it looks like something's been rolled around and around."

Friesen — now 78 and a veteran grain grower — lives across the road from the field owned by Joe Thomaschewski.

It was Thomaschewski who discovered the cleanly-cut ring Saturday at 5 p.m. on his land at the corner of the Trans-Canada Highway and Highway 241.

He had been by the area a few days earlier, but noticed nothing unusual — nothing like his metre-high wheat being bent at the root and flattened in a counter-clockwise circle.

This has left an investigator in unusual phenomenon to conclude the circle was "created" between Thursday and Saturday afternoon.

Possible hoax

"We're still not ruling out that it could be a hoax — but we're still investigating," said Chris Rutkowski of Ufology Research of Manitoba.

The circle is quite similar to those found in England, where 1,000 have been located throughout the years, Rutkowski said.

However, the phenomenon is quite rare here, he said, noting the last discovery here was 12 years ago near Rosburn.

"We're not advocating that it's a UFO, that's just one possibility," Rutkowski said,

adding there were no tracks or marks leading up to the circle, located some 20 metres from the road.

Farmer Friesen's wife, Katherine, said the phone lines are buzzing with talk of the strange circle.

"We've never experienced anything like that ... it's very odd," she said, adding her family can't recall hearing anything strange the past few nights — except their dog barking at unusual hours.

"And I looked out the window then and couldn't see anything," George Friesen said, noting he and his son have been working quite late thrashing their crop.

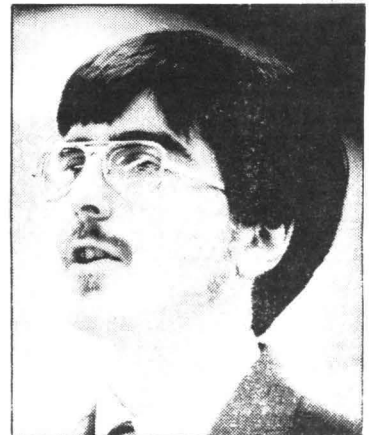
Another puzzled person walking in circles around the ring last night was Dan Sommerfeld.

The 24-year-old area resident said it looked as if the wheat had been throttled by Mother Nature, not by human hands.

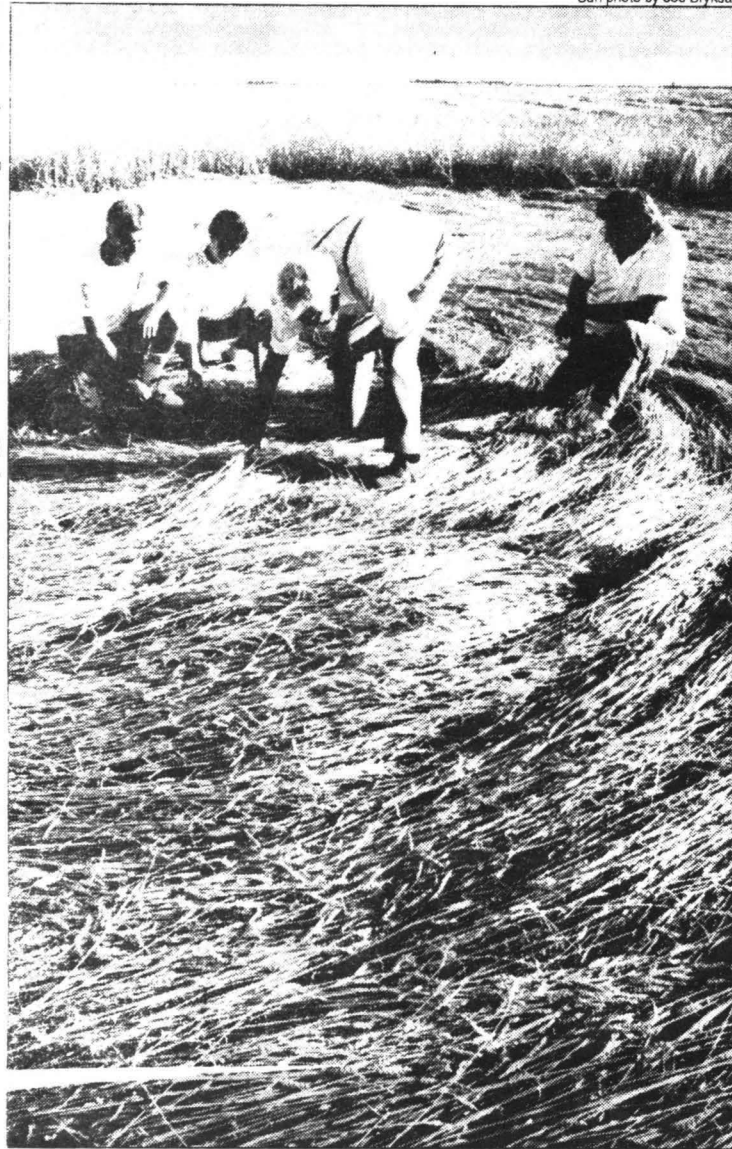
"It looks like it was blown down — I don't think anyone around here would do anything like this," he said.

Astronomer Rutkowski said in addition to an alien visitor, other causes are being studied, including a weather phenomenon and new seismic or electrical activity.

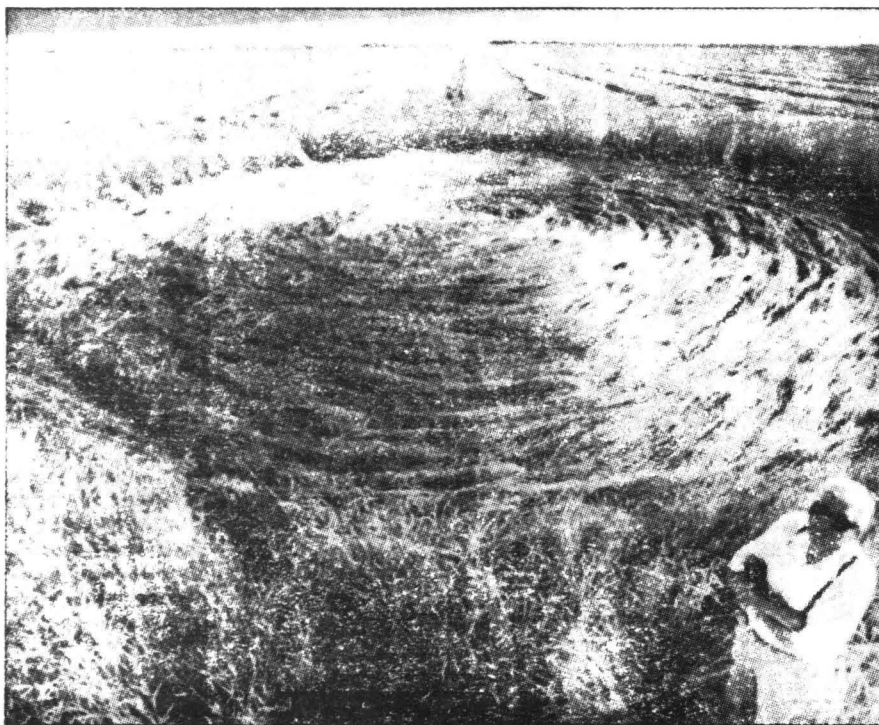
File photo



RUTKOWSKI: UFO 'just one possibility'



BIZARRE BUT TRUE: An 18-metre crop circle that appeared in a St. Francois Xavier farmer's field has area residents scratching their heads over its possibly alien origin.



Reuter photo

Manitoba mystery

A Centre for UFO Studies spokesman says a mysterious crop circle near Winnipeg is similar to ones in England, but believes it's "a natural phenomenon or a hoax."

THANET TIMES, Margate, England — July 17, 1990 CR: T. Good

Don't bring your close encounters to my fields

UFO-spotters and ET enthusiasts investigating the mysterious crop circle phenomenon are being told to watch their step. But Manston farmer David Steed does not understand the fuss.

The National Farmers' Union for the South East has issued a code of conduct telling people what not to do on farms.

It wants to stop the growing number of crop circle researchers, trespassing or damaging the land.

Mr. Steed, of Spratling Court Farm, said: "I'm mildly surprised the booklet came out because I did not think there was much of a problem."

The union's booklet asks people to get permission from the farmer before examining a circle and it questions whether it is necessary for anyone except a qualified research-

er to investigate. If consent is given, visitors are told to follow the code of conduct, which includes leaving a calling card, closing gates and not damaging crops.

The phenomena, which the union says is on the increase, are usually found in their most dramatic form in fields of wheat and barley. No one can explain their sudden appearance, but theories range from spaceships to the weather and from a freak of nature to a hoax.

Mr. Steed has his own theory. He believes they are either man-made or caused by something landing.

"Somebody is either being very clever and playing an elaborate hoax or the science fiction in me says it's something from outer space."

He added: "I have seen weather damage and it does not make perfect circles."

Can anybody square up the circles?

by SINCLAIR McKAY

A FAINT, warm, night-time breeze wafts through the cornfields at Alton Barnes in Wiltshire. The atmosphere is heavy and oppressive and — sometime between dusk and dawn — the inexplicable happens.

A large circle appears in the corn. It has been happening with surprising regularity — sometimes one circle, sometimes a series of them — all over the West Country. Every summer for the past ten years the cornfields of Wiltshire have been covered with these peculiar circles.

Hundreds have already appeared this year alone and all sorts of people are now trying to explain why. So far, nobody has come up with a satisfactory answer.

Debate

The latest circle manifestation has started the most feverish debate of all. Last week, nine circles, all in a row, appeared in a field owned by the Ministry of Defence in Wiltshire. And for the past few days the site has been swarming with experts from all over the world. The Americans, Canadians and Japanese are getting hugely interested because these markings have been appearing in their countries as well.

Indeed, interest in corn circles has been so intense this year that experts from several different continents have met to discuss them. Last month, Dr Terence Meaden of the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation presented his theory at a conference in Oxford attended by TV crews from all over the world. He believes that the circles are caused by localised whirlwinds charged with electrified dust.

He was joined by American meteorology experts and Japanese physicists. But the meeting ultimately clouded the issue rather than explaining it. The idea of a localised whirlwind could perhaps explain the simple circles, but the scientists admitted that they were still baffled by the more complex patterns. Meaden, however, is confident that some



THE THEORIES

THESE are the most popular:

- 1 Wind vortex. Wind sweeping round a hill forms into whirlwind and presses corn down.
- 2 Fungus. This can cause a crop to collapse in circular pattern.
- 3 Soil disorder. Chemical weaknesses causing crop to collapse.
- 4 Badgers/ Hedgehogs.

