

UFO

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PUZZLING PHENOMENON



Sorghum lies flattened in a field on the Bates City farm owned by Roger and Lynda Lowe.

JIM MCTAGGART/The Star

Circles in field at heart of a mystery

Talk of UFOs and speculation about winds is heard in area near Odessa and Bates City, Mo.

By DONNA McGUIRE
Staff Writer

Ever since two mysterious circles appeared in Roger and Lynda Lowe's farm field, the site has been the talk of the two Missouri towns it sits between, Odessa and Bates City.

Dozens of curious farmers and townsfolk drive by at all hours to

gaze at the field, take pictures and chat about what could have caused such things.

Maybe a UFO visited, some say. It had to be winds, say others. But many of the area's farmers simply shake their heads in disbelief.

"I've farmed here all my life and I've never seen anything like it," said Terry Henning, who

lives two miles from the Lowes.

Between dusk Thursday and dawn Friday, something made the stalks of sorghum fall flat in odd patterns within two geometrically perfect circles.

No one saw or heard anything, and the farm animals made no unusual noises. No tire tracks have been found near the circles, which are separated from the nearby gravel road by a foot-deep ditch.

Power outages were reported in the Odessa area that night, but

everything was fine at the Lowe farm, located in Lafayette County east of Kansas City.

The weather was clear and calm, a National Weather Service spokesman said. The strongest wind gust measured that night at Kansas City International Airport was 25 mph.

Farmers in England have reported hundreds of circles forming in wheat and corn fields there during the last decade. The

source of those circles remains a mystery, though some people blame UFOs.

Three UFO investigators visited the Lowes' field Tuesday. They were uncertain what to think.

"In England, they've seen a lot of lights in association with the circles," said Thomas Nicholl, a Leawood resident and member of the Mutual UFO Network. "In the absence of other information (here), it's hard to tell what happened. It makes no sense."

Erich Aggen Jr. of the Mutual UFO Network and Monty Skelton of the Inter-Continental Association of Research Enterprises took samples of the crops to send to laboratories.

"It's perplexing," Skelton said. "Had a heavy craft landed there, some stalks would have been broken and the grain crushed. It doesn't hold water, as far as some type of craft landing, but it wasn't wind, either."

Lynda Lowe saw the larger of the two circles Friday morning. She didn't notice the smaller circle until later that day.

The large circle, originally 30 to 50 feet across, has expanded into an uneven shape that takes up nearly the space of a football field. The smaller circle remains more intact and is 30 feet across.

Little of the crop can be saved. The two acres would have been worth about \$2,000, Lynda Lowe said.

"I still think it was the wind, myself," Roger Lowe said.

The Lowes don't think the circles are a big deal, and they quickly are growing tired of the attention.

"It has been kind of a pain," Roger Lowe said.

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC — Oct. 3, 1990
CR: G. Fawcett

Odd Aircraft Spotted In West

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several large, quiet, triangular wing-shaped aircraft of unknown origin have been spotted in the air near Air Force bases in California and elsewhere in the West, reports Aviation Week and Space Technology.

A different aircraft whose engines produce a loud roar that resembles heavy rocket engines also has been spotted, the magazine said.

The Air Force declined to confirm or deny that the sightings were of new warplanes.

The publication, the current week's edition that became available Monday, says the triangular aircraft are possibly prototypes of the Air Force B-2 or Navy A-12 aircraft.

The A-12 is a new fighter under development, which has not been displayed. The B-2 is the "stealth" bomber, which has been

displayed, and its shape is well-known.

Aviation Week published what appeared to be pictures of the A-12 without explaining whether they were actual aircraft in flight, artists' conceptions, models or something else.

The magazine said the triangular craft did not resemble the production B-2 with its distinctive sawtooth wing trailing edge.

It quoted "well qualified observers" as reporting that the aircraft are "fairly flat" and triangular shaped with "a rounded nose, rounded wingtips and probably no vertical tail surfaces."

The observers were not otherwise identified.

One observer in Nevada was quoted as saying the shape of the aircraft was "like a manta ray."

The magazine said there have been at least 11 sightings of the triangular aircraft near Edwards Air Force Base in California and one near Fresno, Calif. It said there have been other sightings of similar aircraft in central Nevada near ranges operated by the Air Force and the Energy Department.

It described at least 14 sightings of the loud craft, called the "pulsar" from the pulsating nature of the sound, varying up and down in intensity once or twice a second, plus other reports of the sound, often at night.

It said that typically the pulsar aircraft are seen flying a southwest to northwest track near Edwards Air Force Base and the China Lake Naval Weapon Center.

"This routing would suggest the aircraft are returning from test ranges or 'work areas' off the western U.S. coast where airline pilots have reported seeing very high-speed vehicles at altitudes above 50,000 feet," the magazine said.

A companion article said research aircraft flying from Nevada sites include "both manned and unmanned hypersonic-capable aircraft designed to perform strategic reconnaissance and other, less conventionally defined missions." Some aircraft were said to have "exotic propulsion and aerodynamic schemes not fully understood at this time."

Col. Joe Purka, an air force public affairs officer, said he could say nothing.



Mystery site... This is it! The Roger Lowe field on Golden Belt Road that has brought visitors in droves to Odessa. The farm field complete with a row of high

trees to the south is the target of UFO buffs and others who are interested in how these crops created circular patterns.

photo by Carol Conrow

UFO mania hits Odessa

Circles in field create media interest

by Carol Conrow

Odessa has a mystery, or so says the Kansas City news media, Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) observers and a host of out-of-town company.

It seems that something has caused two fields of sorgo on land owned and farmed by Roger Lowe on Golden Belt road to collapse in a manner that has caused the formation of geometric designs among the plants.

While Lowe firmly maintains that his crops have been carefully toppled by whirlwinds there are some who are visiting the site that say the circles are a phenomenon.

But hold onto your hats, other people believe that the circles may have been caused by UFOs.

The Lowes have had the geometric patterns occur in two fields, one across from their home on the Golden Belt between Odessa and Bates City and at a second location behind the family home. Some of the designs are in an area as large as 100 x 100 feet.

Now, since television broadcasts have announced the finding, Odessa has become a stopping place for area travelers, UFO enthusiasts and others asking about the circles.

Meanwhile telephones are ringing with great frequency both at *The Odessan* and on the Odessa Chamber of Commerce phone where employees have been fielding questions about Odessa's mystery.

The Odessa circles, as they are being called, were discovered on Friday by Kansas City photographer Sandra Lines who found herself driving a road she had never been on before between Bates City and Odessa as she sought wild flowers

to use in a fall photograph. Lines said her discovery of the circles, although interesting, did not detain her from her original mission of finding the bittersweet.

Later, after returning home, she viewed a CBS presentation aired on KCTV-5 which talked about the sudden appearance of patterns in fields in England and Canada where the cause of these circles also has been speculated as possibly being caused by UFOs. The same TV footage will be seen on CNN News.

Lines returned on Saturday to Odessa and urged Lowe not to cut the field. He agreed and she returned with friends on Sunday and came back on Monday where she found her way to the Odessa Ice Cream Factory. There she told people about her findings as they came and went from the store throughout the morning.

"I actually goaded a few local residents to come out with me and see them," she explained.

"Several men told me, like Lowe had, that whirlwinds in this area could cause crops to lay down like that. But when they would come out to the field with me they would be totally taken back by what they saw. Several said they had never seen anything like what they were looking at," she commented.

The sorgo, planted as a late crop by Lowe because of the heavy rainfall and then absence of rain, grew to seven foot height on thin stalks each with a heavy brown tassel on top.

It is this heavy tassel that the Lowes and other farmers in the area feel has caused the crop to lay down. They explain that the stalks' reason for not breaking at

the roots is because of the swiftness in which they grew and the weakness of each stalk.

Lowe admits that the patterns in his fields are strange but firmly believes that the wind caused the first downing of the stalks.

"The tops are heavy," explained Dusty Lowe, a daughter, who went out for a date Friday evening only to return later in the evening when she noticed that the stalks in the field were laying down.

"I did notice when I came home," she said, "that they had laid down. The heads are heavier than the stalks and when one fell I think it was like a domino effect."

At first Lowe thought someone had been four-wheeling in the field. But no wheel tracks could be found.

Thursday night the area experienced a weather change as cooler air moved in for the first time in several months. For the Lowes that weather shift indicated that perhaps winds also had come in with the cooler air as the front moved through the area.

"We had a field in back that was the same way," said Dusty Lowe. "This stuff grew real fast and the head on it got too big. We think that's what caused it to fall. To me this stuff just fell because of the wind. I don't believe in UFOs. But I can tell you Golden Belt road is going to be packed tomorrow. We've already had a half a dozen planes flying around here."

For Lines her find did not disturb her until she watched the program on television. "I hardly watch TV," she said, "but for some reason I did turn it on Friday night and then after I saw the program I knew why. What I was seeing in England is exactly what I saw earlier in the day in Odessa."

Lines is certain that she has been led to Odessa to become the "point person in a cosmic plan."

"I had to get the people out," she said.

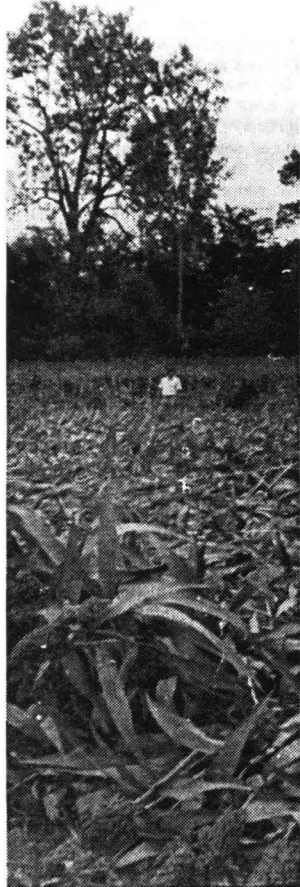
Now Lines is not the only one talking about phenomenon or UFOs or odd occurrences.

Eric Aggen, Kansas City, a member of the Mutual UFO Network, a national UFO organization with Missouri headquarters in St. Louis, said Tuesday night that he

personally is of the opinion that the Odessa circle effect was created by a UFO.

"I tend to think that it was a UFO created effect," he said. "I base my opinion on several things including the fact that what we found was similar to what is being found in England where these patterns have been occurring."

Aggen said he believes that the way the crops were laid down (not planted but bent over by the effect) and the way that the crops were aligned are similar to what they are finding in England.



Joe Spaar, a member of *The Odessan* staff, views one of the mysterious circles that has attracted attention to the area.

"Also a couple of people who came by the site and talked with me indicated that they saw bright lights in the sky the night this is believed to have happened," he said.

Aggen said he also had been informed that several small power outages were experienced in the area during a similar time period.

The UFO expert said the English geometrical designs left in fields are beginning to become pictographs. "These are becoming more complex," he said. "One really interesting one was reported to be about a quarter of a mile long."

Aggen said he personally measured the larger of the circles in the local field and found it has a diameter of 125 feet. He said the smaller circle to the east of the larger one was about 30 feet in diameter.

"It's too bad that we got out there so late," he said. "In England the circles were said to have been cookie cutter perfect. Sandra Lines tells us that this one in Odessa was a perfect circle when she found it."

Aggen said he and other members of his group who visited the Odessa circles took samples of the sorgo and of the soil to send to their own chemists to see what might be in them to have caused such an occurrence. He said he found the fact that the crops were laid down, some clockwise, some counter clockwise, that created a pattern of the crop and formed a wave with a hump followed by a hollow area particularly convincing since the circles in England also have experienced the same effect.

Lines suspected that perhaps a UFO could have used the sorgo as a source of fuel. "We are dealing with something that we clearly don't know about," she explained.

The Kansas City photographer said she had continued her trip down Golden Belt road in spite of the fact that the area was clearly dusty and not at all pretty.

"My eyes just came upon it," she said. "I just watched it. At first I said this is some farmer's machine and I didn't give it much more thought until after the program was aired. Since that time I've been stopping people on the streets of Odessa and asking them about it and encouraging them to take a look at it first hand."

Although Lines found herself alone with her ideas on Friday, by Monday she had created enough interest to get both KCTV-5 and *The Odessan* out to take a look.

On Tuesday she had trouble parking on the roadway so that she could see it again.

"Now we had all the Kansas City television stations down," she said, "and the *Star* is writing a story. They sent a plane out on Monday to photograph it but they photographed the wrong field. I guess they had to come back and do it again."

Continuing she said, "We've also had a UFO group here, an unidentified government car and three-fourths of Odessa. Lines planned to meet on Wednesday with Mike Murphy, radio talk show host who broadcasts weekday afternoons on KCMO radio. Murphy often delves into UFO flying saucer stories and reports."

"The government car was at the site on Tuesday," Lines said. "It was a white or gray car with a U.S. Government license plate on it. It went by real slow, turned around and came back by. I stopped them and asked them who they were and told them I had been the first to see the circles. They told me, 'we'll talk to you later.'"

Lines said the site is not as pretty now as it was the first couple of times that she viewed it.

(continued on page 3) 2

"It was clearly something that made me awestruck," she said. "I have never seen anything like it before. It was an absolute work of art. It could not have been made. I found it beautiful."

Meanwhile, Lowe continues to ride his tractor in his other nearby fields trying to get his crops in before significant rain comes to the area.

His wife spent a good part of Tuesday answering questions for sightseers and reporters who migrated to the area from early morning until sunset so that her husband and son could continue working the fields.

And although the Lowes still firmly believe the circles in the field were caused by weather and most probably by wind, as many area farmers also are saying, they are watching patiently as strangers wander in the field, take samples of their crops and scoop up bagfuls of their soil.

What a price to pay for experimenting with a crop that they had never planted before.

And Sandra Lines?
She would just like to disconnect herself now from the Odessa circles.

"I think I did what I was supposed to do," she said. "I am the stranger (she pronounced *stranger* - her) that was supposed to bring this to light. I think my job is done."

Doubters

Well, it's safe to say that some of the citizens of Kecksburg are, to say the least, skeptical toward the possibility that a meteor, let alone a U.F.O., landed in the woods on the outskirts of town in December 1965.

But was there another reason why these people felt obligated to contact the *Tribune-Review* to air their opinions (the same opinions which the military hoped everyone else would buy)?

Many of the skeptics (and we'll use the term very loosely) are indeed property owners in the near-neighborhood of the alleged crash. They've already demonstrated reluctance to cooperate with film crews and researchers of the subject. And who can really blame them? The "Unsolved Mysteries" segment will air this fall with the inevitable influx of curiosity seekers. The hoopla will start all over again.