Amorous animals running around in the middle of the night.

- 5 Elaborate hoaxes. Youngsters creating circles using chains or a weight on the end of a rope which they swing round.
- 6 Descending flying saucers, spaceships coming down in fields leaving landing marks.

day his theory will explain them, too.

Alton Barnes, scene of the last incident, is a place which certainly lends itself to the mystical atmosphere that these circles provoke. The area is steeped in legends and folklore. Stand in the middle of a field on a hazy summer's day surrounded by golden crops and the gently rolling hills on the horizon and it is impossible not to feel a twinge of awe.

Is it really possible to explain scientifically these beautiful patterns? Dr Meaden would rather do that than give credence to the UFO theories. But why, then, are most of the circles appearing in Wiltshire and not elsewhere?

"Indeed, we've had 320 circles this year in Wiltshire already," said Dr Meaden. "I think they're appearing here because of the chalky soil. They are all near hills and the wind vortices which may create this effect only appear in fields near hills."

"I visited a new circle for the first time last Friday — the best circle formation I've ever seen."

"It's nine circles in a row — four are absolutely magnificent — and one is imperfect. It seems to show an arm coming out of the circle with three fingers. It's a circle that's gone wrong."

"It supports my theory involving spinning balls of air. The vortex has an internal structure which can't be seen. The internal structure of this one appears to have gone wrong."

Adding to the fever of the debate is the ill-concealed irritation that Dr Meaden feels for amateur circle enthusiasts Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado who say the circles are the work of an 'intelligence'.

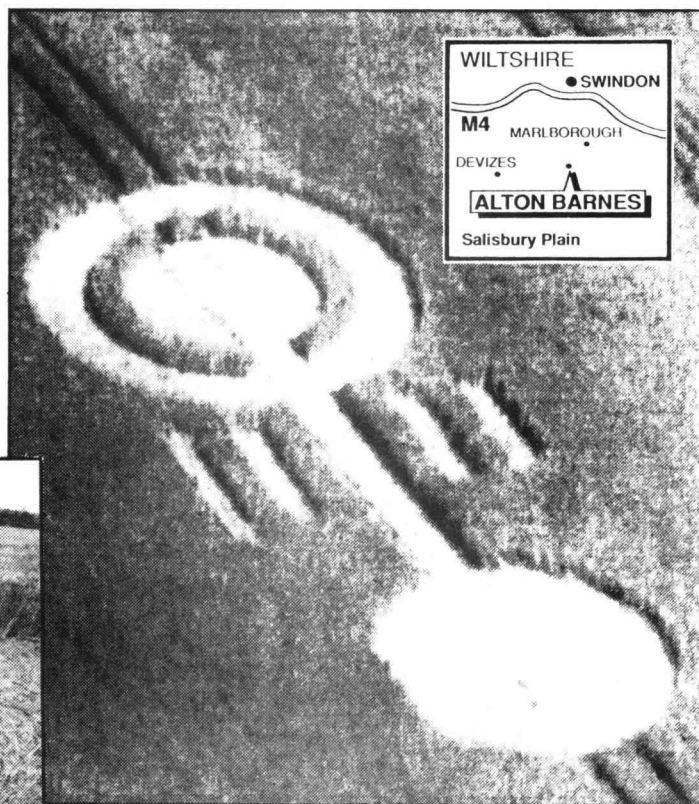
Bizarre

Colin Andrews counters: "There is nothing in this theory of wind vortices. Only three people in the world have really looked in depth at this problem: myself, Pat Delgado and Terence Meaden. We worked together for a couple of years some time ago. It is certain that the circles are caused by something airborne but I am sure there is nothing random about them."

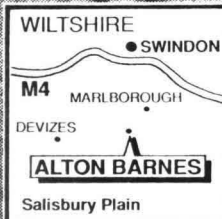
"The largest formation we've come across is in Wiltshire. It's 300ft across — one large circle and three concentric rings around it. We discovered a further concentric ring had appeared and 36 more had manifested across the landscape. There is something here which is acting, reacting and locating in the most bizarre way."

So there is still no theory which satisfies everybody, although UFO researcher Jenny Randles, in her book on the subject, gives an interesting explanation of why people think the circles are caused by supernatural means. She believes that they are caused by natural phenomena that we have not yet understood and which we exaggerate in our thirst for mystery.

So, as Dr Meaden says, the wind may be the answer but it may be another 50 years before we know exactly how. Which means we probably have another 50 years of spaceship theories to look forward to. Summer just wouldn't be the same without circles in corn fields.



Saucer or scythe? But no theory about these circles has the ring of truth



EASTERN EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England

July 30, 1990 CR: T. Good

DEAD RINGER FOR ALIENS



Farmers Brenda and Robert Gibbons stand in the circle which has appeared their barley.

THE appearance of a crop circle in a second Norfolk field could be linked to mysterious lights, a farmer claims.

A jogger spotted the latest circle in a remote area near North Walsham — hours after Mrs Brenda Gibbons had what she believes was a UFO encounter.

There has been intense speculation that aliens could explain the circles which have been appearing mainly in the south of Britain.

But experts have been baffled by the phenomenon, also reported at Tibenham, near Long Stratton.

Mrs Gibbons, of Crickmore Farm, White Horse Common, whose family farms the hillside barley-field where the latest circle was found, was amazed when she was told that her crops had been flattened.

"I went to bed about 11.30pm and I was looking out, I saw a light which went behind the trees."

The new circle measures about 50ft, with an inner circle of flattened barley measuring about 3ft.

Mr Mark Thomas, of Edingthorpe, who found the circle while out jogging, said: "I don't want to go anywhere near it. You don't know what caused it. A lot of people believe in aliens from outer space but there has to be some more down to earth explanation."

OBSERVER, London, England - July 22, 1990

Richard Ingram

I WAS LUCKY enough to visit early last week one of the extraordinary crop-circles that have been appearing this year in increasing numbers, particularly near pre-historic sites in Hampshire and Wiltshire. This one was situated in an especially favourite place of mine, which I shall not name, and consisted of a large and most elaborate formation of rings and rectangles, all made out of perfectly flattened corn. There are more than ever this year and they are getting even more complex in design.

The more complicated they become, the more desperate are the efforts of scientists and other experts to explain how they come about. Some insist it is all the work of hoaxers, others that fungi are in some way responsible. But the circles seem determined to refute the theories as quickly as they are put forward. No sooner had one expert, Dr Terence Meaden, explained to everyone's satisfaction that it was all done by something called 'a magnetically charged plasma vortex' than rectangles began to appear in the corn.

It is always intensely gratifying when something occurs which scientists cannot begin to explain, and it is always



noticeable how the supposedly scientific explanations are much more improbable than any supernatural alternative. It is altogether easier to believe in a flying saucer or even in 'the little people' than in 'a magnetically charged plasma vortex'.

I can only report from my own experience that the circles are in no way sinister or spooky, and that all the people visiting seemed very happy. We ought to feel privileged that our country has been specially chosen for such beautiful and mysterious manifestations.

CR: T. Good

NEWMARKET JOURNAL, Suffolk, England - June 21, 1990 CR: T. Good

Lights in sky spark UFO mystery

NEWMARKET star-gazers could not believe their eyes when they saw what appeared to be unidentified flying objects hovering in the sky above the town in the early hours of Tuesday.

Stephen Milne, of Tunbridge Close, Burwell, was arriving home at around 1.30am when he saw what he described as "strange green lights in the sky".

"I was looking towards Cambridge and there were four lights that went together in a block and then went round in circles."

"I thought it might be lights from a fair but as far as I know there wasn't one on. Lots of people saw it," he said.

The lights were also seen by Clive Humphries, of Freshfields, Newmarket, at around 2am.

"There were four green lights, like disco lights. They kept splitting up and then going together again, just hanging in the air. My sister Camilla and some of my friends saw them as well," he said.

USAF Mildenhall spokesman Frank Randall confirmed the lights had nothing to do with base activities.

"We had no traffic in the air at that time on Tuesday as we close down from 10pm to 6am. Our midnight shift reported no unusual sightings in the area," he said.

■ The latest theory is that rather than a visitation from an outer planet the lights were laser beams from May Balls at Cambridge Colleges.

CORN CIRCLES

MYSTERY

DEEPENS

Rings appear on edge of city

By PAUL GREGAN

THE mystery of the corn circles deepened today after four huge rings appeared in fields on the edge of Peterborough.

The perfectly formed rings — up to 100 metres across — have baffled fliers at Sibson aerodrome who spotted them.

The fields of ripe wheat were untouched on Monday night — but the strange circular patterns materialised in the crops in just 48 hours afterwards.

The Meacock family who run the Peterborough Parachute Centre live on the airfield and heard nothing during the nights they appeared.

Alex Meacock was one of the first to examine the rings close up and does not think they are the work of hoaxers.

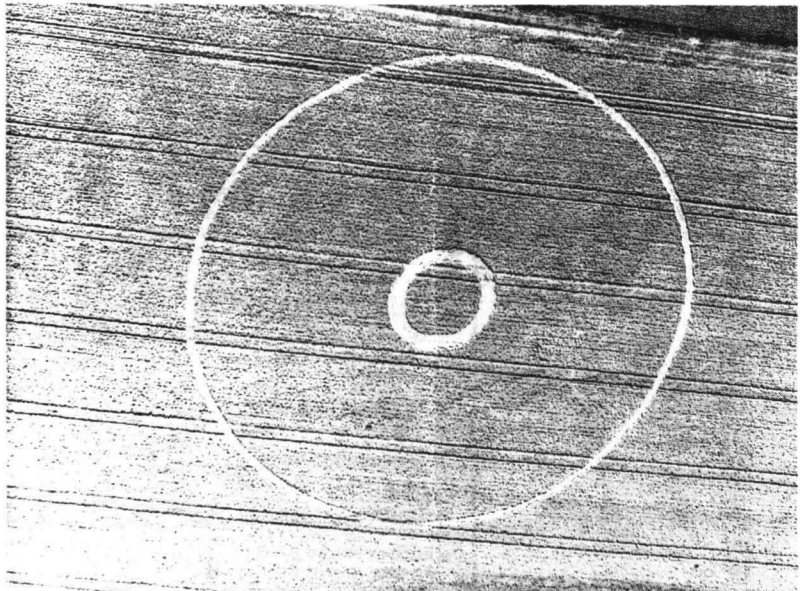
"We would have seen them or heard them. These things are not small. It would have taken an army hours to make them," he said.