These people have every right to their privacy. Besides the landowners, there are those who would rather keep a town from becoming a media circus. Finally, there are some folks who just enjoy being contrary.

Those residents who actually were involved with the incident believe what they saw as surely as others wish to deny it.

These people who maintain the U.F.O. version didn't get together one dull evening and decide to fabricate some impossible story. These are people who otherwise lead decidedly quiet lives and who have already been subjected to their share of ridicule.

Everyone is entitled to their opinions, but is it necessary to do so at the expense of your neighbor's credibility?

Paul and Mary Bitner
Mt. Pleasant

More puzzling circles found in fields

They're caused by air, some experts say.

By DONNA MCGUIRE
and ERIC ADLER
Staff Writers

Roger and Lynda Lowe, it turns out, are not alone.

The Lowes' farm near Bates City, Mo., attracted national attention this week after two mysterious circles appeared in their sorghum field.

Now area residents are reporting similar circles in three other fields — two in Kansas and one in Missouri. They said they gave the oddities little thought until they heard about the Lowes' field.

"It has us wondering, 'What on earth?' " said Ruth McCahan of Raytown.

She and her husband, John, were at their farm south of Osceola, Mo., last Friday when they saw a circle 30 to 40 feet wide in their sorghum field.

Three circles also have appeared in a pasture southwest of Oskaloosa, Kan., and one in a field west of Topeka.

But don't assume the circles are proof of UFOs.

The Lowes firmly think the

spaceship."

Some circles found elsewhere have proven to be the doings of mischievous farmers or neighbors who would rather propagate stories than irrigate crops, Karr said.

The Missouri circles are the first Karr has heard about in the Midwest. Other circles have been found in Florida and Canada.

Barring a hoax, Karr and others say there may be a scientific explanation: the air itself.

Meteorologists speculate that the crop circles may be caused by any of several atmospheric disturbances. The two most likely candidates are microbursts, or spinning winds that sometimes are called dust devils.

Both are caused by temperature differences in the upper and lower atmospheres that cause swirling winds or powerful downdrafts. The swirling winds are "a common way for the atmosphere to transfer momentum within a short space," said Glen Marotz, a meteorologist and professor of civil engineering at the University of Kansas.

"When the atmosphere is faced with an energy imbalance, it acts like you would expect it would. It tries to get rid of them," Marotz said. "One way is to create a spinning vortex."

"There is nothing uncommon about that."

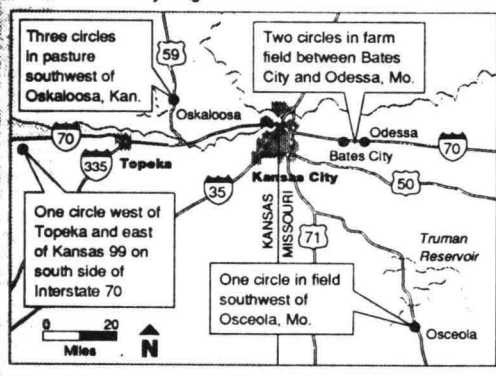
Microbursts are sudden and powerful downdrafts that easily could compress crops.

"Microbursts have been implicated in aircraft crashes when hard downdrafts are created," Marotz said.

All the circles are near roads and trees. Witnesses say none of the trees lost limbs, as they probably would have in a wind

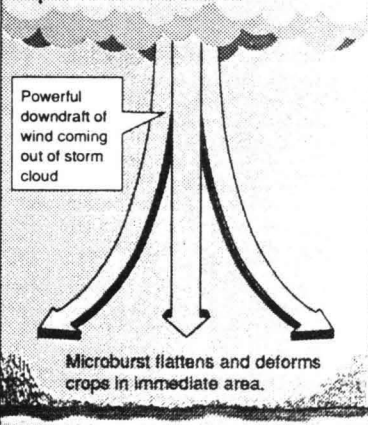
Aliens or just wild winds?

What has caused seven mysterious circles reported in the area recently? All are near roads and trees, but none of the trees lost limbs. No tire tracks or footprints were found in the circles. People who live near the circles say they neither heard nor saw anything unusual.



One possible cause

Some say that "microbursts" could be responsible for the circles.



DAVE EAMES/The Star

wind is to blame, and scientists and others agree there are more earthly explanations than UFOs.

"Crop circles are a phenomenon that have been going on in England since the early 1980s," said Barry Karr, spokesman for *Skeptical Inquirer*, the official

journal of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. The organization is dedicated to debunking UFO and ghost sightings.

"After 24 years of investigating famous UFO cases, I have never found one that cannot be ex-

plained in earthly terms," said Philip Klass, a founding member of the committee, who lives in Washington. "I am quite certain that we have no alien visitors in our skies. Whatever is generating these circles, it is not an alien



STEVE GONZALES/The Star

A mysterious circle in a field near Oskaloosa, Kan., is inspected by Janet Newcomer of Kansas City,

North. Her family discovered two such circles over the weekend and a third on Thursday.

storm. Farmers say no crop disease could have caused the damage. No tire tracks or footprints have been found in the circles.

And in each case, people who live near the circles say they neither heard nor saw anything unusual.

Janet and Mike Newcomer of Kansas City, North, discovered two circles at least 60 feet wide in their pasture near Oskaloosa when they went fishing over the weekend. Closer inspection Thursday uncovered a third smaller circle.

The pasture grass is waist-high and turning brown. But in the circles, the blown-down grass

forms a thick, green bed. Most of the grass is bent the same direction.

"My son is going to be so disappointed if there is a logical explanation," Janet Newcomer said. "He thinks it has to be aliens."

Bob and Edna Walter of Kansas City, Kan., saw a large circular section of blown-over crops west of Topeka, near the Maple Hill exit on Interstate 70.

"Right away I said it was either a spaceship or Big Foot," Edna Walter said. "I was only kidding, but it is strange."

At the Lowes' place, the circles ruined about \$1,000 worth of

sorghum. But the puzzling phenomenon turned the farm field into a tourist attraction. Wednesday night, up to 43 cars were parked at one time along the road.

Lowe harvested the crop and obliterated the circles Thursday.

The *New York Times* has called twice, Roger Lowe said, and relatives of his from California, Boston and New York phoned after seeing the circles on television.

"I didn't ask for the notoriety, and I would rather have had it (the sorghum) in the silo and forgot about it," Lowe said. "But it happened, and there's nothing I can do about it."

UFO Sidebar

By CHARLIE AND DORI SOMERBY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Salter draws large audience with extra-terrestrial class

by Kristin McKnight

Staff Writer

The UFO's, ET's and Close Encounters class, in its first year at UND, is a "massive" success, according to its instructor, Professor John R. Salter, Jr.

"They are a great group of students and among other things we're having a lot of fun," said Salter who is also chairman of the Indian Studies Department.

The UFO class, offered as Honors 299, is one of the first of its kind in the United States. It is "an orderly and studied sensitization project designed to acquaint humans with the nearby presence of intelligent extra-terrestrial life forms," Salter said.

Official enrollment is 151 students. Seats are also left open for interested people.

The documentation for the Honors 299 course consists of solid evidence, carefully selected films, hypnosis tapes and an abundance of printed literature. This class also has a mid-term and final exam.

Salter claims to have had four UFO encounters during his lifetime, the most recent of these on March 20, 1988. He has had about 40 interviews since mid-August. There was also a piece in

"(They) have good motives, very good ones, and the unfolding results of this are and will be deeply beneficial through the many, many ages to come."

— Prof. John Salter, of the aliens he met in 1988

the *National Enquirer* (Aug. 7, 1990) about his close encounter.

Salter, now 56, and his son, John III, 25, say they were abducted by an alien life form while traveling through Wisconsin on March 20, 1988.

However, neither immediately realized this until they discovered they had lost over an hour's time and had no recollection of what had happened during that period.

Over the past two years through a series vivid memories of this encounter, Salter and his son said they have been able to recall what happened during that "lost" time.

"In reference to the 1988 situation. I have a great deal of vivid recall and my son John has a fair amount," Salter said. He added that what they do both remember "meshes" perfectly.

Salter also recalls six or seven smaller humanoids, (four feet to four and one-half feet tall) and a taller humanoid figure almost as

tall as him (six feet). He believes there was telepathic communication between he, his son and the humanoids.

He said he was given several injections and an implant into his right nostril.

Since these "injections" Salter has had several physical alterations including increased growth rate of hair, fingernails and toenails, heightened immunity, immediate clotting of cuts and he was able to quit smoking after 40 years "without a single twinge."

Salter, who considers himself very optimistic, sees a relationship between his social justice organization work, his teaching and his encounters. In reference to everything that has happened to him he sees "all of this as friendly."

Salter said he hopes his UFO class will "provide basic answers or at least point people toward those answers."

He also believes that the people he and John III met from afar, "have good motives, very good ones, and the unfolding results of this are and will be deeply beneficial through the many, many ages to come."

Besides chairing the Indian Studies department, Salter has been active in several organizations. He was elected president of the UND chapter of the North Dakota Higher Education Association (NEA) and voted chairman of the UND Honors Program Committee. He was also presented the Martin Luther King, Jr., Award for extensive works in civil rights by North Dakota Governor George Sinner in 1989.

have no alien visitors in our skies," said Philip Klass, a member of the organization.

Glen Marotz, a meteorologist and professor of civil engineering at the University of Kansas, believes the wind is responsible.

"When the atmosphere is faced with an energy imbalance, it acts like you would expect it would. It tries to get rid of them," he said.

"One way is to create a spinning vortex. There is nothing uncommon about that," Marotz said.

Lowe harvested the sorghum and obliterated the circles Thursday. He said he lost about \$1,000 US of the crop.

"It has us wondering, 'What on earth?' said Ruth McCahon, who lives 135 kilometres southeast of Kansas City.

Ruth McCahon said she and her husband gave little thought to a circle nine to 12 metres wide on their farm until they heard about the Lowes.

"It has us wondering, 'What on earth?'" said McCahon, who lives 135 kilometres southeast of Kansas City.

Some circles found elsewhere have proven to be the doings of mischievous farmers or neighbors who would rather propagate stories than irrigate crops, Karr said.

Circles have popped up in the past in Florida and Canada, Karr said.

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Sept. 22, 1990

Mysterious circles may be caused by 'dust devils'

BATES CITY, Mo. (AP) — Circles up to 12 metres wide and similar to ones seen in England and areas of Canada, including Saskatchewan, have popped up on farms in Kansas and Missouri, and farmers aren't sure what they are.

The farm of Roger and Lynda Lowe attracted national attention this week when their sorghum field became the latest to sport one of the circles.

Meteorologists speculate the patterns may be caused by atmospheric disturbances. They consider the chief culprits spinning winds, called dust devils, or microbursts, which are downward rushes of cool air that produce wind shear.

Similar circles have been reported recently in three other fields — two in Kansas and one in Missouri.

All the circles are near roads and trees. Residents say nearby trees did not lose limbs as they probably would have in heavy wind. Farmers say no crop disease could have caused the damage. No tire tracks or footprints have been found.

In each case, people who live near the circles neither heard nor saw anything unusual.

The Lowes, who live 40 kilometres east of Kansas City, believe the wind is to blame rather than ghosts or aliens.

Others agreed.

"Crop circles are a phenomenon that have been going on in England since the early 1980s," said Barry Karr, spokesman for *Skeptical Inquirer*, a journal of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

The organization is dedicated to debunking UFO and ghost sightings.

"I am quite certain that we

Corydon residents take up stargazing after UFO sightings

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Corydon, Ind. — Residents of this former state capital nestled in Indiana's southern hills have taken to stargazing following continued reports of UFOs.

School teachers, nurses, counselors, students, a sheriff's deputy and a high school principal are among those who claim to have seen the UFOs near Corydon.

Janet Reising, Corydon, said she began to see the lights in the sky almost three years ago, but some area residents claim the mysterious objects have been around for 20 years or more.

One of the witnesses told *The Corydon Democrat*, "We are not a bunch of kooks. We are respectable, well-educated, professional and responsible people."

Some of the sightings are similar, but others differ.

Reising claims to have seen several objects of varying colors, shapes and sizes, one so small she swears she could have reached out and grabbed it, and another "as large as a football field."

One of the more frequent sightings involves a round, amber-colored object. Reising and several of her neighbors saw such an object about two years ago. A small white light came out of it and hovered "three feet off the corn" in a field near the spectators, she said.

Reising said she went to her car and turned her headlights on and off three times. The white light blinked three times in return and disappeared. "This was a perfectly clear night," she said.

Reising says she has seen a hovering cigar-shaped object over a sycamore tree in her front yard and a rectangular-shaped object flying low in the sky near New Middletown.

Reising says two women were with her when the second object appeared. As they watched, the object separated into three triangles that flew off, one behind the other.

"It looked like a billboard in New York City with different colored lights going up and down on it," she said.

Reising, an unofficial recorder of sightings in the area, has a list of more than 300 people who claim to have seen the UFOs.

Most of the sightings occur at night, usually around 11:30 p.m., but some have been reported during daylight.

Several people claim to have been followed by the lights. One girl said a light followed her home from work one night and hovered above her house. Another teen-ager said blue, white and orange lights hovered above him one night in 1987 while he was driving a tractor in a field, Reising said.

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Sept. 15, 1990

Derry man irked by UFO skeptics

By Sharon Santus

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

A Derry man who maintains he saw an unidentified flying object after it allegedly landed in Kecksburg 25 years ago said he is fed up with those who scoff at his account.

James Romansky, 44, of Derry, publicly came forward a few weeks ago to tell his story.

Since then, a group of Kecksburg property owners have accused Romansky and another alleged witness of perpetrating a hoax.

A re-creation of the alleged landing will appear on NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" Wednesday at 8 p.m., and the property owners say their community could be deluged with hoards of sight-seers.

Just before sundown on Dec. 9, 1965, witnesses reported seeing a fiery orange object streak across the sky over Michigan, the tip of Ontario and western Lake Erie. The fireball continued its descent and was spotted over Westmoreland County skies. Some witnesses said it landed in a wooded area near Kecksburg.

Romansky, who was an 18-year-old Lloydsville fireman at the time of the incident, said he and four other volunteers drove to Kecksburg late that afternoon after hearing a report about a downed plane.

Romansky, a machinist with Latrobe Die Casting Co., said firemen were organized into search parties and began patrolling the Kecksburg countryside.

He said his group was notified that another search party found the downed aircraft, and, when his crew arrived at the scene, they discovered a bizarre sight.

"We couldn't believe what we saw," Romansky said. "It was no

plane. There were no wings, no tail section, no portholes or doors."

Romansky described the object as 8 feet in diameter, 12 feet long and acorn-shaped. He said it had a copper/bronze finish and was wrapped with a band of strange letters that looked like hieroglyphics.

He said he and other firemen stood about four feet from the object for about a half-hour until two men who appeared to be from the military ordered them away.

Other witnesses said an empty, military transport truck drove to the scene and left some time later with a tarpaulin-covered object on the back.

But the Kecksburg property owners say Romansky and another man who said he saw the alleged object are fabricating the incident.

The say an object may have passed over the area that night but never landed anywhere near Kecksburg.

"These people are letting themselves wide open for a slander suit," Romansky said. "They're making out I'm some kind of liar, faker or idiot."

While his account may differ from that of the property owners, Romansky said, he doesn't feel he should be subjected to ridicule.

"They don't have to run me into the ground," he said. "I don't do that to them."

Romansky said he had never met the other witness to the alleged landing until a few weeks ago, but their accounts to investigators over the years were strikingly similar.

"We described the exact location where this thing came down, the color, shape, markings, everything was similar," Romansky said. "I saw what I saw, and no one can tell me different."

CR: S. Gordon

OBJECT LESSONS

Former teacher backs 'believers' in UFOs

By Carol Sowers
The Arizona Republic

The skies were moody and heavy with clouds about midnight on June 20, 1960, as Americo Candusso drove his red 1957 Plymouth toward Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Candusso, then a science teacher who was enchanted with the stars and the mystery of UFOs, looked up into the thick blanket of clouds and saw that night what he considers the "most impressive" of his dozen or so "major sightings" of unidentified flying objects.

"To me, it was exciting because there were five of them," says Candusso, 68, retired and living in Fountain Hills.

Candusso, who taught a course in "ufology" at the University of Akron in Ohio from 1974 to 1977, says he was attracted that night first by a silent "bulb of light" ambulating at about 35 mph along the bottoms of the clouds.

As the light dipped beneath the clouds, Candusso said he saw a "configuration of

lights, bronze on the right and blue on the left."

"Beneath that were two bands of red, white and green lights," he continued. "Those (bands of lights) were sparklers. They looked like diamonds. Scintillating."

Using his knowledge of angles and landmarks, Candusso calculated that the lights overhead outlined a 200-foot-long oblong about 4,100 yards away.

Over the next 35 minutes, Candusso said, he saw five of the unexplained objects meander out of the clouds, hover overhead and disappear.

Excited, Candusso left his post for five minutes to race to a phone to call friends and find out whether they had seen the lights.

They hadn't.

When he returned, he said, he followed the last object for a few hundred yards before it faded away.

"Between the trees, I saw a round object," he recalls. "It might not have anything to do with what I had seen

Although McDonald said his two years of study did not provide "irrefutable proof," he added that he believed "UFOs are probably extraterrestrial devices engaged in something that might be very tentatively termed surveillance."

Some are skeptical

There also have been respectable skeptics over the years.

A two-year study commissioned by the Air Force at the University of Colorado and published in 1969 concluded that there "is no evidence to justify a belief that extraterrestrial visitors have penetrated our skies and not enough evidence to warrant any further scientific investigation."

More recently, UFO enthusiasts have been intrigued by reports of hundreds of sightings during the past few months in Belgium.

In a sighting reported in July, Belgian F-16 jet fighters used their radar screens to track an object that, according to a military official, "exceeded the limits of conventional aviation."

UFO group, he moved in May to a sunny home in Fountain Hills from Medina, Ohio, where he taught at an elementary school. He was attracted to Fountain Hills, northeast of Phoenix, by the desert and the promise of good golfing.

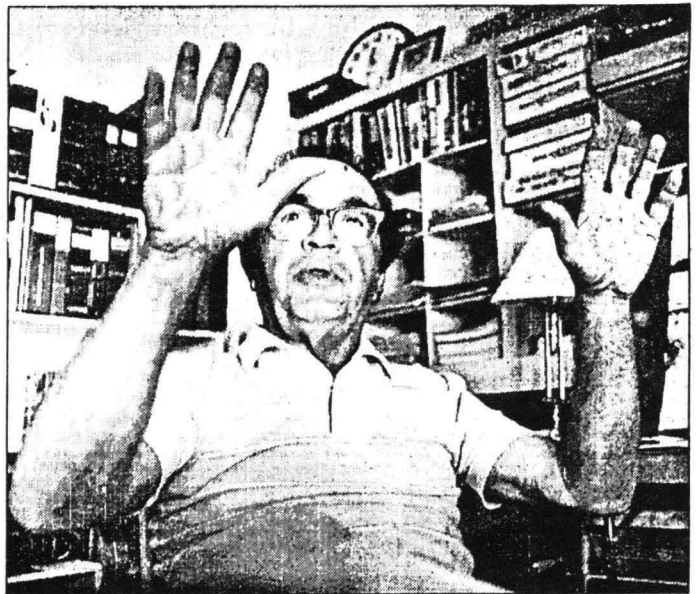
But he said the skies over Fountain Hills, illuminated by surrounding city lights and commercial aircraft, are "the worst place in the world to see UFOs. It's all lit up like Christmas trees."

Although he hasn't had a sighting for several years, Candusso is clearly convinced that UFOs exist.

He is in respectable company.

In the 1960s, Gen. Douglas MacArthur warned of the dangers of "interplanetary war."

The late Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the University of Arizona, and astronomer Carl Sagan told a House panel on July 29, 1968, that they believed the existence of UFOs should not be discounted.



Suzanne Starr/The Arizona Republic

Americo Candusso moved to Fountain Hills because it's a good place to see UFOs. The documents behind him relate to his research on unidentified flying objects.

before."

Candusso, who said "I can still remember it like it was yesterday," is convinced that the brilliantly lighted shapes he saw that night were unlike any aircraft he had ever seen.

An astronomy enthusiast, weather observer and cryptologist for the Army Air

Forces in North Africa during World War II, Candusso said it is unlikely that he mistook the shapes of airplanes or heavenly bodies for UFOs.

"I am used to what is out there," he said. "I know how to look at the sky."

A field investigator for an international

Network, Candusso has probed hundreds of reported UFO sightings. He is convinced that at least 10 percent of them were actually vehicles from outer space.

He was one of the investigators who taped an interview with Deputies Dale Spaur and W.L. Neff of Portage County, Ohio. On the tape, the pair recount with a certain sense of wonder a 100-mph chase of a brilliantly lighted, dome-shaped object at dawn on April 17, 1966.

They raced 86 miles from Randolph to Conway, Ohio, in pursuit of the object, which eventually "rose straight up until it was lost in the sunny morning sky," according to a 1977 story in the Sunday magazine of the Akron Beacon Journal.

Attempts by *The Arizona Republic* to reach Spaur and Neff were unsuccessful.

Sightings from age 10

Candusso said he saw what he now believes was his first UFO during recess at Liberty School in

Alliance, Ohio, when he was 10.

"It was a white ball of light, very brilliant, like a star," he said. "It was moving."

Skeptical, his teacher ordered him inside.

One of his early encounters as an adult occurred April 6, 1959, at 10:45 p.m., when he saw what looked like a fluorescent tube headed northwest near Twinsburg, Ohio.

"It looked like a ball point pen with the bigger part going south," he said. "It looked like the fuselage of a B-29, all light, no openings."

The object disappeared 10 or 15 minutes later, he said.

Despite diminished reports of sightings today, Candusso continues his studies, talking with others in meetings held the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Valley National Bank in Fountain Hills.

He is buoyed by the enthusiasm of others and his own belief.

"There is no doubt UFOs exist," he said.

TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, VA - Sept. 30, 1990

UFO

Federal worker links job rating to study

By Frank Green
Times-Dispatch staff writer

Free speech rights, UFOs, death threats, military cover-ups, harassment and a witness stuck in Antarctica are elements of a case to be argued by a career Defense Department civilian before a federal appeals court this week.

In a dispute that has already made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court and back, Larry W. Bryant is suing Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and others, alleging he received a poor federal job rating because of his efforts to prove a government cover-up of unidentified flying objects.

He will appear before a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday. And, as Bryant said, the fight concerns much more than his three-decade passion for UFOs.

"I really think this is a historic case for many reasons," he said, explaining. "It transcends the question of the reality of UFOs. It goes to the First Amendment rights of federal employees."

"Whether I win or lose, it's going to affect the free speech rights of the federal work force."

His lawyer, James H. Heller of

Washington, sees additional reason for Bryant continuing the struggle: "If he ever gives up the case, they'll go after him again."

"They thought he was an oddball and a guy who insisted on pursuing, in his private life, something they thought was hostile to the Army's mission," Heller said. "I have no doubt [the government] thinks it's free from court proceedings, they'll start [harassing him] again."

Bryant, 52, of Alexandria is a veteran 32-year federal government employee, currently serving as a civilian editor for the Army News Service at the Pentagon. He holds a GS-11 civil service rank. He is also active in a group called Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, which believes the government is suppressing information about UFOs.

He said in an interview last week that he has spent several thousand dollars in legal fees fighting his case in the past four years. He said he became interested in UFOs when he was 19.

When asked if he's ever seen one, he said: "No. I haven't seen Japan either, but you know there's enough circumstantial evidence to convince me that there's a place called

Japan."

According to papers filed with the appeals court, Bryant's troubles started when his superiors gave him an "unsatisfactory" performance rating for the year 1985. At the time, he was employed as a senior writer for the Department of the Army's Office of the Chief of Public Affairs.

"This was soon after Mr. Bryant had begun to publish paid classified advertisements in civilian enterprise newspapers serving U.S. Military installations which sought information on UFO incidents and government concealment of them," Heller wrote in a brief submitted to the appeals court.

One such ad, entitled "BLOW THE UFO-COVER-UP WHISTLE - WITH YOUR LAST BREATH," encouraged people to "end the Cosmic Watergate" by making posthumous, sworn declarations about "flying saucers" and the government's "retrieval/storage/analysis" of the crashed UFOs.

Heller said that in the years prior to, and after, 1985, Bryant's ratings had always been "exceptional."

In November 1986, Bryant filed a two-part suit against various defense officials alleging that:

- His constitutional rights were violated when the government interfered with his rights when he attempted to place the UFO advertisements.

- His free-speech rights had been violated by the Army when it harassed him for his off-duty attempts to expose government concealment of UFO incidents.

The first complaint was settled with a consent judgment in which the

government, while admitting no wrongdoing, said it would not interfere with the advertising.

But Bryant continued to believe his job performance evaluation was lowered and his job standards changed to deprive him of independence and responsibility.

He sued, arguing his constitutional rights had been violated. But the case was initially thrown out of U.S. District Court in Alexandria, the judge ruling that the Civil Service Reform Act precluded judicial review of his constitutional claims.

He appealed that ruling. In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court overruled the District Court judge and the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals and sent the matter back to U.S. District Judge Claude M. Hilton.

Hilton heard the case in July 1989, over the objections of Bryant, who wanted a postponement so a witness could return from Antarctica.

A Nov. 6, 1985, conversation involving Bryant, a supervisor, Col. Douglas H. Rogers, and a co-worker, Lisa G. Fetterolf, was the centerpiece of Bryant's evidence against the government, a brief filed in the case argues.

Heller said that Ms. Fetterolf, in a sworn statement, quoted Col. Rogers as saying Maj. Gen. C.D. Bussey Jr., then the Chief of Public Affairs, "has been directed by [the Department of Defense] and 'on high' to get rid of Larry because he is an embarrassment to the government."

"However, in July 1989 when this case finally came to trial, Ms. Fetterolf was on assignment at McMurdo Base in Antarctica and was not scheduled to return to the United

States until later in 1989," according to the brief.

Bryant also alleges that Rogers once told him that if Bryant pursued another lawsuit he had filed concerning UFOs, "he could end up like two CIA agents who had recently been found dead under circumstances that suggested foul play."

Hilton, however, found in favor of the government, ruling that Bryant would have received the same unsatisfactory rating "notwithstanding his protected First Amendment conduct."

Bryant will argue the appeal from that ruling Tuesday. He contends, among other things, that Hilton should have delayed the trial until Ms. Fetterolf could return.

CR: L. Bryant

Outer-Space Tunes Make Earth Debut In a Bar in Peoria

Pianist-Singer Claims Aliens
Taught Her Their Music;
Do They Get Royalties?

By ROBERT JOHNSON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
PEORIA, Ill.—Connie Cook tickles her electric piano keys and strives to sing above the happy-hour chaos in O'Leary's, a singles bar. She fails. Her recital, preceded by a lingerie show and an Elvis Presley impersonator, is tuned out by most of the 100 or so patrons while a televised Chicago Cubs game drones on.

This crowd couldn't hear a message sent by aliens from outer space—and that, Ms. Cook asserts, is precisely what her music is. In 1981, she says, she saw an unidentified flying object whose passengers later entered her consciousness and inspired the music.

What kind of music do aliens like? No punk or heavy metal, thanks, but instead a dreamy sort of jazz and soft-rock fusion with lyrics—translated from the lingo of the Pleiades star cluster where the aliens claim to hail from—like this:

"By and by we learn to fly

Within each other's heart.

Space and time the ancient rhyme

Is overcome in our heart."

Solid platinum it isn't. The record industry is beating no path to Ms. Cook's door. But some critics, musicologists and record-industry people who have listened to her tapes find her music intriguing. "I don't know who her collaborators are, but there's something otherworldly about her songs," says David Wild, a senior writer at Rolling Stone magazine.

"She's using some notes that seem to come from somewhere else; a few don't even translate to music paper," says Jim Van Petten, a Chicago record producer and musicologist. "Technically, they don't exist," he says—on this planet, at least. Ms. Cook has had her pianos tuned to produce notes that sound vaguely Far Eastern, or even from beyond.

Ms. Cook says her first close encounter came late one night in November 1981, when a gleaming, globe-shaped craft hovered silently outside her bedroom window for about 90 minutes. Mesmerized, she returned to bed when it left. Soon after, she dreamed of seeing four shiny people with indistinct features "sort of standing in the sky." She later dreamed the four beings were at her bedside, stroking her hands and predicting a time of "good will for the earth's peoples." They explained they were appearing in human form so as not to frighten her.

A month later, inspired telepathically, sometimes in dreams, she began compulsively composing music, she says. Previously without a piano, she now has two. "Before that I couldn't play 'Chopsticks,' and I still can't. But sometimes music just flows out of me, and I write it down."

Are there musical Martians? Virtuoso on Venus? Orchestras beyond Orion? Will little green men someday demand to be taken to our band leader?