The smallest pattern is made of two concentric circles — but the flattened corn in the 30 metre outer circle is lying clockwise and inside the broader inner ring the stalks are anti-clockwise.

The huge rings in a nearby field are up to three times as large. One is two more concentric circles. The other is one large ring with two spiral patches inside.

One of the ring fields has a history of wind turbulence — blamed by some scientists for the rings all over the country — but the air over the other sites is usually calm.

The Meacocks have never seen rings like this before and have videoed them from the air before the combine harvesters wipe them out for ever.



Stuart Meacock's picture of two of the circles which have appeared in fields near Sibson aerodrome. (Photo: 90071020/3)



Stuart Meacock examines one of the mysterious corn circles. (Photo: 90071001/19)



Alex Meacock takes a close up look at one of the circles. (Photo: 90071001/12)

'Truth' about those circles
 AS all the hype and publicity on TV about a "crop circle" in Cheshire may have misled people I thought it might be prudent to put the true facts before the public.
 The circle in Little Peover was not the first to appear in the North West; circles were found in Yorkshire in spring this year.
 As official crop-watch co-ordinators for the area we, of course, knew about the circle within a few hours of it being discovered. 72 hours before the media got hold of the story.
 We know as well about another circle which appeared in Marple last year, so the area was being monitored carefully.
 M R JONES
 (Rochdale UFO Research Group)
 CR: T. Good

Meet an alien at UFO discussion

VISITORS to next week's meeting of the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association will see a video about extra-terrestrial visitors.

The documentary describes the experiences of a Frenchman who claims to have seen a UFO and an alien.

The group has recently had a change of chairman following the resignation of Ron West, who left to set up a UFO group called the Essex UFO Research Group.

Peter Oliver of Lucas Road, Grays, is the organisation's new chairman. He has arranged for the tape to be shown at the meeting on Thursday, July 26, at the Rochford Council offices, room 5, Hockley Road, Rayleigh at 7.30.

The meeting is open to members of the public who can join in discussions and see a 30-minute video called How We Got Here.

The documentary describes the landing of a UFO and a meeting with a "visitor." The film also attempts to answer why

the visitors visit Earth and their purpose for coming here.

Psychic Krystyna Stark, who claims to have been in contact with the visitors, will answer questions about the film.

Roy Lake, president of the group, will also show a three-minute home video of a mutilated fox. Roy feels the fox may have been attacked by an alien.

He said: "In America cattle are being attacked and having vital organs surgically taken out while they are in the field."

"I think this fox, which was not covered in blood or anything, may have been attacked by a visitor."

Lined up for the future are talks about the strange circles that have been found in cornfields.

Researchers believe they are made by the landing of flying saucers.

If you want more information about the group or if you have seen a UFO, contact Roy Lake on 081 594 4797, or Peter Oliver on 0375 373065.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 4, 1990
 CR: G. Conway

Frisbee points the way to helicopter design

The physics of a flying Frisbee point the way to a revolutionary design of helicopters and the possibility of flying cars, according to a team at England's Sussex University.

A team led by Dr. Alan Turner of the mechanical engineering department believes a helicopter, or more exactly an autogiro, could be lifted by a glorified Frisbee.

"Imagine a passenger car, with a disc on top, that could actually fly from one town to another," Turner said. "For a lightweight car or structure you are looking at a disc of four to 4½ metres diameter," he said.

EVENING SENTINEL, Stoke-on-Trent, England
 July 20, 1990 CR: T. Good

Big rise in sightings of UFOs

By Andy Stanistreet

REPORTS of unidentified flying objects in South Cheshire and North Staffordshire have soared over the last 12 months.

Officials at the Cheshire UFO Studies Centre in Earle Street, Crewe, received 120 calls on their 24-hour hotline — an increase of 20 per cent.

Mystery

Most of the sightings concerned mystery lights in the night sky over the Crewe, Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford areas.

Investigations by experts from the centre have ruled out 95 per cent of the lights as UFOs — most of them being traced to aircraft or satellites.

But they are still engaged in a six-month inquiry after two separate callers reported a close encounter with a 35ft "bright object with a glowing centre" which landed in a field near Audlem — and then vanished.

Centre chairman Mr

Eric Morris said: "Most of the people who call us are genuine, and many are worried or frightened by what they have seen."

Strange

"After inquiries with the RAF, the Ministry of Defence, airports and interviewing witnesses, we can explain about 95 per cent of the strange things people see — but there are still the rest which remain a mystery."

The centre is to launch a magazine recording all its reports of UFOs, its investigations into each incident and conclusions.

Bethells Beach UFO watch



UFO HUNTERS?: Enthusiasts watch for strange lights at Bethells Beach.

By FIONA BARBER

Strange lights in the night sky have a group of west Aucklanders baffled.

Six people have spotted the multi-coloured lights shooting and hovering off Bethells Beach and cannot explain the unidentified flying objects.

"Whatever's out there is definitely not human," says witness John Herbert.

Two observers have experienced the phenomenon twice. Opossum-hunters William Glasgow and Chris Knapton were at Bethells early one Saturday morning when they first sighted the lights.

"We were hunting when we saw a light," says Mr Glasgow. "We thought it was another hunter but then it went above the trees."

"We saw three of them, all zig-zagging along the shore," he says.

Unsure of what they had witnessed, the pair went back with a group of friends two nights later.

Mr Glasgow says the group was treated to a similar display for two hours. He says the lights could not be connected to hunters.

"It was out over the ocean."

Mr Knapton says at one stage a beam radiated from the lights, sweeping over the ocean.

"It must have been pretty big to have had a beam like that," he says.

Mr Herbert says he saw a light shoot across a clearing and hover about three miles off-shore.

"It was green, yellow, orange and red," he says.

"It did all sorts of acrobatic movements. It van-

ished into cloud with lights flashing."

The observers have ruled out the possibility of conventional aircraft. On another night the group saw two planes traverse the sky and say there is no comparison in size, speed or colour.

Both the Auckland weather office and the observatory report unusual atmospheric conditions at present.

Commercial services manager at the weather office Linda Summersby says the group could have seen aurora lights. Caused by charged particles entering the atmosphere, the multi-coloured display occurs in altered atmospheric conditions.

Aurora lights were spotted off Canterbury the night after the six had been dazzled by the Bethells display. While most auroras are seen in the South Island, they do occur further north, she says.

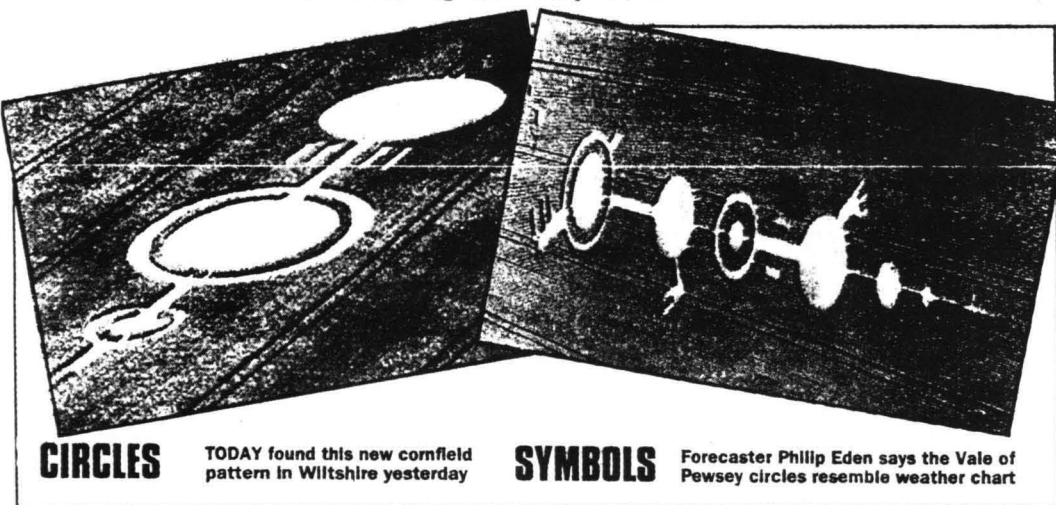
Head astronomer at the Auckland observatory Glenn Urquhart says increased sun activity has led to the altered atmospheric conditions and aurora lights are being spotted more.

However, Mr Urquhart says the Bethells group may have seen a meteor shower or fireball. These exhibit different colours as they burn, he says.

Atmospheric conditions may be responsible for visual aberrations, he says.

But the group, who contacted the *Western Leader* after reading about a similar sighting, is confident what they've seen has nothing to do with things human.

"It was like something out of *Close Encounters*," says Mr Herbert.



PREPARE TO MEET THY DROUGHT

Language experts reveal message of corn circles



Warning in early Sumerian? Two concentric circles for a well, parallel lines for double. The message: Multiply your wells.



from the south-west, a Force Five Gale from the south-east, a calm area with no wind, fog and a calm area with no wind.

IT'S a real puzzle how they got there," he said. "I can't think of an explanation but it's very exciting."

BBC TV weatherman Bernard Davey said: "I will be interested to see if we can find out for definite how these circles keep appearing."

Asked if aliens could have been responsible, he said: "I'm always suspicious when circles appear like this."

"I won't rule out men from

outer space... just in case."

And ITV weatherman Alex Hill added: "I reckon the circles are a weather report."

"Maybe it's been put there to help those Soviet cosmonauts steer their spacecraft back to Earth."

"One thing's for sure, it wasn't me that put them there."

Experts at the British Museum last night refused to be drawn into the debate.

A spokeswoman said: "We really wouldn't want to get involved with anything of this nature."

But languages expert Peter Colvin of London University supported our message theory.

He said: "Some of the figures look like a system of writing which is still used in parts of Inner and Outer Mongolia."

"I have seen it in books, but unfortunately, I am not able to read it."

"I don't suppose many people in Britain can do so either."

Our photographers flew across Wiltshire yesterday and spotted eight new circles, including the one we've reproduced (above left).

But as the mystery deepened last night, experts admitted they still do not know what has caused more than 200 circle alerts in Wiltshire and Hampshire this summer.