Military and aerospace officials doubt it, but concede they're not really trying to detect music from the spheres. "We don't even take reports anymore, even if you said a flying saucer just landed in your yard," says Capt. Sigmund Adams of the Air Force Readiness Support Branch. After chasing down 12,618 reports of UFOs between 1948 and 1969, the Readiness Support Branch has packed it in—even though 701 sightings remain unexplained by ordinary phenomena.

"Budget restraints keep us from listening" for signals from space, says Michael Klein, project manager of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. "NASA is not at this time carrying out a search, even though people think we are."

NASA's two unmanned Voyager missions, launched in 1977, carry music recordings to the outer edges of the galaxy, four billion miles away, in case anybody out there wants to listen. Songs on the gold-plated albums aboard include Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode," the "Pony Girl's Initiation Song" from Zaire and a Mexican mariachi melody.



Connie Cook

Any beings who track that music to Earth should steer clear of Peoria's environs, however, says Ms. Cook's mother, Genevieve Cook, a retired office worker. She says aliens just wouldn't play in Peoria. "The yahoos around here would blast away with their shotguns at anything that moved if they thought aliens were out there," she says.

Except for her space music thing, Connie Cook is Ms. Middle America: a 42-year-old divorced housewife raising a sixth-grader. Pretty and plump, she favors print dresses and strawberry cheesecake. Her father was a postman. She twirled the baton in high school, where she banged a snare drum in the band. After eight piano lessons from a teacher who rapped her knuckles for frequent mistakes, she quit music until her strange inspiration nine years ago.

"I believe too much in science and religion to swallow UFOs, so I would think Connie's pulling something if I didn't see her play," says her sister, Carolyn Cook. "Those just aren't her fingers on the keys."

But astronomers such as Carl Sagan don't want to hear it. "Grandma Moses took up painting at about 70, and she didn't see aliens," he says.

Ms. Cook sings some of her alien songs to children in Sunday school at Unity Church of Peoria. Says the Rev. Eddie Edwards, "Connie is a sincere and stable person who has had some kind of an experience. I don't know what."

Jon Engberg, associate director of academic affairs at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music, has listened to a Cook tape supplied by a reporter. "I think she has had some serious musical training," he says. Another tape listener, Wahaba Heartson, publisher of Heartson Review, a new-age music magazine, says Ms. Cook's music "is moving and inspired, with a very sweet quality of innocence."

So why aren't record companies swooping to sign her up? One reason is given by a spokesman for Narada Productions Inc., a Milwaukee record company. He says too much popular music is already accused of being inspired by devil worship or other cults. "Any notion that the company is selling music inspired by UFOs would be too controversial."

Ms. Cook says she wants to share the aliens' music, not profit from it. That may be a good thing, too, because she might find it hard to comply with U.S. copyright law, which requires that income from music be split between composers and inspirational collaborators. But if Ms. Cook ever has a hit, says Todd Brabec, spokesman for the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers, "We would help the aliens get paid, like anyone else. If we have their address." The only one Ms. Cook has is the Pleiades star cluster—with no ZIP code yet.

If history is any guide, Ms. Cook has some chance of landing in the top 40. After all, Sheb Wooley made it to No. 1 with "The Purple People Eater" in 1958, the Ran-Dells to No. 16 with "Martian Hop" in 1963, and the Five Bobs to No. 33 with "The Blob" in 1958. None of these performers had the benefit of inspiration from outer space. As far as is known.

CR: R. Swiatek

Uncle Sam may be a UFO-gazer after all

By Don Kowit
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

For years, from the Mojave Desert, NASA has been financing a \$100 million radio-astronomy search for intelligent life on other planets. Meanwhile, a cadre of skeptical critics has been accusing the space agency of putting the cart before the horse, suggesting that first science should convincingly prove there is intelligent life here on earth.

As evidence to the contrary, they cite the allegedly literate American public's fascination with—and often uncritical acceptance of—books about unidentified flying objects.

Over the past four decades, a series of best sellers has "documented" close encounters between ordinary folks and exotic space jockeys from distant solar systems. In the 1950s early chroniclers who "met" these extraterrestrial emissaries usually described them as tall, blond and blue-eyed—missionaries journeying thousands of light-years just to warn earthmen to clean up their warring act or wind up in a self-created nuclear wasteland.

But recently, in books like Whitely Strieber's "Communion," the Aryan preachers have given way to "E.T." look-alikes—bulbous-brained interplanetary pervers who prefer examining people's sexual organs to promoting peace.

The corollary is, if these suddenly sweaty human/alien "contacts" keep occurring, the government—which knows everything, as any taxpayer who's ever tried to hide income from the Internal Revenue Service can tell you—must be engaged in a massive cover-up.

The latest UFO cover-up/conspiracy scenario comes from author Howard Blum, 37, whose book "Out There" (Simon & Schuster, \$19.95) charges that the Pentagon, despite denials, is feverishly investigating UFOs and extraterrestrial life. At the same time, Air Force intelligence operatives are conducting a dirty disinformation campaign—involving harassment and infiltration—designed to keep UFO groups around the country dizzy.

The surprise is that Mr. Blum's journalistic credentials include seven years as a reporter at the New York Times, plus a pair of books on "serious" subjects—the best seller "Wanted! The Search for Nazis in America" and "I Pledge Allegiance: The True Story of the Walker Spy Family," which was made into an NBC miniseries this year.

Why would a reporter with such a reputation risk it to embark on a UFO-related inquiry that consumed almost three years?

Mr. Blum says that during his research of the Walker spy case, an intelligence official revealed, in passing, the existence of the "UFO Working Group"—a covert corps of government experts exploring the likelihood of extraterrestrial life.

Later, while the Walker book was becoming a TV miniseries, Mr. Blum met Hollywood producer David Wolper and Warner Bros. President Bernie Sofronski.

"Wolper bought 'Wanted!' and I was hired to do the script for it," Mr. Blum recalls. "I started meeting with Wolper and Sofronski a lot, and they would ask me: 'What else are you doing?' I started telling them about the covert intelligence group, and Wolper became excited."

At the time, all Mr. Blum had written was an outline.

"Wolper, Sofronski and I met with NBC, which liked the idea," he says.

According to Mr. Blum, Mr. Wolper's clinching sales pitch was the reminder that over a decade ago he had purchased the rights to another

unwritten book—and that Alex Haley's "Roots" went on to become television's biggest blockbuster ever.

The unique twist to Mr. Blum's arrangement was that, unlike Mr. Haley's novel, NBC would be dramatizing a book that claims to be a true story.

Yet from the beginning, he received steady feedback from the producers intending to fictionalize the book for a miniseries.

"As I wrote chapters, I'd send one copy to Simon & Schuster and another to Warner Bros.," he says. "The complex structure of the book took planning, because while I was uncovering news, I was also telling a story. Wolper kept telling me over and over that the story had to have a narrative drive, which reinforced my own inclination."

As a result, viewers can expect to see such "authenticated" dramatic scenes as:

■ Cmdr. Sheila Mondran, in the Navy Space Surveillance System's underground command center deep in the Cheyenne Mountains near Colorado Springs, watching stunned as a UFO on a computer screen penetrates the NSSS' border-to-border "electronic fence," performing, writes Mr. Blum, "crash dives fol-

lowed by sudden climbs at astonishing speeds."

■ "Scientists," hired by the Defense Intelligence Agency, conducting successful "remote viewing" experiments on the third floor of the Old Executive Building next door to from the White House.

First a "scannate," given only a set of geographical coordinates, is able to "see" the object at that precise location—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's private country house. Then the scannate, shown only photographs of U.S. and Soviet submarines, correctly identifies their exact locations around the world. Except that during that test, the scannate also "sees" something that isn't in the photograph—a UFO hovering over one of the ships!

■ The secret Pentagon "UFO Working Group"—composed of top scientists, government officials and intelligence officers—discussing the latest saucer sightings and the proper etiquette for hailing extraterrestrials.

■ Air Force intelligence officers cruelly counterfeiting documents and spying on hapless UFOlogists, feeding them false information, including a disputed "top secret" government document (tagged MJ-12) that confirms the U.S. government recovered a crashed flying saucer and its dead alien crew more than 40 years ago. The Air Force's purpose, Mr. Blum believes, "is to mislead and harass UFO believers" into spending their time investigating UFOs instead of real military secrets.



Visitor from another planet?

Despite the fact that the title is "Out There," and the jacket shows a lonely farmhouse lighted by an eerie, glowing globe overhead, Mr. Blum says he's shocked that most reviewers believe his book is about UFOs.

"It's not about UFOs," he says. "It's about a government cover-up. I'm still extremely skeptical about whether we've been visited by other worlds. What I am convinced of, based on all my research, is that other worlds exist."

"My job was just to detail government involvement. The story presents proof that the government is using extrasensory perception and searching for UFOs seriously."

The problem is, the writer adds, "The book is a true story, so it doesn't end with a UFO landing on the White House lawn."

But Mr. Blum is hoping that Congress will hold public hearings on the intelligence services' "using our tax dollars for these things."

Which, coincidentally, might make a neat closing scene for the NBC miniseries.

More residents report bright light

By Gus Thomson
Auburn Journal staff

AUBURN — More amazed witnesses contacted the Auburn Journal Friday to describe a bright light seen in the sky early Thursday.

Meadow Vista resident Tom Parks had described to the Journal a flash of light he had observed as he exercised in his barn at about 4 a.m.

On Friday, a woman who had been kept awake Thursday by a mouse, a trucker who was heading home from work at the time, and an Auburn man who had trouble sleeping that night all said they too had seen a bright light in the morning sky.

Like Parks, they all described a very bright light. Unlike Parks, they heard no accompanying

sound. Parks said he heard a noise about two minutes after a flash of light that sounded like someone far away had pounded twice on a bass drum.

"I always wondered if I ever would see flying saucers," said trucker Grant Hughes of Auburn. Hughes was returning from work at about 4:20 a.m. along Highway 49 when he saw a flash of light coming from the Meadow Vista area. It lasted for two to three seconds.

"It was like 'light on, light off,'" said Hughes. "It was like a big moon but too big and too low to be a moon."

Paul Jacobs couldn't sleep so he went outside his Edgewood Road home to look for the morning paper.

"I was looking at the stars and then, all of the sudden, wham,"

Jacobs said. "At first I thought it was a bolt of lightning."

Jacobs said the object was straight above him, had a tail, and was travelling west.

The fiery sky show lasted about 30 seconds. Although he's color blind, Jacobs said he believes the object turned from white to yellow before fading out.

"As a kid growing up, we always said a witch had died whenever we saw a meteor," said Jacobs. "Just last Saturday, a good friend passed away and when I saw that, I said to myself that she's telling me that she's up there with God and things are OK."

A spokesman for the Air Force's Space Surveillance Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. had promised details of other sightings to the Journal by the end of the day Friday but had not phoned back.

UFOlogists convene, reveal tales of close encounters

By ASTARA FISHER

Columnist Alice Kahn isn't the only one rattled into thinking the unthinkable: that UFOs do indeed exist.

About 50 believers conferred at Camp Long in West Seattle over the Labor Day weekend to discuss this very thing.

Unlike Kahn, though, who deferred to her daughter's modern-day aplomb in her Aug. 30 treatment of her own sighting, many of the meeting's participants came with strongly held personal experiences of contact with extraterrestrials, encounters of the fourth kind.

The conference was held by the UFO Contact Center International (UFO CCI), which has 48 centers in the United States and Canada and invited a handful of speakers to report on their contact experiences.

UFO CCI co-director Gerald Bringle, from ~~Flag~~ **Flag**, Arizona, can claim classic experiences involving elements found in other contact accounts: unaccountable and verifiable lapses of time, lost memory that is restored with graphic clarity under hypnotic regression, and tell-tale skin wounds said to contain implants.

Bringle, a copper mine truck driver, remembers "losing" two and a half hours between two specific road markers in the Idaho panhandle in 1966, and "waking up" completely disoriented with a dime-shaped surface wound under which he felt a lump. Under hypnosis, he later drew a space craft and an extraterrestrial being, and recalled the ship's interior.

Not all the stories told follow this storyline. The UFO community tells of numerous civilizations — 108 by one counting — having had contact with our planet. The idea that there are many types of extraterrestrials with benign motives, conveyed in UFOlogist Billy Meiers' books, was highlighted in an introductory slideshow.

Co-director Aileen Bringle, heading up the organization's national headquarters in Federal Way, underscored the preferred sentiment about the nature of those contacts by reading aloud from a Meiers

communique attributed to a "Pleidean."

"Because the masses view us as Gods or with hysteria, we make contact with individuals. We are neither superior, nor superhuman, nor are we missionaries."

The words, said to be from a civilization 3,000 years in advance of ours, were continued by Bringle to an intent audience. "It is our duty to come because our ancestors shared the earth. We have taken on certain tasks to instruct only when a race is in a state of higher evolution."

Not all found peace of mind through contact, though. New Yorker Eva Zara, now in Los Angeles, described her emotionally wrenching experiences with etheric beings "intent on doing her harm." Her talk sparked a volley of response on ethical concerns, and was concluded by moderator Terry Burris. Added the Bellevue business man, "Some see the beginning and end of the universe or angels. Others see it in the worst possible way."

Burris later philosophized, "When millions believe (in extraterrestrials), and thousands have seen, it changes people's lives. It shakes their realities." Indeed, a casual polling of participants found most topics of conversation in the realm of "the big picture," intensified by the campers' seclusion and natural surroundings. Fire circles after dark on Friday and Saturday led to intimacy and sharing.

Interest in the stressful ramifications of detainment by extraterrestrials is now under research by sociology students Chris Bader and Thomas Layne at Evergreen State College, working under Leslie Wang, academic dean of psychology. Both researchers were present at the conference, and reported that setting up control groups for their research into post-traumatic stress disorder is pending from the private Fund for UFO Research.

Author and conference speaker Val Valerian from Las Vegas also reported on the decades of research on abduc-

tions contained in his recent book, "Matrix II." While looking at a long history of "manipulation," he suggests that being manipulative ourselves has not helped to end that cycle. "If humans knew their true nature, they wouldn't do what they do," and by inference, neither would the ETs, Valerian said.

While enthusiasts of research represented one side of the conference spectrum, participant Paul Kaslowski represented another, newer approach taken to the question of interaction with extraterrestrial life.

The Tacoman "invites peace to the planet" in group meditations at "powerful" spots in nature. In one such gathering in the Methow Valley in August, "rainbow" ships were sighted.

Kaslowski networked to spread information at the conference about an upcoming global grass roots meditation set for 11 a.m. Nov. 11, "when its Mexican initiators only ask that we verbally join together to request peace." UFOlogists believe that the earth is alive and positively impacted through such efforts.

A hot item at the conference was the controversial commentary and slide presentation made late Saturday by a contactee from Hoboken, New Jersey who wished to remain anonymous to the press. He told of an "unmistakable" telepathic request to "use his body," his agreement and his subsequent siring of babies in another dimension (ETs are said to be interdimensional), and his opportunities to touch and love these babies.

All accounts, including the above, were heard without judgement and with serious interest.

The UFO Contact Center International is only one of a number of UFO-related organizations. Its 48 centers in the United States and Canada span from Anchorage to St. Louis, Virginia Beach to Los Angeles. The UFO CCI is headquartered in Federal Way at 3001 South 288th St. Apt. 304. (946-2248).

'Streak of green, lights'

UFO sighting reported at Lake Tamarack

By KATHY STEVENS

Herald Staff Writer

HARDYSTON — A Lake Tamarack couple reported sighting an unidentified flying object early Monday morning.

Lois McRoberts said she looked out the window on her way to bed at about 2:30 a.m. and saw an object hovering over the mountain near her Lake Tamarack home.

"I thought it was a helicopter. It looked like the top light was pulsing. There were lights below it, but they did not move," she said.

When the object kept hovering for about five minutes, she called her husband, Tom, to come and look at it. The two used a telescope and saw the object again.

"It was a streak of green at an angle with a cut out square at the bottom center. It was pulsing," Lois McRoberts said.

The couple said they called a neighbor, who also saw the object. The neighbor could not be reached for comment.

Tom McRoberts said the couple watched the object for about 15-20 minutes through the telescope as it traveled slowly through the sky at the same speed as the stars around it and then disappeared behind some trees. The object appeared stationary to the naked eye, but the telescope showed it was moving slowly, he said.

"I have never seen anything like that before. It was definitely not an airplane," he said.

Walter Zamorski of the National Weather Service said the weather Monday morning was extremely clear, and that the sighting could have been a weather satellite.

"There is all kinds of junk in the sky. They shine because the sun shines on them," he said.

Space junk includes old weather satellites and debris from NASA, he said.

John Bowen of the North Jer-

sey Weather Observers said the object was probably not a flying saucer.

"It could be a satellite. If it was moving with the stars, it could be space junk," he said.

Bowen, who lives in Rivervale in Bergen County, said there is also the possibility the object was a comet, if it resembled a streak in the sky.

But Robert Jones of Byram, president of Vestigia, was not as quick to discount the possibility of a UFO. Vestigia is a group of scientists that investigates unexplained phenomena.

"If it was a UFO, and it was at a high altitude, we will probably never know it," Jones said.

"I have very little doubt that they saw something," Jones said. He also said that in the 16 years that Vestigia has been in existence, there have been very few sightings of objects in the sky that do not have a rational explanation.

"There are usually 10 or 15 possible explanations for an object high up in the sky," he said. The explanations include weather satellites, or planets, he said.

Vestigia receives about 150 calls per year on the sighting of unusual lights in the sky, he said. There have been a few sightings that cannot be explained, he said.

Area police departments said except for the McRoberts' report, there were no other reports of the object.

Lights in the sky in the past have been attributed to storms in the area, and to other weather phenomenon.

Reports of strange lights in the sky in February 1989 in the Byram area were traced to a celebration at the A&P Plaza on Route 206. In August, 1988, there were two sightings reported by many people which were later attributed to either a satellite or weather patterns.

PSU may have investigated UFOs

Alumnus' book documents official meetings

By KIM BAXTER

Collegian Staff Writer

A new book written in part by a University alumnus suggests that former University president Eric A. Walker may have attended top secret meetings during which government officials talked about UFO investigations.

UFO researcher and former Penn State T. Scott Crain, Jr., co-authored the book, due to be released in September. It contains transcripts of alleged conversations in which Walker talked to officials about UFO sightings.

Crain alleges that Walker attended these meetings during his stint as Executive Secretary of Research and Development for the federal government in the 1950s.

Walker, who still lives in Centre County, denied any knowledge or involvement in government UFO investigations.

However, Crain said his book contains evidence of Walker's involvement, adding that the former University president still has security clearances which could be jeopardized by his public admission of having attended these meetings.

"Walker is the first scientist to admit knowledge of Operation Majestic Twelve, a top secret federal research and development/intelligence project allegedly approved by President Truman in 1947," Crain said.

The alleged project, nicknamed MJ-12, consisted of 12 distinguished scientists, military, and intelligence officials appointed to oversee recovery operations of UFO crashes.

The activities of this group and government efforts to keep the public uninformed on the subject of UFOs are topics covered in Crain's book.

"We feel the U.S. government has developed teams to recover unknown aerial objects, that they analyze UFO hardware and that there is an ongoing operation to duplicate (alien) technology," said Crain.

"We feel the U.S. government has developed teams to recover unknown aerial objects, that they analyze UFO hardware. . ."

—T. Scott Crain, Jr.
author

The general manager of Crain Lumber Company, 201 North Street, in Port Matilda, Crain has been studying UFOs as a hobby for 22 years.

The book, *UFOs, MJ-12 and the Government*, also describes in detail a supposed 1965 UFO crash near Pittsburgh.

On December 9, 1965, people in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and the tip of Ontario observed a bright orange object streaking across the sky, according to *Greensburg's Tribune-Review*. The object, described by witnesses as a gold, acorn-shaped metal craft, was reported to have landed in the middle of a densely wooded area in Kecksburg, Pa.

The military sealed off the wooded area and set up a command post in a nearby firehouse to investigate the matter.

The incident, dismissed by many as a meteor's collision with earth, will be the subject of an episode of NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" this fall.

A film crew from the program spent six weeks in Westmoreland County in July to investigate the 25-year old case and recreate it using a full cast of actors.

The episode is scheduled to air as the program's season premiere on Sept. 19, segment producer Shannon McGinn said.

LETTERS To The Editor

By Rex C. Salisbury

Dear Editor,

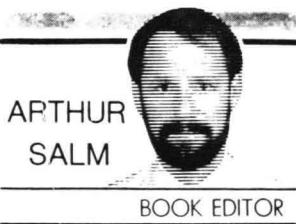
Regarding "Gulf Breeze Capture" in MUFON UFO Journal Number 267, July 1990. Carol and Rex Salisbury met with four of the six former Army members in Gulf Breeze on Saturday, 11 August 1990 for almost two hours. The four reiterated what they had said publicly to the media at the time of their return to Gulf Breeze a few days earlier. They apparently have chosen Gulf Breeze as a convenient central location at which to regroup while planning for their future.

The six had been studying the Bible, particularly Revelations, as a loose knit group and had become quite religious. They claim to have not been members of any religious group or cult. Because of what were possibly paranormal events, they all suddenly got the urge at the same time to get out of Germany, which they did. They relate that similar events have continued to occur in Germany since their departure.

They came to the Gulf Breeze area to visit friends and to sort out what they were going to do, i.e. turn themselves in to the Army, hide out in the hills, etc. It is interesting that they were arrested by the local police for a faulty tail light on which they had just spent \$30 to have fixed. Reports in the local media have indicated that they may have come to Gulf Breeze to meet with Ed Walters, which they firmly deny. They claim to have had slight knowledge of Walters until they heard his comments concerning them on local TV. They claim to have read one of Bill Cooper's reports and found in it some point to discuss this with him.

They relate that the experiences which triggered their compulsion to leave Germany had nothing to do with their jobs or the US Army. They claim to have had good attitudes toward their work in the Army and repeated several times that they had to leave Germany and not the Army. They claim to know nothing of a so-called "End of the World" group. They also claim to know nothing of the identity or location of any anti-Christ or anything about a scheduled "Rapture". They credit a misinterpretation by the sister of one of the group as the source of these errors in reporting by the media.

They hope to jointly issue a public statement soon to clarify why they left Germany and other matters. In summation, the media and others may have exaggerated a simple AWOL case out of proportion with the facts, which is not uncommon, particularly in Ufology.



ARTHUR
SALM

BOOK EDITOR

IT'S not that they're *ba-a-a-a-a-ck*. They never went away.

Who? Why, *The Watchers*, of course (Bantam: 386 pages; \$19.95), by Raymond E. Fowler. You know — those crafty little futuristic critters who zip around in flying saucers and abduct honest, taxpaying citizens. The ones Whitely Strieber ("Communion" "Transformation") has made big bucks writing about. The ones publishers never tire of publishing books about because people keep buying.

"The Watchers" — allegedly non-fiction — is mostly the story of Betty Andreasson Luca, whose hypnotically triggered recollections of alien abductions were the basis of two of Fowler's previous books (this is his *sixth* on UFOs). Here's the scoop so far:

Pale, fragile extraterrestrials (who look suspiciously like Casper the Friendly Ghost) materialize in someone's bedroom and whisk him — or, more frequently, her — away to a laboratory inside a flying saucer for medical experiments. Not just any experiments, mind you: More often than not they are sexual in nature.

Why? Well, not (strictly) for cheap interstellar thrills. No, the Visitors are messing around with reproduction, because 1) they've evolved to the point where they're having trouble reproducing on their own (evolution, of course, seeks *enhanced* reproduction — but never mind, never mind) and they need a helping hand (or whatever), and/or 2) because, altruistic souls that they are, they're worried about *us* not being able to reproduce due to the damage we've done to our environment.

People are abducted any number of times during their traumatized lives. The aliens manage to track them down by homing in on a signal emitted by a tiny metal sphere inserted in the brain via the eye socket; so much for changing your name, leaving no forwarding address, or entering the Federal Witness Protection Program. Victims also report odd folk lurking about their homes, and unmarked helicopters frequently hovering over their neighborhoods. (To me this indicates that several of them, at least, live in



Alien sketch in "The Watchers"

Pacific Beach.)

We know this not because any of these spheres have been recovered — darn! — but because that's what the people remember while under hypnosis. Betty Luca recalled that her eye was removed for the procedure, but the attending physicians were courteous enough to put it back.

Obviously, all the testimony is true, especially Betty Luca's. (Luca also contributed the many sketches of the aliens that illustrate the book. No photographs — darn!) As Strieber explains in the *Forward* to "The Watchers," "Why would she alone produce such rich and untainted reports from a world that has re-

mained a confused mélange even for the few well-educated observers who have entered it? The reason, I feel, is her faith. She has a deep and beautiful Christian faith... (a) kind, open and passionate love for Christ and His word."

Faith comes in handy for Fowler as he traces the history of alien influence on humanity. He quotes from Genesis: "... the Sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took their wives of all they chose." Fowler continues, "Throughout the Bible, the term *Sons of God* refers to celestial beings called angels (messengers). If taken at face value, such stories present a far-reaching implication. Such interracial sexual union would imply that these non-earthly entities were genetically compatible with Man."

Interesting, in that chimpanzees, whose DNA is about 99 percent identical to homo sapiens, are decidedly *not* genetically compatible with Man. (King Kong, who as a gorilla was even further removed from us, was one sexually disoriented ape.) But Fowler has an answer for that, too:

"Are highly advanced beings from outer space God's agents of creation on this and other planets? Perhaps we should take the Genesis account more literally when it states 'Let us

make Man in our own image.'"

Or perhaps not. Tales of abduction by strange creatures abound in literature. We can choose to believe either that they are common psychosexual fantasies, or that spacemen in flying saucers have nothing better to do with their time than to get kinky with Earthlings. The lack of any physical evidence whatsoever, save a few scars on the legs of some victims, leads me to prefer the latter hypothesis.

On the other hand, there's a scar on my leg that I can't remember anything about, and whenever I read and review a book on UFO claptrap (which I do about once a year, just to be mean), I never fail to have screaming nightmares.

Hmmm. Maybe that's significant. Maybe something would be brought out by hypnosis. Maybe while unconscious I've contributed to some galactic gene pool. (Question: If the aliens are so much like us, why can't we have good old-fashioned sex? I hereby volunteer. I'm not crazy about their women — at least as they appear in the sketches — but maybe we could teach each other a thing or two.)

One matter not under dispute: There'll be more of these books. Saucers fly, money talks — and suckers fork over \$19.95.



James Robert Romansky: 'It was no plane. There were no wings, no tail section, no portholes or doors.'

Saw downed UFO, Derry man says

By Sharon Santus

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

For the first time in nearly 25 years, a man has publicly identified himself as a witness to the landing of a UFO near Kecksburg.

James Robert Romansky, 44, of Derry, who recently was interviewed by NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" for a segment to air in October, said he wants to encourage other witnesses to reveal what they know so questions surrounding the baffling case can be answered.

Just before dusk on Dec. 9, 1965, a fiery object streaked across the sky over Ontario, Michigan and western Lake Erie before finally gliding to earth in a densely wooded area near the secluded Westmoreland County community of Kecksburg.

Firemen from several local companies converged on the scene after dispatchers reported a downed aircraft.

One of them was Romansky, who then was an 18-year-old Lloydsville fireman.

He said he had seen the object streak across the sky over Lloydsville just before the alarm sounded.

"When we got to the fire hall, they told us a plane had gone down in Kecksburg and about four of us piled into a squad truck and

headed over there," said Romansky, a machinist with Latrobe Die Casting Co. "When we got to the Kecksburg Fire Hall, we split into groups and set out."

Romansky said a short time later, his group received a radio call that the first search party had found the aircraft not far from their position.

"We hightailed it down over the hill all prepared to help whoever was injured in the plane crash," Romansky said. "But when we got there, we couldn't believe what we saw. It was no plane. There were no wings, no tail section, no portholes or doors."

Romansky described the object as a metal, acorn-shaped craft with a copper/bronze finish.

"I've been a machinist for 25 years, but I've never seen metal anything like that," Romansky said. "The object was about 8 foot in diameter and 12 foot long. And there was a bumper around it about 10 inches wide with symbols written on it. They weren't letters. More like stars and dashes. What I'd call hieroglyphics."

Romansky said he and the other firemen stood about 4 feet from the object for about a half hour before two men with trench coats arrived and ordered them away.

He said his group returned to the Kecksburg Fire Hall where two armed soldiers

said the building had been converted to a military command post and ordered them off the premises.

Romansky said a military transport truck drove to the scene later that night and then departed at a high rate of speed loaded with an object covered with a tarpaulin.

"We asked some of the military guys what the object was and they said it was a meteor," he said. "We all cracked up. The next day, the state police report came out and they said it was a meteor, too."