SOME believe that the phenomenon is caused by rare fungus or soil disorders causing crops to collapse in bizarre patterns.

Others insist that animals such as hedgehogs or badgers may have run wild in the summer heat, causing havoc in fields.

Some say freak wind conditions could be the cause of the damage.

Still more argue the circles are caused by aliens, landing their spacecraft or desperate to communicate with humans.

But cynics dismiss the patterns as the work of practical jokers, using bricks on lengths of rope to flatten crops.

Perhaps there's a ring of truth to all of them. But last night there was no getting away from the weather.

The circles have appeared during one of the hottest and driest spells in Britain.

In other words the message could mean: Fill up thy wells and prepare to meet thy drought.

Those Sumerians knew what they were writing about.

CLIVE NELSON



Rings part of folklore

FROM 1935 until 1940 I went to school in Dover, and I remember seeing in books for children a picture of fairies holding hands and dancing in a circle, rather like children holding hands and moving in a circle in "Ring o' ring o' roses". Sometimes, on the grassy banks of the cliffs of Dover, if a boy saw a circle in the grass, about 18 inches across, he would say to the other boys, (who by then did not believe in fairies) "It's where the fairies danced."

The rings are in English folklore. I think the rings have been here for

centuries, but they are getting wider and wider.

For instance I saw one about eight feet wide in some corn stubble at Mowsley in 1947 and at first I thought a tractor had caused it, but since there were no wheel tracks leading to the ring, I could not explain it.

It would need someone with Hiawatha's perception to explain the rings - he was supposed to have heard the grass growing!

FRANK EVANS, Enderby.

WORLD experts will jet into Britain today to try to solve the cornfield circles riddle which has baffled the country.

British, European and Japanese researchers - armed with high-tech cameras - will attempt to capture on film whatever, or WHOEVER, has caused the patterns in the fields.

But, as the scientists stake out rural Wiltshire, TODAY - which broke the news of the phenomenon - tracked down experts who think they know what the circles mean.

Historians believe that the carefully-plotted lines and circles resemble the writing of the Sumerians, who lived on the Iran-Iraq border 5,000 years ago.

And, amazingly, the message could be a warning to save water.

Linked with other evidence, it could mean we are in for a long drought.

Charles d'Orban, of London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, said: "The shapes in the field look like the work of the Sumerians, from late fourth and early third century BC."

"They had a relatively sophisticated system of writing with symbols which show a marked resemblance to those in Wiltshire."

In Sumerian, the world's oldest written language, two concentric circles means a well or cistern.

Two parallel lines mean double, or multiply (the signs are shown above).

So the message could mean: Multiply your wells.

After examination of blown-up prints of the dramatic TODAY pictures, Mr d'Orban said: "The resemblance is uncanny. I cannot think of any other explanation for it."

Last night Britain's top weather experts backed Mr d'Orban's theory that the symbols could be linked to the climate, particularly a spell of dry weather.

TODAY weatherman Philip Eden said: "Whoever or whatever drew these patterns certainly knows about meteorology."

"They look just like the signs on the sort of weather chart I see every day."

Mr Eden said that the circles which appeared in a pattern in a field in the Vale of Pewsey on Tuesday were wind direction symbols.

Left to right, the key-shaped symbols show a Force Seven gale

WHAT ON EARTH?

Circles appear at local airfield

PICTURE: STUART MEACOCK

FOUR strange rings — up to 200 feet across — appeared overnight in wheat fields on the edge of a Peterborough airfield.

Parachutists at Sibson, near Wansford, were stunned to find themselves plummeting at over 100 mph towards a cluster of mysterious crop circles.

And now the questions are being asked: What on earth are they? Alien IQ tests or amazing hoaxes? Or something else?

What is causing them? Freak weather conditions or pranksters running rings round us?

Pilots flying from the Peterborough Parachute Centre saw four of the mystery circles in fields a few yards from where their planes were taking off.

The patterns are similar to the phenomena that have been baffling some of the best brains in the country for weeks.

Evening Telegraph reporter Paul Gegan and chief photographer Rowland Hobson walked right into the centre rings of three of the circles. They were amazed by the size of them — up to 200 feet across — and think they were beyond any normal hoaxer.

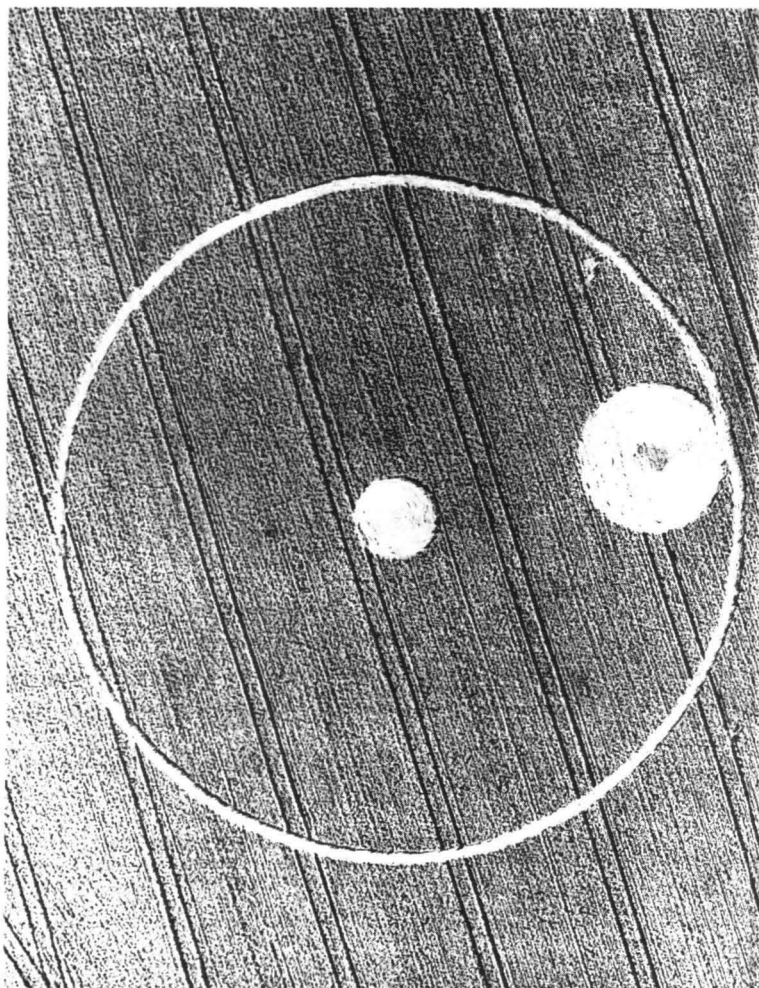
"We trod down wheat to get into the rings and those stalks were crushed and lying in all directions," said Paul.

"But the crops inside the circles had not been trampled at all. They looked more like they had been carefully plaited together."

Norwich Weather Centre said they were trying not get pulled into the national controversy raging round the rings. But a spokesman did say some of the local whirlwinds blamed by some experts for the circles had been reported in Norfolk.

● A rainbow that appeared over parched Peterborough last night was caused by ice crystals 25,000 feet above the city, say weathermen.

The parahelia, or mock-sun, happens when the sun hits cirrus clouds at a precise angle.



One of the four mysterious rings — up to 200 feet in diameter — at Sibson, near Peterborough. (Photo: 90071020)

DID YOU SEE THE UFO?

ON A clear night on Wednesday December 9, 1987, I was visiting relatives in the Bramcote area of Nottingham.

I was asked to move my car into their driveway, a manoeuvre I had just completed when I became aware of a deep humming/droning noise, the direction of which I was not initially able to pinpoint.

The noise grew progressively louder until I looked directly overhead and saw a huge configuration of steady moving lights.

The lights were in the shape of a rectangle about 80 yards long by 30 yards wide, moving towards the Strelley area, lengthways first.

I guessed the speed as between 30-50mph and the height as around 500ft. I was able to view the lights with others for about ten minutes and logged the time as 17:15 hours.

As it was dark I was not able to see any background shape.

This event was widely reported in the *Evening Post* for some days after the event and sightings were reported from Newark, Carlton, the city, Chilwell, Strelley and Codnor areas of Nottinghamshire.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who viewed the shape, along with any relevant information or indeed anyone who knows what it was.

I would especially like to hear from the pilot of a light aircraft that was circling in the Bramcote area above and behind the shape that evening.

All correspondence will eventually be answered.

P. HYLAND

22 Teesdale Road,
Sherwood, Nottingham.

EVENING ECHO, Bournemouth, England - July 20, 1990 CR: T. Good

Close encounter with UFO gives electrician a shock



Saucer-eyed Graham Dodson and alien invader. Echo photographer Pat Timmons mocked up this picture... but how did he do it?

BRITAIN'S top UFO-hunters, the Aetherius Society is today investigating a "superb" Wimborne Close Encounters-style sighting.

Electrician Graham Dodson claims he saw a mysterious saucer hovering 400ft in broad daylight above Horton yesterday.

Mr Dodson told how he was fixing electrical wiring at a White Hill farm when he saw the gleaming disc.

"I was pretty scared first off but I couldn't take my eyes off it — it wasn't like anything I have ever seen before," said Mr Dodson, 34, of Redhoave Road, Canford Heath, Poole.

"It was very clear...there were flashing lights. There was no chance of it being a plane or helicopter."

After several minutes the saucer then just turned black and disappeared.

BY ROAN FAIR

Aetherius Society spokesman Marie Norlen-Smith said: "It is a superb sighting, we will definitely be looking into this."

"It sounds like the classic saucer shape. It's really great, people often see UFOs at night, they describe a light...this was such a clear day."

Air traffic control chiefs at Bournemouth International Airport reported nothing out of the ordinary at the time of the claimed sighting.

"It is very unusual, a mystery, I don't recall ever having had one," said a spokesman.

"It could be a weather balloon but we didn't release any yesterday. It could be a mirage in the hot weather," he added.

UFO sighting?

A Keighley UFO investigator is looking into a Steeton woman's sighting of lights in the sky above the Aire Valley.

David Atkinson, who works with the Yorkshire UFO Society, will interview her to discover what she saw.

The woman, who wants to remain anonymous, claims she saw an object above Keighley golf course last Thursday at 11.30pm.

The light, similar to the bottom half of the moon but a different colour, gradually receded and disappeared.

Later the woman saw five small dots of light in the same place grow bigger until they merged into a cigar-shaped object.

Mr Atkinson will contact the woman and ask her special questions designed to get a true picture of the sighting.

Anyone who has seen strange lights in the sky recently should phone him on Keighley 680104.

CR: T. Good 15



'MAGIC' CIRCLE

HAVE ALIENS landed at Lewes? Or are these crop circles on farmland to the west of the town an elaborate hoax?

Local photographer Tom Fenn spotted the three perfect circles on Sunday while taking aerial pictures on a business assignment.

He later visited the strange circles on the ground, saying: 'They are quite beautiful and fantastic,' he said.

'Strangely my brother stumbled on one at the same place last year. I'd like

to think that UFOs made them but, as a sceptic, I think the wind is responsible.'

The three rings are roughly the same size, about 20 feet wide. Two are linked by a path, and the third has a thin outer ring.

The wheat is firmly pressed down in a clockwise direction, but there is no obvious evidence of how it was done.

Crop circles appear nearly every year in Wiltshire but are rare in Sussex. Several years ago crop circles near Alfriston were visited by thousands of tourists.

These are thought to be the first to be spotted since then.

Farmer Martin Brickell, from South-east, was unaware of the circles when the Express contacted him. He said he was keeping an open mind on how they got there.

Mrs Barbara Withycombe, who lives near the Lewes circles, said: 'We haven't seen any flying saucers. I think foxes or badgers did them.'

National Farmers Union technical adviser William White said the NFU had no official view about them but he was

sure they were not the work of humans as they had been sighted all over the world.

'I personally think they have been made by energy fields - charges of electrical energy manifested in the ripening wheat,' he ventured.

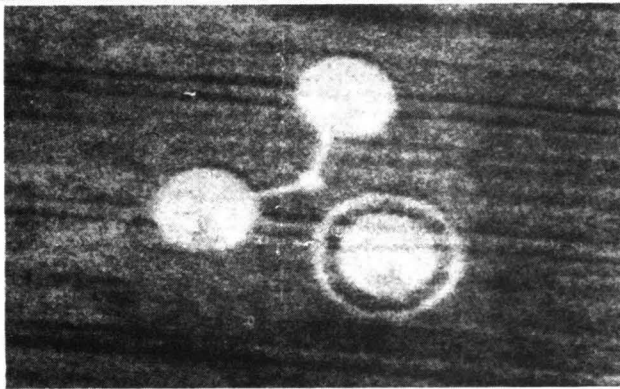
'We would all love to know the answers: then the whole issue could be allowed to settle.'

East Sussex countryside management officer Paul Millmore said: 'They amaze me, but I don't pretend to understand them.'

However crop circle expert Pat Delgado was quite sure of his position when the Express contacted him in Wiltshire where an elaborate crop circle is gaining national publicity.

After we described the three circles he said: 'Every logical possibility has been thoroughly examined and has led us nowhere.'

'We are dealing with things we don't understand...I believe the circles are controlled by a higher invisible intelligence.'



TOM FENN pictured in the corn circle he discovered on Sunday. And an aerial shot from 700 feet that he captured the same day.

Those crop circles: 'No cause for alarm'

UFOLOGIST Mrs Marilyn Preston Evans, of Saltash, said this week that she had been mistaken when passing on a message from author Mr Pat Delgado regarding crop circles.

She said in a recent article in the 'Mid-Devon Advertiser,' that Mr Delgado, co-author with Colin Andrews of the book 'Circular Evidence,' had issued a warning on crop circles, following the discovery of circles in fields of corn at Bickington.

'He has asked me to point out that there is no cause for any alarm or worry from entering the circles,' she said.

Checks

'In personally passing on his message I was apparently mistaken in implying that anything in the circles themselves caused any undue physical effects.'

'Such effects, I am assured, come from 'Psychological over-reaction' causing headaches, tension and associated feelings,' said Mrs Preston Evans.

She said that radiation checks in the circles had shown there was no difference to that registered elsewhere in the crop fields.

'I trust the statement did not cause any worry or distress, as in no way was it meant to be alarmist,' she said.

MID-DEVON ADVERTISER, England - July 13, 1990 CR: T. Good

HERALD, Everett, WA - Aug. 19, 1990

More British Columbia UFOs sighted on Vancouver Island

Associated Press

NANAIMO, British Columbia — Of the 18 unidentified flying objects reported in British Columbia in 1989, 36 percent were from Vancouver Island, a specialist in UFOs said Friday.

Michael Strainic, provincial director for the Mutual UFO Network, said Vancouver Island is a region which consistently reports UFOs.

The network tries to keep track of UFO sightings and attempts to explain them.

Strainic said the most recently reported sighting on the Island

occurred Jan. 30, 1989, at around 10 p.m.

'It looked like an aircraft on fire, it was traveling in a southeasterly direction and it wasn't moving blindingly fast,' said Nanaimo resident Donovan Jeglum, who reported seeing the object.

Jeglum said he phoned the airport authorities to see whether there were any planes in the area at the time and was told that there were not.

'Although more than 90 per cent of reports can be explained by a trained investigator, there are a small number of cases that defy explanation,' Strainic said.

TRIBUNE, Williams Lake, B.C., Canada - June 27, 1990 CR: M. Strainic

Woman has close encounter

Debbie Meldrum is convinced she saw a flying saucer Friday night.

The beer and wine store salesclerk was on her way home from work just after midnight when an object came up from Meldrum Creek and hovered over some trees.

Meldrum describes it as large, bright-orange and saucer-shaped. She claims it was a U.F.O.

'I couldn't believe it when I saw it. The light was so bright,' Meldrum says. 'I was so scared.'

Meldrum says the bottom of the saucer was lighter than the rest, with small holes that she believes could have been windows.

She tried to take pictures with the camera she carries in her truck, but says the light coming from the object set the light meter in her camera off the scale so she couldn't get a photo.

'It was so bright, it blinded me when I looked through the camera.'

Meldrum says her right arm, followed by her left, then started to get numb. Soon her face felt numb too. That was when she decided to leave.

'After that it started to move. I didn't know, but I thought it was coming towards me.'

The object followed the river that parallels the road, keeping pace with Meldrum, who left in a hurry. She lost sight of it where the river and the road start to move away from one another.

'I was so scared that I almost lost a few corners on the way home.'

When she got to her house she says the moon was a bright orange. She went next door and woke her mother-in-law and when they came outside the moon had returned to its silvery sheen.

'I don't know anything that can change the color of the moon that quickly. He must have went up towards the moon.'

'What I seen was remarkable. I was scared, but it was a nice experience,' she says.

FOREST REPORTER, Hants., England - July 19, 1990

Forest folk prepare for close encounters

By **STAFF REPORTER**

Traditional scientists are determined to find a logical explanation for the mystery based on the laws of physics.

They are out to scotch freaky theories put forward by alternative types who say the circles could be caused by fungal infections or mad rampaging hedgehogs.

Their favourite theory which has recently been heavily poo-pooed by the UFO brigade is that the rings were caused by mini whirlwinds.

Now there is talk among bookies in the Forest of offering bets on whether the circles are the work of beings from another planet.

One manager said: 'We had someone coming in once wanting to put a bet down on Elvis Presley being alive so I don't see why we shouldn't offer odds on these circles.'

UFO hunters in the Forest are scouring the locality after amazing new mystery circles were discovered on nearby MoD property.

The key-shaped symbol, one eighth of a mile long, which turned up in a Wiltshire hay field, has sparked an all points 24 hour alert from the area's skywatching fraternity.

Saucer buffs believe the rural Forest area could also be ripe for a major discovery of this kind.

UFO expert, Colin Andrew, who is a co-ordinator for Circles Phenomenon Research, said of the latest sighting: 'It is so elaborate it can't be a hoax.'

'It seems to be a pictogram created by some sort of intelligent life force as an attempt to communicate with mankind.'

A 24-hour a day, three-week vigil is now expected at the field in Alton Barnes to try and capture the cause of the circles on film.

CR: T. Good



Dead cow found with parts missing

BY MARLA CLARK
World Staff Writer

Helena police don't know what to

make of a dead cow, with various body parts missing, found in a pasture this morning. While feeding his cows in Griffin

Valley early today, Buron Griffin noticed one lying on the ground. As he got closer, he saw it was dead and parts of the cow had been cut off.

Helena Police Chief Boyd Williams, Sgt. Larry Summerhill with the Helena Criminal Investigation Division, and Phillips County deputy sheriff Ronnie White made the first investigation this morning.

Williams said it appeared the incident took place some time last night. He said the exact cause of death couldn't be determined until the cow could be moved and better examined.

The chief said it appeared the cow's right ear, part of her udder, anus, and genital organs had been cut off.

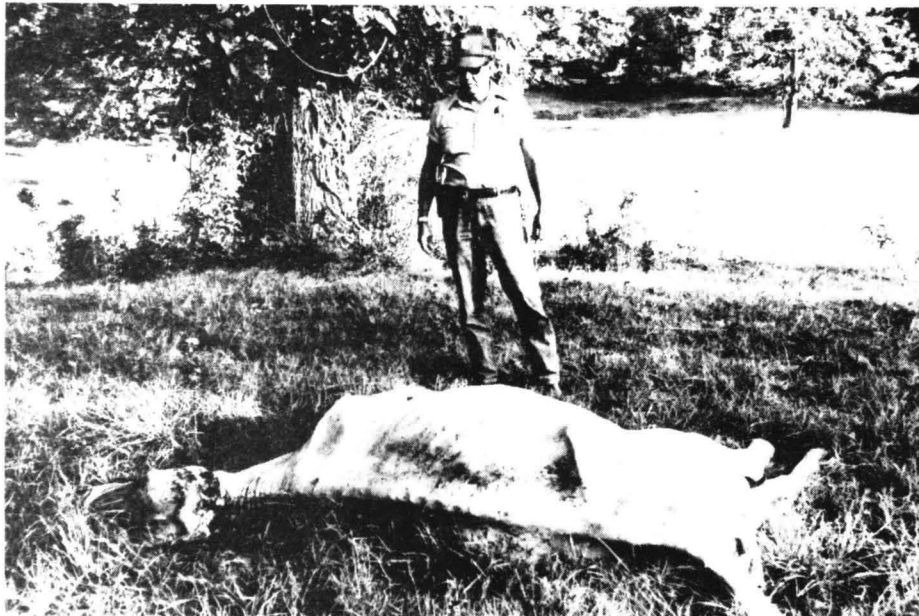
Griffin said the cow was a registered Brown Swiss and was one

of five of that breed of cow, he had grazing there.