Romansky said the only person he knew on his search team that night died a few years ago.

"But I'm sure some of those other firemen are still be around," he said.

Romansky, who has been cooperating with Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained headquartered in Greensburg, said he is convinced the object is from a foreign galaxy. He said only now did he decide to reveal his identity.

"I didn't know how people would react," Romansky said. "I figured people would ridicule me, harass my family. But when Stan called me about being interviewed by 'Unsolved Mysteries,' I decided it would be a good way to get other witnesses to come forward."

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - July 5, 1990

Walters' son defends UFO story

On December 28, 1987, I witnessed an unidentified object travel north and south over the high school. It was Monday at about 8 p.m. and what I saw was the same large flying object that my father had taken photographs of several days and weeks before.

I have never checked out or borrowed or purchased any UFO books. I have never read any UFO books. I never saw and have no knowledge of any UFO models or double exposure photographs.

The UFO sightings and personal family details described by my mother and father in "The Gulf Breeze Sightings" are true.

E. Daniel Hanson II



FACT: THIS UFO MODEL WAS PLANTED IN A HOUSE WHERE I HAD ONCE LIVED. (1 1/2 Years Earlier.)

PROOF: THE UFO MODEL WAS PARTLY MADE WITH A FLOOR PLAN I HAD DESIGNED AND DISCARDED IN SEPT. 1989

THIS IS THE CUSTOM PLAN DESIGNED FOR LYNN THOMAS.

THE MODEL WAS MADE WITH MATERIAL THAT DID NOT EXIST UNTIL SEPT. 1989, ABOUT TWO YEARS AFTER I TOOK PHOTOS OF THE UFOS.

CONCLUSION: THE UFO MODEL IS A HOAX, PLANTED TO DISCREDIT THE LOCAL SIGHTINGS.

Statement provided by Ed Walters

CR: R. Reid

UND prof using Turtle Lake case for UFO class

By NORMA DUPPLER, Tribune Correspondent

TURTLE LAKE — A Turtle Lake farmer's hayfield has become the topic of one of the most popular colleges courses ever offered at the University of North Dakota.

Four mysterious circles that still mar Allen and Sharon Wagner's hayfield, 16 months after they first appeared, are "a clean and clear example of a UFO landing site," said UND professor John Salter.

Salter, who teaches a class called "UFOs, ETs and Close Encounters," became interested in UFO phenomenon after a personal sighting in Wisconsin several years ago.

Registration for his class was cut off at 148 students Friday, the most ever to register for a non-required course at UND.

The Turtle Lake circles are among a dozen or more in four sites that have appeared in North Dakota in the past two years.

Though time has allowed thick weeds to grow on the Turtle Lake circles, no one has come up with a

logical explanation for the dead grass, loosened sod and many straight-sided depressions that ranged from 3 to 24 inches deep at the perimeter of the dead areas.

The most clearly visible of the elliptical shapes are approximately 18 by 13 feet, 37 by 43 feet and 55 by 68 feet. The largest is the shape of two circles squashed together, like a snowman without a head. A straight-sided shape also comes off of one of the circles.

This latter, small shape resembles one of the designs found in a grain field in England, where unexplained circles of flattened grain have been appearing for years.

Area skeptics have suggested the dead grass is the result of insects, hay stacks, badgers or a chemical spill, but none of those theories

Manitoba farmers report odd happenings

NIVERVILLE, Manitoba (AP) — Manitoba farmers are harvesting a bumper crop of alien encounters this fall.

A fourth mysterious circle of flattened grain came to light this weekend in a farmer's field about 10 miles south of Winnipeg.

The latest circle, which showed up a field belonging to Jake Friesen, was about 10 yards in diameter. The wheat had been flattened in a counter-clockwise direction.

Other circles have been found near towns west and north of Winnipeg.

account for the size and type of depressions and other physical evidence at the site.

"I don't think anyone who lives around here would do that as a hoax," said Sharon Wagner. "Besides, how would they do it? If they could, it would have taken days to accomplish, and someone would have driven by on the road and seen them."

Despite keeping a low profile, the Wagners have had hundreds of people find, and look at the site.

Meanwhile, the Wagners have

been on a quest for knowledge ever since the mystery circles appeared.

First, they called the Minot Air Force Base. "A woman there told us they couldn't help, but not to say the land if we didn't know what killed the grass," said Sharon Wagner.

Calls to the UFO Hotline got some interest, but no follow up.

Finally, a deputy sheriff friend of the Wagners saw a car license "MUFON" in Bismarck, acronym for Mutual UFO Network.

The deputy told the car owner,

UFO investigator Don Johnson, about the circles. Johnson spent five days at the site, but moved out of state without turning his findings over to Salter, who is the state director of MUFON.

Johnson took soil samples along with him to Colorado. They have not been analyzed.

The Wagners eventually got in touch with Salter, showed him an aerial photo and other photos of the site and talked to him for several hours.

"I am convinced of their veracity," said Salter, who hasn't actually visited the site but discussed it with Johnson.

Salter postulates that UFOs landed in the Wagner field to take on some power from the electric line. All of the circles are just a few feet from the power line.

Otter Tail Power representative Mike Lehmann, whose company runs the power line at the site, said he isn't aware of any power problems around the time the circles appeared.

"We did have a hot line crew working in the area then. Their truck leaves four depressions, but not hundreds at a site," Lehman said.

The Turtle Lake circles are one of four such sites that have appeared in North Dakota in the past two years. One site is west of Grand Forks, one site is between Rugby and Devils Lake, and there is an as yet unidentified site in western North Dakota which has seven or eight circles.

"The last site is being kept secret because of the wishes of the people," said Salter.

The Turtle Lake circles are the best in North Dakota, Salter said.

That isn't much consolation for the Wagners, who are still looking for an explanation. "We are back where we started from," said Sharon Wagner. "We really don't know anything."

TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Sept. 5, 1990 CR: S. Gordon

Kecksburg divided over UFO story

By Sharon Santus
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

A group of Kecksburg residents is circulating a petition calling for NBC to cancel a planned program re-creating the alleged landing of an unidentified flying object in the community 25 years ago.

Group members — mostly property owners and firemen — say the UFO landing was nothing more than a hoax, and worry that the "Unsolved Mysteries" broadcast could launch an invasion of curiosity seekers into the rural Westmoreland County community.

The group originally approached the segment's director about canceling the broadcast, but was unsuccessful.

Just before sundown on Dec. 9,

1965, witnesses reported seeing a fiery orange object streak across the sky over Michigan, the tip of Ontario and western Lake Erie. The fireball continued its descent and was spotted over Westmoreland County skies. Some witnesses said it landed in a wooded area near Kecksburg.

But Ed Myers, chief of the Kecksburg Fire Department at the time, says no such landing occurred.

"If something had lit here, that would be one thing," Myers said. "But nothing ever came down."

Myers said he has more than 50 signatures on the petition, which is to be mailed to program executives at the end of the week. According to the petition, property owners are already having problems with the curious walking through fields and using barns for

lavatories. "Even if you tell people to stay off your property, it won't do any good," Myers said. "I don't want to talk down city people, but they don't know what a field of oats is. They'll crawl over fences. There will be tire tracks everywhere."

Local response to the petition has been very good, according to Myers. "People are saying, 'How'd this UFO thing get so blown out of proportion? We're hearing more about it now than we did back in 1965.'"

Myers and others in the group dispute the account of two men who came forward for the first time a few weeks ago to say they saw the object after it landed.

One of them, William Bulebush of Mammoth, said he first saw the object pass over his house.

"I decided to ride to the top of

the hill because I used to hunt up there and I knew I could see the whole valley," Bulebush said. "When I got up there, I could see orange and blue electricity arcing in the valley."

Bulebush said he grabbed a flashlight, descended the hill and stood no more than 20 feet from the object.

"It was a burnt-orange, metal object shaped like an acorn and had what looked like Egyptian writing on it," he said. "I stood behind an oak tree and watched it."

"I heard people coming through the woods and I figured I better get out of there," Bulebush said. "I came home and took my 7-year-old son back out there with me. But by then, the police had the roads blocked off and there were military everywhere. We couldn't get close."

On UFOs, their believability and political implications

Confrontations: A Scientist's Search for Alien Contact

By Jacques Vallee, Ballantine, \$19.95, 263 pp.

The Gulf Breeze Sightings

By Ed and Frances Walters, William Morrow, \$19.95, 348 pp.

First Contact

Edited by Ben Bova and Byron Priess, NAL, \$19.95, 337 pp.

By GEORGE W. EARLEY

The Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) is being carried out today on two levels. The formal SETI program is funded by the U.S. government, operates under the aegis of NASA and is conducted by members of the scientific community who use huge radio telescopes to listen for signals from space.

The unofficial program is largely run by amateurs, aided by a few maverick scientists, and devotes itself to investigating reports of unidentified flying objects — UFOs.

One of those maverick scientists is Dr. Jacques Vallee, who holds degrees in astrophysics and computer science. In "Confrontations: A Scientist's Search for Alien Contact," Vallee takes his readers along on that search.

It's a disquieting journey, dealing as it does with people who claim frightening encounters with UFOs and the alien beings who operate them. In some cases, serious injury or death has been the ultimate outcome of such alleged encounters. The book includes photographs of wounds suffered by some of the people Vallee met while investigating UFO reports deep in Brazil's back country.

There is also a striking aerial photograph of a UFO taken by a Costa Rican government plane in 1971. That photo is from a copy negative; since the book was

published, Vallee says, he has received from the Costa Rican government "the original uncut film" and that it is undergoing analysis in France, where there are "superb" facilities for computer photo analysis.

While Vallee leaves open the question of who the aliens may be and where they might be from, his meticulously documented study makes it clear that there is more substance to some UFO reports than skeptics would have you believe.

Photographic evidence figures quite heavily in another recent UFO book: "The Gulf Breeze Sightings" by Ed and Frances Walters. It's an almost diary-like account of the alleged intrusion of UFOs into the lives of the Walters, who live in the small, upscale Florida town of Gulf Breeze.

For about 5½ months, beginning in mid-November 1987, Ed Walters took numerous photos of UFOs (many are in the book), was allegedly abducted by aliens, passed two polygraph tests, had his integrity questioned by skeptics who seemingly could find nothing else about him to criticize, and saw his photos pass every test optical physicist Dr. Bruce Maccabee could devise.

The Walters tell their tale in an almost flat, Dragnet-style, "just the facts, ma'am" monotone. There is no speculation on the cosmic meaning of it all. Unfortunately, that underplayed presentation, which should add to the believability of their alleged experiences, is not convincing. It is difficult to envision visiting aliens traveling zillions of miles to Earth, only to fly around a small town at night offering the natives under-illuminated photo opportunities. If they want recognition, as one UFO investigator has suggested, why aren't they doing daytime flybys at Cape Canaveral 30 minutes before a shuttle launch?

Consumer advocates will warn you: If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. With all due respect to Maccabee's photo analysis, the Gulf Breeze case sounds too good.

UFOs aside, the formal search for evidence that we are not alone in the universe has largely been one of quiet listening to the stars.

In "First Contact," editors Ben Bova (of West Hartford) and Byron Priess have brought together 20 articles by leading SETI experts that cover just about every aspect of the search for extraterrestrial life.

From Bova's opening essay on our place in the cosmos, through Dr. Frank Drake's "formula for estimating the number of advanced technological civilizations in the universe," to chapters on "Tuning In — Where To Look and Listen," "SETI on Campus," "SETI Through the Ages," and "Life in the Universe," the reader gets a marvelous overview of the past, present and probably the future of the SETI program. One chapter even describes how readers, at a

cost less than that of a good used car, can set up their own cosmic-listening post.

But while the technologists are largely concerned with their hardware and search programs (and the politics of keeping the funds flowing), Michael Michaud of the State Department writes the most sobering essay of the lot — the examination of the sociopolitical implications of any contact, be it via radio or in person, with an alien civilization. Science fiction aside, where hundreds of stories have dealt with the disruptive impact of alien technologies, alien religions and alien cultural mores, Michaud's article provides a hard look at the potential dark side of a successful SETI program.

If you're in the market for only one book on what could be humanity's biggest adventure, "First Contact" is the one to buy.

George W. Earley, a free-lance writer who lives in Mount Hood, Ore., reviews science fiction for The Courier.

LETTERS To The Editor

Contrary to what Ed Gray answered in last week's UFO Forum, the first time I talked to Ed Gray about the UFO was when he came to my house to express his concern and support (early March 1988, four months after my first sighting and the photos being printed in the Sentinel).

Also, I am sure Ed Gray will want to make a correction to his statement, "I asked him (Ed Walters) to call me (Ed Gray) anytime, day or night, the next time he had a sighting. He (Ed Walters) never called." This statement is not correct as documented on page 234 of *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*. As Mr. Gray will recall, per his request, I called him on March 17, 1988 and asked him to join a group of us at South Shoreline Park. He asked who was there and then said that he could not come and would rather it only be himself and me.

The resulting UFO sighting that night, Thursday (10:10 p.m.) was the first photo documentation using the SRS (stereo camera) proving the UFO is a large object, hundreds of feet away. I'm sorry Ed Gray refused the invitation but the rest of us remember discussing the phone call and his refusal to meet with us.

Ed Walters

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL
June 21, 1990 CR: R. Reid

Circles in Lowe fields stir interest across nation

ODESSAN, Odessa, MO

Sept. 27, 1990

by Carol Conrow

Fifteen days, dozens of telephone calls, live radio and television interviews, stories and photographs by the printed news media and hundreds of sightseers haven't changed the mind of Odessan Roger Lowe.

He is still reasonably sure that the wind had something to do with the formation of the circles that were discovered in his fields on Golden Belt Road.

"Until they can prove that I can see a UFO," said Lowe in an interview Tuesday night from his farm home, "I go with the wind. I admit it was strange, the way it happened, but I don't go with the micro burst idea."

Lowe, whose family has routinely answered their telephone to find the caller from the *New York Times*, a radio station in Hawaii, *UFO Magazine* or a television station from California to Maine, is just riding the crest of the circle wave that has encompassed his family, farm and community since Kansas City photographer Sandra Lines discovered geometric designs in one of his fields.

For Lowe the mystery of the circles is still a mystery. And he is relatively certain that he will never know how his crops were

down—exactly. But since the crop is now out of the field, the circle gone and basically no harm done, Lowe and his family really haven't minded the experience that they have been through.

"I chopped it down last Thursday," explained Lowe. "We're having lots of people coming by and I've given up on how many phone calls we've had."