Over the last three months, Griffin reported, he has lost several of his Brown Swiss cows. Griffin said he had assumed that they'd been stolen.

"Over a period of about three months, they've been disappearing out of the pasture," Griffin said. "Four of them have disappeared, and now I have four left."

When asked if they thought it might be youth-related or connected to some type of animal sacrifice or devil worshipping, Williams and Griffin said they had no idea.



Helena Police Chief Boyd Williams examines a dead Brown Swiss cow found in Buron Griffin's pasture in Griffin Valley this morning. Griffin reported that over

the past three months, four of his Brown Swiss cows have disappeared. (Marla Clark photo)



Phillips County deputy sheriff Ronnie White (left) and Helena Police Chief Boyd Williams examine a dead cow, with some body parts missing, found in Buron Griffin's

pasture this morning. A tractor was used to lift the cow, so that police could get a better look. (Marla Clark photo)

Loch Ness research station to be set up

□ ANDREW JARVIS

SCIENTISTS and researchers are preparing to try to unlock the dark secrets of Loch Ness once and for all — but don't worry, Nessie, for once they're not after you.

The new project has been designed to study the physical rather than mythical attributes of the loch. Behind the new venture is veteran monster hunter and Loch Ness expert Mr Adrian Shine, Drumna-drochit.

Mr Shine said: "What we intend to do is set up a permanent research station on the loch that will enable us to study in depth the ecological side of the loch."

"Despite the many years of hunting for the monster by people from throughout the world, it is surprising how little is still known about the basic physical and biological aspects of the loch."

The group plan to study the food chain and the wildlife that makes up the chain, for although it is not very rich in its variety of fish, it does have a large population of char.

"There has even been evidence that some of these fish live 750ft. down at the very bottom of the loch, where it was previously believed no wildlife existed," Mr Shine said.

But more importantly, recent Nessie hunts have revealed an enormous underwater wave, invisible from the surface, that moves back and forth from one end of the loch to the other.

"The wave is called a thermocline," Mr Shine said, "and is caused by the warm waters at the sides of the loch meeting the cold of the depths. It is just one of the many special water features that we will be studying."

The research station will consist of a 34ft. long motor cruiser formerly used as a mailboat in Orkney.

Armed with the latest in sonar devices and temperature probes, the vessel will be manned mostly by volunteers.

Mr Shine has also arranged various links with water research centres throughout the country that will provide back-

up facilities including laboratory research of samples taken by the team, technical assistance and personnel.

"At the moment, we are looking for volunteers who will be ready to start work on the project in the summer," Mr Shine said.

"And although they will take part in all the research work, from manning sonar devices to taking water and wildlife samples, no previous scientific experience will be needed."

"We intend to take them on for a week at a time, but unfortunately in these days of lower grants for pure research, we have to ask them to pay £158 to cover accommodation costs."

"However, I think it will be well worth it, for not only will they get the chance to take part in serious scientific work, but they will also have the added spice of possibly finding something well out of the ordinary."

Despite the programme taking a much more serious look at the loch than in previous years, Mr Shine is not ruling out the possibility of finding something very special.

"I have been studying the loch for a number of years and I must admit that I now doubt the existence of any vast prehistoric creature living in the depths of the waters."

"But, you never know. In the past few years there have been some very strong sonar contacts that have been too big for shoals of fish."

"Up to now these have always gone unexplained, but maybe with the establishment of a permanent research station, we might find the answer."

"I suppose in a roundabout way you could say that we will be searching for the monster, but taking a totally different approach."

"After all, before you can discover something abnormal, you must first discover what is normal and in effect that is what we want to do."

It's out there whether bear or a Bigfoot

Oklahomans excited by sightings, tracks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — A noise behind a house and a tall, hairy creature ambling toward the woods have rumors flying once again in Cherokee County that Bigfoot is on the loose.

A state wildlife official says the culprit is more likely a bear, but that hasn't stopped telephone lines from lighting up at the sheriff's office.

POST, Houston, TX - Aug. 19, 1990 CR: J. Schuessler

"I heard they had at least two calls last night," said a sheriff's dispatcher, who declined to give her name. "In the last month, there's probably been about four calls a week."

Undersheriff Dan Garber said the hairy creature first was sighted Aug. 1 near a mobile home about 10 miles east of Tahlequah near the Adair County line. One week later, authorities got another report of the creature at a house about three miles east of the first sighting.

Garber said a woman who lives in the mobile home reported a noise and a "horrible smell." The woman said she spotted the creature from her window, he said.

"She estimated it to be 10 feet tall and about 400 pounds," the undersheriff said. "It was by her trailer and it took off into the woods."

Deputy Joe Weavel, who investigated the reports, said he found several footprints where the creature was spotted.

"They were pretty good size," Weavel said. "I could stick both my feet side by side into the track."

Garber said an 8-year-old girl and her mother reported seeing the creature near a trash heap behind the house last week.

"The mother said it stood up and walked down a hill away from the house," he said. "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 it 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 on its feet," Garber said.

Weavel said the girl described the creature as having hair on the body and skin on its face.

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," Adair said. "I don't believe it is a Bigfoot."

Marfa lights still tickle viewers' imagination

Labor Day fest celebrates mystery phenomenon

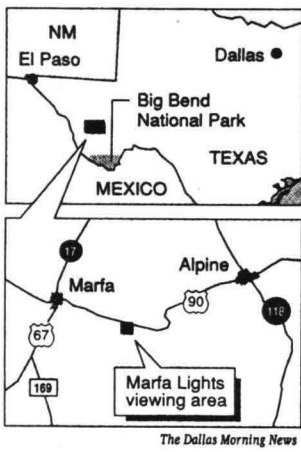
By Nancy J. Pfister
Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

MARFA, Texas — Estela Quintela tells of a scare she and her 11-year-old daughter, Yvonne, had while watching the "ghost lights" near this town in Southwest Texas in 1988.

They were standing beside their car alongside U.S. 90 southeast of town watching the mysterious lights appear and disappear. Although she had lived in Marfa all her life, Mrs. Quintela, like her daughter, had never seen them before, she said.

As they were viewing the display, Mrs. Quintela said, she noticed one light that began to pulsate with the same rhythm and color of her car's turn signal, which she had forgotten to turn off after pulling from the highway into the designated viewing area. Suddenly the light started coming toward them, and she and her daughter jumped into the car and drove away, she said.

"That was really frightening,"



she said.

Frightening experiences with the lights are rare, according to Jake Brisbin, the former Marfa Chamber of Commerce president who began the town's annual Marfa

Lights Celebration, held on Labor Day weekend. The fourth annual celebration begins Friday with a street dance.

"I've heard some pretty wild tales," said Mr. Brisbin, who has been chairman of the celebration's popular round-table discussion on the lights. The panelists include scientists from the nearby McDonald Observatory and local residents. This year's round-table discussion will be at 2 p.m. Sunday in the courtroom at the Presidio County Courthouse.

"I don't know if they're true — lights coming up to the cars and stuff like that," he said. "But even then, people come away with a positive feeling."

The lights, also known as the Marfa lights, appear nearly every night at the same location between the two small towns of Marfa and Alpine in the trans-Pecos desert near the Mexican border. Looking like single headlights, they blink



Special to The Dallas Morning News: Nancy J. Pfister

A Texas Historic Commission marker designates the viewing site of the "ghost lights" near Marfa in West Texas. Their origins are unexplained.

on and off, sometimes move, sometimes change colors, sometimes combine and sometimes split apart.

The Apaches believed the lights were spirits. Early settlers first thought the lights were Apache campfires. To this day, no one knows exactly what they are.

Mr. Brisbin is not alone in discounting scary tales about the lights.

"I'm not saying these people aren't seeing that (lights darting at them) out here, but I don't think it has anything to do with what we call the Marfa lights," said Julia Plumbley of Marfa, whose father Robert Ellison is credited with the first recorded sighting of the lights in 1883.

In 1976, a physics professor at Sul Ross State University at Alpine organized a student search party to find the location of the lights' origin. They used jeeps, horses and air-

planes but their communication equipment broke down and they gave up the search, Mr. Brisbin said.

Two geologists also tried to track down the origins and failed, but provided a riveting account of a close encounter with a light in 1973.

"It kept moving around a bush, kind of like it knew we were trying to get near it," Pat Keeney, a geologist for the Fort Worth-based Meeker Corp., was quoted as telling a local reporter shortly before Mr. Keeney died in 1988.

"It seemed to possess intelligence — it was like that thing was smarter than we were. It was making us feel pretty stupid. It was perfectly round, about the size of a cantaloupe, and it moved through that bush like it was looking for something," he said.

The light pulled out in the middle of the road about 20 yards away and just hovered, Mr. Kenney said.

He said the other geologist told him to try to run over it.

"All of a sudden it got real bright and took off like a rocket. It was the damndest thing I have ever seen," he said.

Mr. Brisbin said he doesn't care what causes the lights but he still offers his own explanation.

"It's just an atmospheric phenomenon but we just don't have the technology yet to understand it, just like an Indian didn't know what a mirage was," he said.

Many people don't believe the lights exist until they see them. Fortunately for skeptics, the Marfa lights are unlike haunted houses and UFO sightings: They appear almost every night.

The conservative Texas Historic Commission recognizes the lights as real, Mr. Brisbin points out. The commission has placed a marker at the viewing site nine miles east of Marfa.

At the site, a railroad pole with red lights to the southwest of the marked viewing site helps to find the lights at night. Single blasts of yellow/white light tend to appear above the pole, but several miles away, and travel slowly down to the right toward Marfa. Then they disappear.

Plenty of theories about the lights abound but none have been proven. A handful of determined investigators, mostly amateurs, have turned up nothing so far.

Theories range from the wild to the mundane.

In this land of mirages, the scientific community at the McDonald Observatory believe the lights are caused by an atmospheric phenomenon called the Novaya Zemlya effect: Light, such as light from cars on a highway on the other side of the mountains or from stars, "tunnels" to the area because of adjacent layers of different tempera-

tures of air. But the theory doesn't explain how the lights appeared before cars were invented and can appear on cloudy nights.

Some believe phosphorescent minerals reflect light, but such minerals haven't been found in the area. Same for uranium.

Others believe it's swamp gas, vapors from rotting vegetation that can burst into flame. But it's been a few million years since the area has seen a swamp.