Lowe said he knows of seven or eight radio interviews that the family has had in recent days and noted that on Tuesday one of his sons was interviewed live on a radio station in Hawaii.

"At least every TV station in town has been out once or twice," he said, "and the *New York Times* has contacted us three times." Lowe said the *New York Times* newspaper did telephone interviews but did not send anyone out to Missouri.

Lowe said *Unsolved Mysteries* called for an interview and plan on using footage from KCTV-5. Another television program, *Inside Edition* also contacted the family, but Lowe said he isn't sure if they would send someone to Odessa.

"They did an on air recorded interview" he said.

Lowe also confirmed that *UFO*

Magazine had been to his farm explaining that they had interviewed his wife Lynda.

"Lynda did most of the interviews," he said. "We've had people here from California to Maine. We have a car here right now from Illinois. They were joined by friends from Texas and they've been here about an hour."

Lowe is surprised about what has happened to him. "It's kind of been an experience," he said.

Asked if he would handle things differently now that he's been through all this he said, "Only thing I wish is that my field hadn't fallen down."

Lowe said he lost between \$1000 to \$1200 from downing of the crops in the circle pattern.

Meanwhile others who have been looking toward Odessa and the circle phenomenon continue to argue that the circles were caused by either UFOs or from other unknown causes.

Mike Murphy, talk show host on KCMO radio station, broadcast a show on Friday in which he interviewed Richard Hoagland, a specialist connected with the University of Virginia with contacts in NASA who talked about the Odessa circles along with circles

in other parts of the world.

Hoagland's portion of the Murphy show, obviously intellectual, talked about geometric patterned circles found in cereal crops, plants that refuse to break and bend at 90 degree angles and multiple level messages from circles of elegance and artistry.

Hoagland compared the circles to the geometrics of Sardonian, the ancient stone circles in England noting that the fields where many of these circles were found held electromagnetic, high pitched warbling tones.

On Monday Murphy, who often interviews people associated with UFOs and other unexplained occurrences, asked listeners, "Did anybody understand what that man was saying on Friday?" Then he added, "I didn't understand a single thing he said."

Meanwhile reports of the geometric circles being found have come from Kansas and from Tightwad, near Warsaw.

Like Lowe, other Odessans have rolled with the hectic pace set by news media and visitors who are traveling here especially to see the

field where the circles once were visible.

The *Odessan* has received more than its share of telephone calls in which staffers have had to answer questions, give directions and even read the entire news story for a cable television show in California.

But it was 80-year-old Ray Porter who tells the best story of all. Porter who brought a tiny frog into the office to show what he had found in the Lowe field after the crops were gone, tells of his experience this way:

"I was sitting in my chair on Thursday (September 13) when this thing went over my house. It made me quiver. I felt an uplift and then the thing was gone." Continuing, Porter added, "Just as quickly it was gone. It's the same time that those lights flickered in the area. I'm a believer. I'm going to be kind of careful."

Seen a UFO lately? Don't be afraid to tell your friends

By Todd Nilson
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Millions of Americans claim to have seen UFOs, says Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained and nationally recognized UFO expert.

"I think it's quite apparent now that many people from the American public, and people from many nations, now have a serious interest in UFO phenomena," Gordon said. "The ridicule that you may have had (by admitting to a UFO sighting) back in the '40s, '50s and '60s is now beginning to fade. While there is still some ridicule, people are more willing to talk about their experiences."

As a consequence, more witnesses, although most prefer to remain anonymous, are coming forward to talk about unexplained phenomena they have seen.

According to Gordon, those who are coming forward are not the standard assortment of crackpots and crazy people one sees featured in the tabloids, but often trained observers and professionals "from all walks of life."

PASU, a scientific clearinghouse for UFO, Bigfoot sightings and other unexplained phenomena in western Pennsylvania, has hundreds of files with testimony from pilots, doctors, state policemen and air traffic controllers stating they have seen something they cannot explain. The Greensburg-based group depends on a group of volunteer investigators with a spectrum of expertise from medicine to electronics to military operations.

"Now people aren't laughing like they used to," Gordon said. "Now people are asking questions. And they'd like to have some answers."

PASU takes a steady stream of reports of UFOs that are called in on a weekly basis by individuals and police departments. Gordon said although "a lot of the sightings" are meteors or other explainable phenomena, a fraction

UFO evidence documented

The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained will present a display documenting evidence of UFOs, Bigfoot and other mysterious phenomena at the Westmoreland Mall all day Saturday.

The free event, part of the sixth annual National UFO Information Week, is intended to help bring the subject of UFOs to the attention of the public. Photographs, slides, video presentations, alleged UFO residue and government documents will be available for viewing.

PASU investigators will be on hand at the display booth in the mall east of Greensburg to answer questions.

of the incidents always demand a closer look.

PASU volunteers check for abnormal weather conditions, astronomical anomalies and aircraft that may have been passing over the area at the time of the sightings.

Still, some of the cases defy all explanation.

One such report occurred the evening of May 24 this year in North Huntingdon Township.

Around 11 p.m., while walking her dog, a woman noticed her dog was behaving strangely. She then noticed a large, noiseless, triangular-shaped object with white lights on it near some high voltage power lines which crossed the road in back of the area she was traversing.

It hovered about 150 feet above the lines for 30 seconds, then took off toward the northeast until it was out of sight.

As the object disappeared, the dog resumed its normal behavior.

Gordon said the shape and description of this type of object is reported quite often and that many sightings occur near power lines.

"Animals quite often respond in different ways to the presence of these things," Gordon added. "In that case it became very quiet and still right before she saw it. The witness didn't want to be identified, which a lot of people, of course, don't."

Other major incidents the organization is investigating include a series of UFO sightings in Butler County where investigators and two other witnesses watched and videotaped UFOs for about nine minutes on three different cameras.

The group is also looking into evidence of several Bigfoot footprints along Chestnut Ridge and the first occurrence in Pennsylvania of what PASU investigators believe to be English Mystery Circles on a farm "in a county west of Westmoreland," Gordon said.

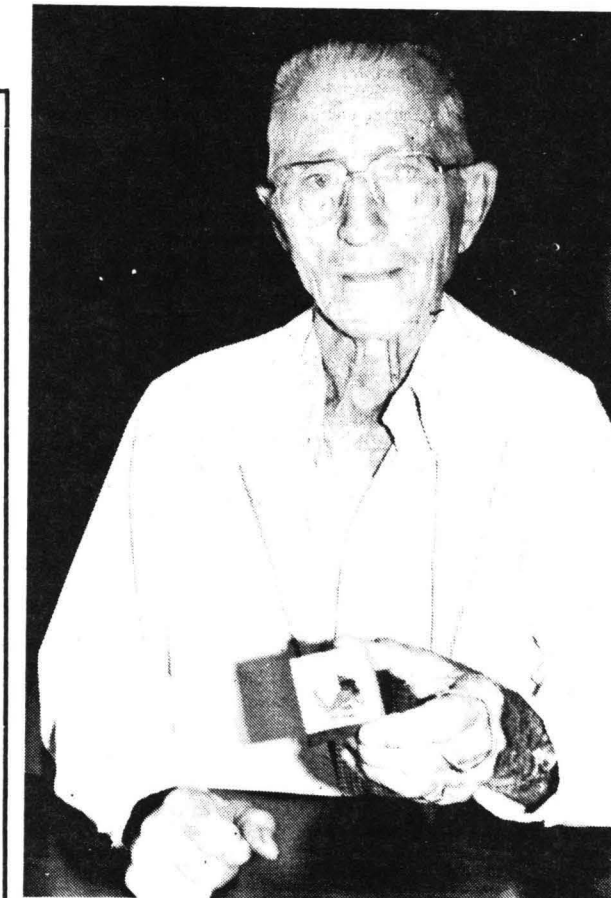
Gordon said he was particularly excited about the Butler sightings and the finding of the English Circles, which he believes to be the first ones found in Pennsylvania. English Circles received their names because they first appeared in England. Scientists, as yet, cannot account for them.

The English Circles PASU is currently investigating differ from the typical scorch marks found in the ground at the sites of reported UFO landings, although UFOs had been sighted in the area recently, Gordon said.

"The diameter of the two rings was precise," Gordon said. "They hadn't been there two days before. It was in the middle of a large farm area and there were no tracks leading in or leading out that could have caused them."

There is no direct evidence that the circles were left by UFOs, Gordon said.

Gordon attributed renewed public interest in UFOs to recent movies, television shows, and books on the subject. Gordon said this interest has been growing



UFO Believer... is what Ray Porter says he is. Porter displays a small frog that he found in the Lowe's field.
photo by Carol Conrow

since the premiere of the movies like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

The result has been that more people are coming forward and talking about what they've seen.

Gordon said he believes the U.S. government holds the answers.

According to Navy documents PASU has obtained, investigations of UFO sightings by the government go back at least to 1949.

In December 1969, the Air Force dropped Project Blue Book, its program dedicated to the investigation of alleged UFO sightings. At that time, the government reflected the Air Force's position, officially declining to in-

vestigate UFO phenomena.

Supposedly, that position has not changed, Gordon said.

However, PASU has obtained thousands of pages of documents from major governmental agencies — such as the Air Force, NORAD and the Navy, among others — through the Freedom of Information Act which allegedly prove the government continues to investigate UFO sightings, Gordon said.



FOREIGN NEWS

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - July 28, 1990 CR: T. Good

Boffins fall out over authenticity of shapes

Researchers are at loggerheads over the authenticity of new patterns in Wiltshire corn fields.

One group of experts are convinced the various shapes are genuine, others say they are sham.

The latest examples have been under intense investigation since being discovered in a field at Beckhampton, near Marlborough.

They include a triangle which has two "F" shapes sticking out of it and two large shapes which are full of

curves - like French curves used in technical drawing.

Colin Andrews, of the Circles Phenomenon Research Group, and who is leading an investigation at the site, said: "The markings are different to anything we have seen before and we are totally satisfied they are genuine."

The cause of crop circles and other shapes was outside the known laws of physics.

"I accept there is a heavy leaning

in the data suggestive of something which knows what it is doing - intelligence," he said.

Dr John Graham, Head of Agronomy at Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire, said the latest shapes were probably man-made.

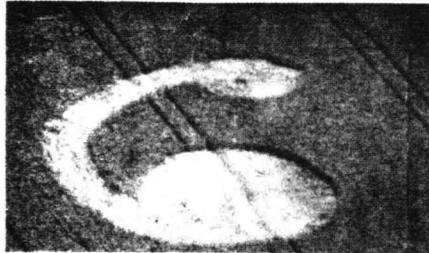
He believes crop circles are caused by spinning balls of air and said it would be difficult to apply this theory to triangular formations.

"It is difficult to envisage any

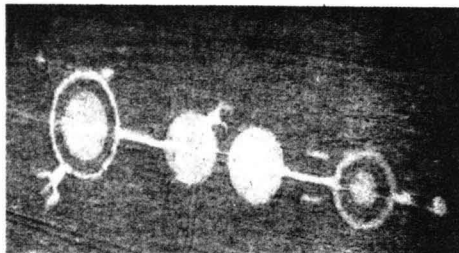
meteorological force that could cause damage in such a configuration," he said.

Dr Graham was also sceptical about the authenticity of parts of the key-like shapes at Alton Barnes, near Marlborough, which are very similar to another set of corn shapes at nearby Stanton.

"Having inspected the Alton Barnes site, I do not think one could be positive either way," he said. "Certainly the damage could have been made by someone messing around."



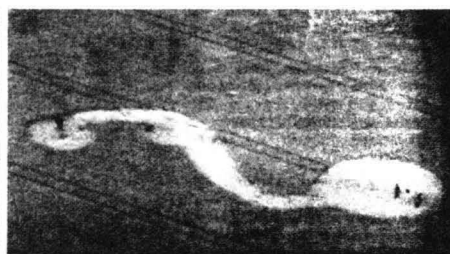
One of the odd shapes at Beckhampton



One of the larger groupings at Stanton St Bernard



Roundway Hill, where the spider shape appeared



Another strange scene at Beckhampton

CR: T. Good SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - Aug. 13, 1990 Researchers seek clue to power-cut UFO in the sky

UFO researchers are on the trail of two mysterious flying objects seen hovering around Twyford Avenue in Great Wakering, at the beginning of July.

In the first case a local woman spotted the object about 300 yards from her back door. It was circular with three lights and three brighter lights inside, and appeared at about 8.30pm on Friday July 6.

UFO investigators in South East Essex are convinced it is the strongest sighting in the area. Power in the woman's house went off three times while the object hovered.

After it took off over her roof at a 90 degree angle, her power came back on.

Another UFO, this time a mass of bright lights, was also spotted off Twyford Avenue at around

8pm on April 16.

Now members of East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association, which covers South East Essex, have launched a 24-hour phone hotline in a bid to find out more about the strange objects.

Club secretary Bernie Carr, of Hall Avenue, Aveley, said: "We want to find out as much as we can about this UFO because we know it wasn't a plane or wind balloon."

"It's the first case we've heard of where electricity has gone off and we would love to establish exactly what it is. That's why we've set up the helpline and are asking anyone who might be able to help to call."

The hotline number is 0375 373065 or you can phone Mr Carr on 0708 860363.

EXPRESS ADVERTISER, Macclesfield, England - Aug. 8, 1990 CR: T. Good

Ready to prove the existence of UFO's

THE EXISTENCE of flying saucers could be proved tonight at Townley Street School.

A man who believes that aliens from outer space are not science fiction will be giving a public lecture at the school. He is Arthur Tomlinson, who told the Macclesfield Express: "I am here to

inform the public about what is going on in an effort to get public pressure eventually to expose it all."

To back up his belief, Mr. Tomlinson has more than 150 slides, top secret documents released under the Freedom of Information Act in the USA, data on UFO crashes, photos of aliens and post-

By BERYL BUTTERWORTH

mortem reports on aliens from crashes.

● There have been local sightings. In 1966 a Macclesfield policeman, Colin Perks, was checking shop doors behind the Rex Cinema at Wilmslow when he heard a high-pitched whine and saw a

UFO, shaped like a three-tier cottage loaf, stationary, 35 feet up about 100 yards away. After about five seconds, without changing its sound, the object moved rapidly away and passed out of sight.

● An Alderley man photographed a UFO in the 1960s and Mr. Tomlinson

says he found other reports that moved from Alderley to Ashton-under-Lyne. There have been nine other separate sightings.

● In September 1982 a pensioner saw a saucerlike object twinkling in the sky above the Hanging Gate pub at Sutton. Among other local people who saw it were several in the Bollington area.