St. Elmo's fire, a form of static electricity, fails as an explanation because the lights are regular and St. Elmo's fire is not.

That leaves the far-out explanations: extraterrestrial beings, angels or ghosts. Each theory has its fans.

"I like the old Indian legend, with the old Indian chief looking for his tribe," Mrs. Plumbley said.

One local man, who refused to identify himself, swears the lights are from outer space beings and the U.S. government is hiding the information from the public.

'Lake Tahoe Monster' spotted again

BONANZA, South Lake Tahoe, CA - June 8, 1990

By Ken Heiman
Special to the Bonanza

Making an appearance rarer than a visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to the United States, the mythical "Lake Tahoe Monster" has apparently been spotted by two North Tahoe residents this past weekend.

"We were out fishing this weekend on the lake and saw an unexplained object and we think it was the Lake Tahoe Monster," said Carnelian Bay resident Kathy Grenda, Monday. "I know it sounds stupid, but we saw something out there."

Grenda, 23, said she was on the commercial fishing boat Spirit of Lake Tahoe on Saturday at 8 p.m. with her friend, 28-year-old Fletcher Wilson when they both spotted something breaking the surface of the water and creating a wake.

Grenda described the unknown object as 10-15 feet long, "spouting water" and "emerging in a pattern like a submarine."

Wilson said the object was

"cutting a big wake" and traveling at 10-20 miles per hour.

Both Grenda and Wilson said they were in 80 feet of water several hundred yards off the shore between Tahoe City and Sunnyside when they spotted the aquatic aberration.

According to Wilson, the couple watched the waterlogged object for a minute and a half and even gave chase to it before it disappeared under the waves.

Grenda and Wilson said they observed the object about 200 feet away with binoculars and that no one on the boat had been drinking at the time. They also said that the captain of the boat, Peter Henderson, also saw the object. Henderson was unavailable for comment at press time.

According to *Tahoe World* files, the last recorded spotting of the mythical "Lake Tahoe Monster" took place in May 1988. Many of the sightings, in fact, have been reported in May or June.

Neither the Coast Guard station in Lake Forest nor members of the Tahoe Research Group in Tahoe City reported

any unidentified lake sightings over the weekend.

Bob Richards, a research limnologist with the Tahoe Research Group, described the sighting as a USO: Unidentified Swimming Object.

"It seems like every year during the start of summer we tend to get a number of sightings," he said. "We've had quite a few sightings over the years."

Richards said the sightings may be wakes caused by distant boats.

"Wakes often give the appearance of something serpentine," he explained. "Distances and depth perception on the lake are deceiving and wakes can travel quite a distance."

But Richards did not discount the possibility that the USO could also be a large fish. It is possible that a large sturgeon or gar (a fish native to the Midwest) could survive in the lake for several years and grow to a length of 15 feet.

"Someone in Tahoe Keys may have dumped their aquarium into the lake," he said. "We have found non-native fish such as brown bullheads and bass in that area."

OREGONIAN, Portland, OR
June 29, 1990
CR: J. Deardorff

Events linked to occult

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Clark County sheriff's detectives believe the killing and mutilation of a black angus steer near Vancouver Lake and the burglary of a Battle Ground-area church may be linked to occult activity.

The body of a 1-year-old steer was discovered Monday afternoon by a farmhand at the Jack Fazio ranch on Lower River Road, northwest of Vancouver Lake. An 18-by 24-inch incision had been made around the steer's groin, according to a deputy's report.

The incident occurred in a remote area of the ranch, which is completely fenced.

Earlier Monday, a brass baptismal font and a microphone were stolen from the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 14208 N.E. 249th St. The person who entered by tossing a brick through a window also tried to pry a large cross from the wall behind the altar.

Detective Rick Buckner said that since the first of the year the Clark County Sheriff's office has investigated four animal mutilations and a grave desecration occurring on or near dates coinciding with satanic ritual calendars. No arrests have been made.

The latest mutilation and church burglary occurred within four days of St. John's Eve, an occult holiday highlighted on satanic calendars as a feast day, a day for sexual rituals, orgies and animal or human sacrifices.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Sept. 15, 1990

Other Days

75 Years Ago
(Sept. 15, 1915)
Rush — Capt. George Chase of this place, who is operating the Morning Star mine, recently found a three-pound chunk of brown crystallized carbonate ore in the shape of a hexagon that resembles a prehistoric spear point. It is so perfectly formed that it is hard to believe that it was chiseled out.

Believers search for Bigfoot



Joe Webster (left) and Jim Duly review a map of the Hoosier National Forest, where they will search for Bigfoot next month.

2 Purdue students join hunt

A couple of Purdue University students will join the hunt for the mysterious Bigfoot.

Jim Duly and Joe Webster plan to lead an expedition of the newly formed Purdue Cryptozoological Society to the Hoosier National Forest in April to search for clues about the large, ape-like creature that is said to roam the rugged hills of southern Indiana.

"We hope to do a little more than roast marshmallows and tell scary Bigfoot stories around the campfire," Duly said.

The two juniors got interested in Bigfoot from newspaper reports that they read in high school in Fort Wayne.

They started the society, which has about 20 members, this semester to study hidden animals. They also study reports of the Loch Ness Monster and other unexplained sightings.

"We always heard about Sasquatch sightings in the Pacific Northwest and in Canada, but in

Indiana? We thought, 'No way.' But we got curious," Duly said.

Webster and Duly went to the Hoosier National Forest near Shoals last year but didn't find any clues about the legendary creature. But they met people there who they believe knew something but wouldn't say anything for fear of being called kooks.

They've been talking to as many Bigfoot investigators as they can so they will understand the best ways to stalk the creature. They'll take camping gear, shotguns and rifles.

Some Bigfoot investigators call people like Duly and Webster "weekend warriors" who are out for publicity by using bullets to hunt the animal. Webster waves that off.

"We need evidence to prove it exists," he said. "What better evidence than a body? If we get lucky and see it, we'll shoot, kill and bring it back."

— Dave Bangert



Art Kapa, director of the one-man Bigfoot Investigation Center, displays two of his 15 plaster footprint castings.

Tracking Bigfoot

Art Kapa and Doug McCoy say they can't satisfy their passion of the search for Bigfoot unless people who see the legendary creature call them.

"You don't want to call the police. You've got to remember that this is an imaginary animal in their eyes," McCoy says. "Most newspaper reporters make you out to be a real yo-yo."

Kapa and McCoy assure confidentiality for all people who think they've seen Bigfoot.

Kapa, director of the one-man Bigfoot Investigation Center in Mayville, Mich., says to call any time at (517) 843-8302. His address is 4180 Cat Lake Road, Mayville, Mich., 48744.

McCoy's number is (317) 689-9210. He lives at Route 1, Box 22A, Bunker Hill, Ind., 46014.

— Dave Bangert

morning they found an 18-inch footprint in the mud.

Kapa also got two calls about sightings in a half-mile-square area in northern Michigan in November, but snowstorms kept him from getting there.

If you call him at 4 a.m., and you're serious about having seen a Bigfoot, he'll be on the road in a matter of minutes. He keeps cameras with wide-angle and zoom lenses, a video camera, jugs of water and camping supplies in his car at all times.

He never carries a gun — "You're not going to get rich off of a carcass, so for God's sake, do not kill it." — and is determined to shoot the creature only on film.

He says he's been close several times.

"If I'd had night vision equipment, I'd have had pictures years ago," Kapa says. "I want to see this thing so bad, not to prove to the world — well, yeah, to prove to the world — but to prove to myself that this thing exists."

He gets calls from all over. Like the time a Bruceville, Ind., man heard something breaking branches through the woods at night. Two men went into the woods to chase whatever it was. They heard heavy breathing, like a man winded.

But once they got in the woods, they heard something else circle them from behind. The men high-tailed it out of the woods. The next

Michigan man takes legend seriously

By DAVE BANGERT
Journal and Courier

Art Kapa doesn't necessarily like talking with newspaper reporters.

In his line of work, his credibility as the director of the one-man Bigfoot Investigation Center is at stake.

So when you call Kapa, a 57-year-old Michigan man who's spent 20 years chasing every clue of the legendary Bigfoot in the Midwest — he assures you that your story will be confidential.

Too many so-called Bigfoot hunters out there, hundreds too ignorant and unprepared to know what's going on, are out to make a name and a buck, he says. That's not his game.

"You don't go to the newspaper and say Joe Blow from Kokomo seen a Bigfoot," Kapa says, blowing out a short sigh of disgust.

You just set yourself up for ridicule, he says, and for a bunch of redneck guys in a pickup armed with shotguns, a couple cases of beer and a wild hair to get me a Bigfoot.

"They're all out to get in *Weekly World News* and that crap," Kapa says. "I married Bigfoot" or "I had Bigfoot baby." Come on, give me a break."

For the past 20 years, Kapa, a retired carpenter, has made excursions from his Mayville, Mich., home to southern Indiana to track Sasquatch, the huge, ape-like creature he has a hunch lives in the Hoosier National Forest.

Kapa has an Indiana wall map with 90 pushpins, each representing a Bigfoot sighting reported to him from Vincennes to just south of Bedford. He has 15 plaster casts of footprints — ranging from 13 inches to 23½ inches — he's found in the bush. He has hair samples.

Hill, Ind., is convinced, too.

"I can't buy that there's thousands of these people who've seen something is nothing," says McCoy, a self-employed furniture repairman who has spent up to \$500 a month on trips to hunt Bigfoot that often turn into glorified camping trips.

McCoy says the last call he got was two years ago from a Crawford County family. Six of the seven family members saw two animals, one 8-foot-tall weighing about 600 pounds, the other 6½-foot-tall weighing about 300 pounds.

"You kind of have doubts about some people who try to pull the wool over your eyes," McCoy says. "From the stories these people told, they were so consistent and didn't want anyone else to know. You've got to believe them."

McCoy says no one will ever convince him that Bigfoot doesn't exist.

"I wish somebody would solve this, then I could relax and say, 'Hey, I investigated this, it's solved now,'" McCoy says. "But basically, I want to prove it to myself. Then we can talk about any controversy."

Kapa is convinced, but Bigfoot hunting doesn't exactly lend itself to the skeptics. But Kapa says he doesn't put much stock in the words of scientists, who tend to discount his work.

"Fingerprints, footprints and hair. That's good enough to convict a criminal. Now why can't the scientific community accept what we've found?" Kapa asks. "I'm not saying there is a Bigfoot, because I haven't seen one. But who the heck is leaving the footprints?"

Bob Meier, an Indiana University anthropologist, says the evidence of Bigfoot that he's seen is circumstantial. Meier studies dermatoglyphics — the study of ridges of palms and soles. He says some of the casts he's seen are incredibly detailed. But until there is more physical evidence, such as a skull or body, he can't believe.

"I'm just not ready to accept anything at this point," Meier says. "There's no harm in looking though. And I guess the possibility of it being out there is nice."

That possibility is best, Kapa says, in the rugged, cave-filled terrain of the 187,000-acre Hoosier National Forest. One of his buddies and fellow Bigfoot investigator, Doug McCoy of Bunker

Scientists devise video technique to prove she exists and to confirm her measurements

Nessie back in the frame

A VETERAN Monster hunter has returned to Loch Ness in an attempt to prove a video shot by an American tourist shows the elusive monster.

So, if travelling along the loch side you see a small boat towing various floating balls and oildrums behind, don't worry, it's not trials for nuclear dumping, but a scientific experiment that should calculate the size of Nessie.

For American crypto-zoologist Mr Erik Beckjord and his assistant, graduate psychology student Miss Charlene Delacruz, have come up with a new way of proving something strange does lurk under the waters of the loch.

The investigation, Mr Beckjord's fifth hunt in the last 10 years, hinges on a video filmed by two American tourists last year, showing an

□ ANDREW JARVIE

object moving through the waters of Drumnadrochit Bay.

But, unfortunately, because of the poor definition of the video, researchers have been unable to enlarge the picture to see more clearly what the mystery object is, or be able to work out its size.

As a result, the image has been passed off as being some aquatic bird or possibly an otter.

However, Mr Beckjord believes the video actually shows the monster, and he has now devised an experiment which, he hopes, will allow him to prove that the object filmed is far too big to be any known creature.

He said: "We are towing various water-filled oildrums

and similar objects through the water at about the same speed as the creature shown in the original film.

"Then by filming the experiments with similar video and camera equipment as used by the tourists, from the same spot and at the same time of day, we hope to be able to compare our films with the original, and then work out roughly the size of the creature."

"The first experiment we tried we used a duck decoy, but it was so small on the water that we couldn't even see it from where we were filming."

"Although it is too early to make any real calculations, I would say what is shown in the film would have to have a head about 2ft. broad and a body of around 8ft. in length, definitely ruling out any form of life that should be in the loch."



■ Mr Erik Beckjord and Miss Charlene Delacruz set up equipment at the loch yesterday.

Neighbors say Bigfoot on prowl

Oklahoma girl, 8, describes creature

BY FILL BOWDEN

Democrat Fayetteville Bureau

PROCTOR, Okla. - A foul smell drifted up from the woods.

Ooooooh, there's that smell again," said Janet Doss, 8, flailing her arms and scampering into the house.

The odor subsided. Shortly afterward, a high-pitched scream came from the hollow. Another scream followed, and what sounded like a third voice mimicking a siren joined in an eerie harmony.

"I'm going in the house," said Kenneth Doss. "That's got the hair on the back of my neck standing up."

The Dosses were visited recently by a reporter because they claim to have a nocturnal visitor which they can only describe, for lack of a better word, as a Bigfoot - an 8- or 9-foot-tall manlike creature covered with hair who lives in the woods.

The creature has been eating their table scraps regularly for the past three weeks or longer, said Beverly Doss, wife of Kenneth and mother of Janet.

Mrs. Doss has been leaving the food behind their house on the edge of the woods, but they had no idea until Janet's sighting what had been eating them.

Beverly Doss said she was curious because whatever was eating the scraps would eat corn cobs, bones and things her dogs wouldn't touch.

Janet claims to have seen the beast face to face, and sev-

ARIZONA DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 30, 1990

eral of their neighbors around this town 20 miles from the Arkansas state line have reported seeing it as well in the past two weeks. The Cherokee County sheriff's office in Tahlequah has had seven official reports of sightings.

The first sighting in this wave came on Aug. 1 at the home of Jeanie Moore. She lives in a mobile home across the hollow from the Doss home.

"I just saw the back part of him as he went down the hill and he was humongous," said Moore.

"It wasn't a bear. It wasn't human. They sent this little cop down here who went down there and put both his feet in the track. He came back here with his gun in his hand. He was scared."

"I went down and saw two impressions, and that was as far as I went," said Joe Weavel, the deputy who responded to Moore's call. "I saw more of them going down the hill, but I didn't figure there was anything more I could do."

Weavel described the tracks as being more than twice the width of his foot and about 20 inches long.

Since the sighting, Moore refuses to spend the night in her mobile home.

A week later, Janet Doss reportedly stormed out the back door of her house about 10 p.m. and came within about 10 feet of something eating scraps by a barbed-wire fence.

Janet said it was squatted down eating out of a pan. When it saw her, it raised up and ran off into the woods.

Janet showed a reporter where the creature's head hit tree limbs. The height of the limbs would have made it 8 or 9 feet tall.

She described the same thing Moore described. The creature had shoulders like a man and ran on its hind legs, she said. Its face was white and resembled a man's face. The palms of its hands and bot-

oms of its feet looked human, Janet said. Otherwise, it was covered with black hair and smelled awful, like a combination of rotten eggs, wet dog and urine.

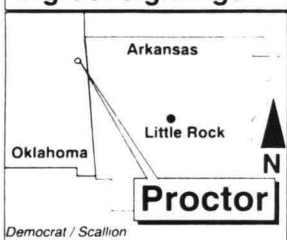
"The little girl gave us a good description," said Weavel. "She saw something."

The sheriff's office has had five sightings since then, Weavel said. All of those were on Cary Lane, seven miles west toward Tahlequah.

Shortly afterward, on the night of another sighting, Sherri Price reported the back door of her mobile home on Cary Lane had been ripped open, tearing a padlocked hinge out of the door.

"Something ran by the win-

Bigfoot sightings



Democrat / Scallion

dow grunting a week before," she said. "The first time I thought it was a bear."

Price said her husband, who weighs 265 pounds, was unable to pull the door open when it was locked.

"About eight of us saw it back in about 1980 near Lover's Leap," another deputy chimed in. "It broke out running across a clearing and right up the side of a hill."

An obvious question came to mind, "Are these people nuts?"

"If they are," said Undersheriff Dan Garber, "they're only nuts about this one issue. These people don't call us with reports of UFOs or report false crimes. I have no reason not to believe them."

"I don't know if I believe in a Bigfoot, but I know these folks saw something."

Garber said the county had a rash of similar sightings during the early 1970s.

Weavel said the screams could have been those of a panther. But the last one, which sounded like the siren of a British police car, he couldn't explain. "That wasn't a panther," he said.

Oklahomans are quick to discount any possible relation between their Bigfoot and the Fouke monster, which was sighted several times near that Miller County, Ark., community during the early 1970s.

The Oklahoma creature left footprints like a human, only larger, witnesses said. The Fouke monster had two toes missing from each foot.

Oklahomans also don't believe the same creature could have migrated several hundred miles north from southern Arkansas to their area.

Most people in this part of Oklahoma have heard the legend about their Bigfoot. The creatures have allegedly been seen in this area for hundreds of years.

Weavel said Cherokee Indian legend says a medicine man grew tired of his tribe fighting with another, so he took the two strongest braves from each tribe and turned them into beasts so they could war among themselves. In doing so, he made them immortal. Now they can only be killed by the three strongest Cherokee medicine men working together.

But Garber said the legend existed before the Cherokees came to Oklahoma.

Joe Adair, district chief for the Oklahoma Wildlife Department, said he has received several calls about the creature. He believes it's a bear, because bears can run on their hind legs for some distance.

Stories of Big Foot

Last week, Sasquatch, a.k.a. Big Foot, was reported again in northeastern Oklahoma, where there have been many UFO sightings. Big Foot does happen.

In the fall of 1973, the smelly creature was seen several times in the vicinity of Murphysboro, Ill. One encounter was reported in the *Southeast Missourian* newspaper.

A few months ago, a friend sent me a copy of a chapter from the book, *Far From Any Coast: Pieces of America's Heartland*. The author, Charles Gusewelle, columnist for *The Star*, described an



expedition to The Scatters, a wilderness bog near Murphysboro. There, he and four companions spent two miserable nights. On the second night, at exactly 3 o'clock, they heard it. I quote: "Like an eagle's scream. . . . Then, growing in volume until it seemed to fill the head. Then, sliding down - what, three octaves, four? - to a rumble, vast and guttural, resonating inside some great cavity. . . ."

I shiver to recall the night of July 3, 1978, in a field near Elsberry, Mo. It was our second night, too. At 2 a.m., a calf was found close by, mutilated; not yet dead. Someone suggested coyotes. Soon, the strong smell of sulphur wafted from a nearby ravine. One fellow became distressed. I didn't recognize the implication then; now that I am more experienced, I have come to a realization.

Why aren't there good photos of Big Foot? With all our advanced technology, why can't we trap or shoot the beast? Now that I am more experienced, I think I know why.

Harley Rutledge
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Family members insist they saw creature in Lake Erie

SANDUSKY, Ohio (AP) - A Richland County family has been trying to convince people that their sighting of a strange creature in Lake Erie is not a fish story.

"It was about 30 to 35 feet long and black with a big back," said Harold Bricker, 67, of Shelby. "It was about 1,000 feet to our left and was moving about as fast as we were in a parallel course."

"It seemed to be humping through the water, propelling itself like a snake," he said.

The serpent-like creature also was seen by five passengers aboard Bricker's 22-foot boat, including his wife, Cora, 68; son, Robert, 35; Robert's friend, Nancy Taylor, 38, and Tracy Bricker, Harold's 15-year-old granddaughter.

Bricker told state park rangers Tuesday that he saw the creature about two miles north of the Cedar Point amusement park in this Erie County city.

Bricker's suggestion to steer the craft closer to the object was turned

down by his passengers.

"My son said, 'No way. That thing is bigger than we are,'" Bricker said. "So we stayed where we were."

The group watched the object briefly before it disappeared beneath the waves.

The report is similar to about six others that surfaced in 1985 and 1987. All the reports said huge snakelike creatures were observed in Lake Erie.

A coast guard spokesman in nearby Marblehead said there had been no other reports of a mysterious creature this year.