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

SUSSEX EXPRESS, Lewes, England - Aug. 3, 1990 CR: T. Good

John Eccles spins with the circles

NEW CROP circles appeared this week directly in front of the Long Man of Wilmington.

And astonished farmer Tony Penrose believes they may have been caused by aliens.

"If it was a hoax, it was an extremely elaborate one," said Mr Penrose of Milton Street Farm. "I think they were caused by something we have yet to find an explanation for."

"There are many more things in the universe than we know of."

The two circles and a narrow rectangle were spotted on Monday in a field of barley due north of the Long Man and only a few hundred yards from Wilmington Priory. Mr Penrose held up harvesting until he could examine the wheat, flattened anti-clockwise, more closely.

One of the circles had a rectangle sticking out from one side.

"I wouldn't be at all surprised if they were caused by aliens," he added. "They could have come from a different dimension."

Farm manager Michael Sturmer and farm foreman John Protheroe, however, both thought the circles were hoaxes.

The truth will probably never be known. Priory Field, where the circles were found, was due to be harvested on Tuesday.

Mr Penrose believes the Long Man is linked to

the phenomena. "It has metaphysical connections with the area. It is a focal point for ley lines and it has a strong presence," he pointed out.

■ A Seaford man believes he has the answer to the enigmatic crop circles.

David Tilt, 59, of Hindover Road has spent the week examining the circles in a field west of Lewes and at Milton Street (pictured).

Using a simple dowsing technique he traced lines of energy within the circles; he also used a diode receiver connected to a cassette recorder to pick up electrical impulses.

His basic premise is that many of the circles are the remains of small stone circles or tumuli which have disappeared in the passage of time, leaving behind quartz or flint beneath the ground.

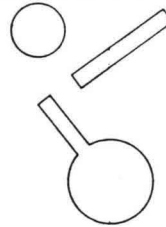
He believes the megalithic sites were, and still are, linked by lines of energy.

"There seems little doubt the energy systems were the work of a priesthood," he told the Express. "The discovery at stone circle sites of a grave, each with a line of energy going into it, implies a probable close association with the cult of the dead."

The crop circles, he added, are caused by energy discharges which overflow.

"When this happens air becomes a conductor in the vicinity of the strong electrical field. This causes an electric wind which can make circular field traces at hedge sites and at energy line junction points nearby."

He said research at Lewes had revealed a new layer of energy 3ft above ground level which worked in reverse flow to the energy below ground.



Corn circle conundrum

Hoaxes or inexplicable happenings, corn circles are increasing. ANTHONY WENHAM talks to a man who has spent two years researching the phenomenon.

At the bottom of a long lane, outside a small redbrick cottage flanked by wheat stubble and meadow, Norfolk in the morning sunlight is at its most natural as a quietly spoken middle-aged man discourses on the supernatural.

David Dane, a successful landscape painter living at Briggate, outside North Walsham, is not a crank.

Although laymen and scientists belittle his beliefs, Mr Dane is convinced that unknown forces are at work in the world's corn fields — creating intricate circles and pictograms.

"Researchers, who have been working on this phenomenon for the last decade, are of the opinion that circles have been appearing for many years; there are records of circular shapes in crops dating back to the Middle Ages," he said.

Fungal corn infections and localised whirlwinds can make crops collapse, so can hoaxers, but Mr Dane doubts if any of these causes could explain 450 recorded corn circles in Britain this year.

"I estimate the numbers at nearer 1000 because many farmers won't report them for fear of people trampling through their crops," he said. "It would take an army of people to hoax that many circles."

Mr Dane became "hooked on the subject" about two years ago after watching a BBC programme. He took up the corporation's offer to viewers to join its Crop Watch team which led to a meeting with Britain's corn circle experts Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews, both electrical engineers and co-authors of the book *Circular Evidence*.

Since then he and his son Matthew have visited sites in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Wiltshire, once chartering a private plane to examine circles from the air.

"It's interesting that these circles are not restricted to corn or the United Kingdom," said Mr Dane. "They have



The Patterson family examine the corn circles discovered at Gorleston Farm in July. Inset, David Dane.

occurred in oilseed rape and grass, and in Bulgaria and Australia, where they call them 'saucer nests'."

The introduction of flying saucers to the conversation brings a pause in the flow.

Mr Dane is aware of the scepticism surrounding corn circles, but at least they are observable; unidentified flying objects introduce an element of fantasy greeted almost exclusively by ridicule.

"I don't really want to get involved in the subject of UFOs, other than to say that I think we have all been conditioned to believe that they do not exist," he said. "It is a fact, though, that orange and red lights are often seen just before the appearance of a corn circle."

An apparently level-headed farmer's wife from Knapton, near North Walsham, experienced the lights twice this summer. The woman, who asked not to be named, told me: "It was just before midnight on July 25 when I saw an orange ball in the sky.

"It looked like a big melon moving across the sky. It definitely wasn't a star or a plane, and it didn't make any noise." The next day a corn circle was discovered at their farm and another one at Tibenham, near Long Stratton.

"About ten days later, at the same time of night, I saw a huge orange-yellow light coming over the trees. The object circled twice and seemed to go down behind a wood. Five minutes later, it seemed to go up again, surrounded by small yellow lights." A corn circle was found again the following day.

"I've no idea what these lights were," she said. "I've never seen one before or since, although my son saw one here about ten years ago."

At Hopton, on July 30, farm manager Roy Patterson and his daughter observed through binoculars "a solid red light with a red ring around it" moving slowly across the night sky. Suddenly, it disappeared. "I didn't really think too much more

about it until I was on the combine the next morning and there was this corn circle," said Mr Patterson, of Gorleston Farm, Hopton, near Yarmouth.

"I don't believe in all this UFO stuff, but when you see something in the sky and then see a corn circle, it makes you think."

Mr Dane, despite his fascination with the subject, cannot satisfactorily explain these events. "But that doesn't mean they are not happening," he stressed. "You cannot just write these things off as a joke. People must keep open minds."

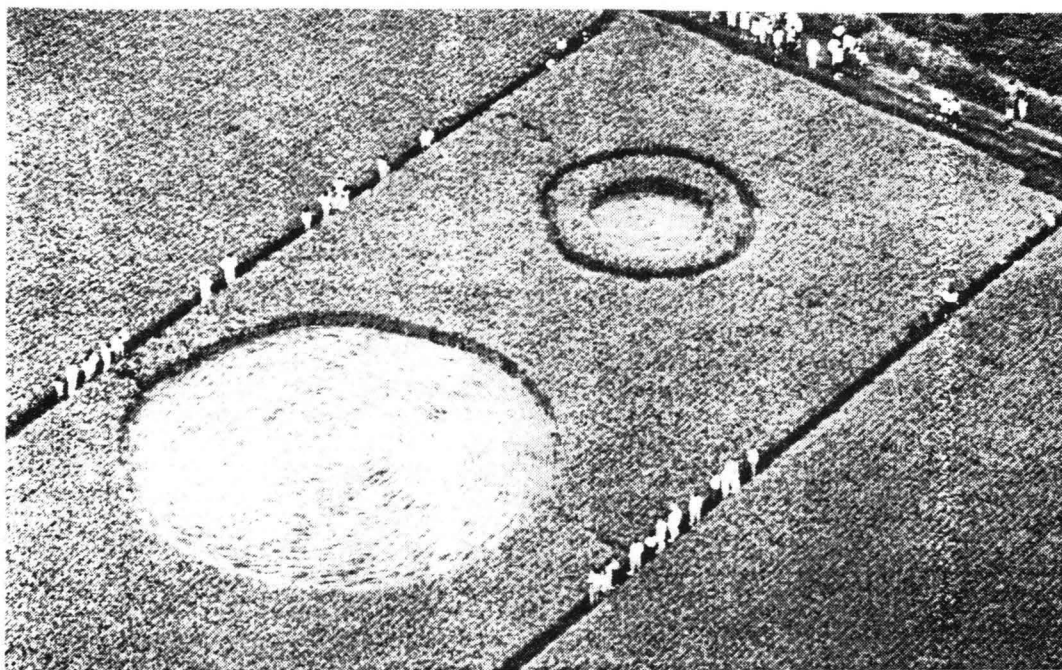
He suggested that the lights and the circles could be caused by "some unknown electrical force". He has experienced electric shock sensations on visits to circle sites and knows people who have suffered bad headaches in similar situations.

The fact remains that, whatever causes the corn circle phenomenon,



sightings are on the increase. "There was a dramatic increase last year, and we are seeing even more this year," said Mr Dane.

"Historically, there have certainly been more sightings at times of international tension," he added.



**PHOTO
FOCUS**

Mystery Circles in Fukuoka

The mystery circles that have confounded scientists in Britain have now appeared in Japan. Two were discovered on Sept. 17 by farmer Shunzo Abe, 65, in his rice field in Sasaguri Town about 12 kilometers east of Fukuoka City. One of the circles had an 18-meter diameter and the other measured 5 meters across with a large ring around it. Within the circles the rice stalks had been pushed down in a counterclockwise direction. Was a UFO responsible, or was it the work of a prankster?

Flying low

AT the risk of producing comments about the 'silly season', Scope feels it necessary to report a letter received from two young readers in Maryland.

They tell us of a sight in the sky recently.

They believe it was a UFO and both of them saw it from the village's Lawling playground.

Writing on behalf of both, Debbie Stares, of Nipsells Chase, says: "Lucy Humphries and I were watching the sky when something strange happened."

A round thing came into sight — it was sort of red, orange, yellow. It landed in a field.

"We were so amazed we kept watching and waiting. It seemed to be flashing and going up and down."

Scope is usually a bit cynical about UFOs and so here are a few alternative suggestions.

A mad combine harvester, a lost ride from Nichols fair, turning the wrong way after the Southminster Show, or even the headmaster of Tillingham school trying some aerobatics on his light aircraft flight to mark his retirement.

MALDON & BURNHAM STANDARD, Essex, England - Aug. 9, 1990 CR: T. Good

BOOK REVIEWS



Farmer Keith Ryan stands in front of flattened ring in his Manitoba wheat field

Mysterious cereal circles explored

By Craig Bakay
of the Star-Phoenix

Circular Evidence is not a book for browsing. It is an engaging look at the phenomenon of circles of flattened cereal crops appearing seemingly from nowhere in fields across England and North America.

But be forewarned, once you pick this one up, you likely won't put it down until you reach the end.

This is despite poor typography and the laborious writing style of its authors, Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews.

Subtitled A Detailed Investigation of the Flattened, Swirled Crops Phenomenon, Circular Evidence is nevertheless a comprehension treatise on the subject.

Although its approach appears academic and scientific, it is far from dry reading. Moreover, the subject is so fascinating on its own that use of the scientific method is justified to keep the material orderly.

The book begins with The Evidence. Herein the reader is treated to pictures and documentation of various circles throughout Great Britain. The photography, while unspectacular, does provide overwhelming evidence that there is indeed a mystery here to be solved.

In the second chapter, Circle Formation, the

CIRCULAR EVIDENCE
By Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews.
Bloomsbury Publishing, \$29.95

authors explore the mechanics and structure of the circles, noting the complex pattern created by the flattened wheat stalks.

Here an interesting observation is made — no stalks are broken and the heads are intact.

This would tend to rule out any explanation that includes animal or man-made origins for the circles. Anyone who has walked through a wheat field knows what happens when you step on the stalks.

From there the authors go on to more detailed examinations, creating a chapter that can easily be skipped.

Then they detail the methods they used to study and document the occurrences before getting into the good stuff — possible theories.

Rather than trying to explain how the circles are formed, the authors proceed to point out how they are not formed. Gravity, static electricity, gaseous pressure, electric potential, sliding rock strata, centrifugal force caused by the Earth's rotation, tidal effect, volcanic pressures and steam pressure are all summarily dismissed as imperfect solutions.

At one point, Delgado even admits that when pressed for an explanation, he must reply: "I simply don't know."

Perhaps for many of us, the best explanation lies with visitors from the stars. The authors don't discount this and relate several occurrences where circle formation coincided with UFO sightings. They even tell of an eerie encounter when attempts to photograph the circles met with unexplained, temporary malfunctions in a camera and a camcorder — both of which worked previously and subsequently.

Without reaching any real conclusions as to origins, the authors conclude with a listing of circle sightings worldwide. The entry for Canada is extensive and includes those at Langenburg and Odessa.

There is somewhat of a letdown at the end of the book. It's simply a "we-just-don't-know" conclusion. But after a few minutes, fertile minds will likely have sufficient fodder to create their own solutions.

Whether north of Prince Albert, in a Manitoba canola field or a remote outback plantation in Australia, there is something to circle phenomenon and Circular Evidence is required reading for followers of the paranormal.

Let's see. Where was that chapter on little green men . . . ?

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - Sept. 20, 1990 CR: T. Good

Army cuts down corn circles claim

Claims that corn circles discovered in July were made by the Army were dismissed as rubbish today.

Author George Wingfield, of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, says in a new book that the circles were created to defuse public hysteria about the phenomenon.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said an investigation would not be launched into the claims.

"The Army has got better things to do with its time and money than be party to any such hoaxes," he said.

"The thought that there is any form of

official cover-up at the centre behind this is frankly rubbish."

The hoax took place in a field at Westbury in July. Video cameras captured the movement of orange lights during the night as a series of circles appeared.

But the following morning a ouija board and wooden crosses were found at the site. Pranksters from Fleet Street were suspected of staging the hoax.

A pop group calling itself the Justified Ancients of MuMu later claimed responsibility.

In his book, The Crop Circle Enigma, to be released in mid-October, Mr Wing-

field says the circles were "officially inspired".

"I expected the Army would deny the claims, but the simple fact is I have information from a reliable source, which I obviously can't identify, that this was ordered."

"I certainly would not make serious allegations of this sort without having proof to my satisfaction."

The Circles Phenomenon Research Group (CPRG) was involved in a round-the-clock surveillance project, called Operation Blackbird.

CITIZEN, Peterborough, England
Aug. 2, 1990 CR: T. Good

More circles in the wheat

FOUR mysterious circles — up to 200 feet across — appeared overnight in wheatfields near Sibson airfield, Wansford, last week.

Now two more of the circular patterns which have baffled scientists have appeared in an oat field at Wilderness Farm, Market Deeping.

And farmer Henry Steadman is convinced that he has not been the victim of a hoax after a painstaking search of the field for evidence of the culprits who had flattened his crops.

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

UFO researchers to visit district later this year

Researchers will visit the Mallee and Wimmera later this year to find out if strange rings appearing in wheat fields have been caused by flying saucers.

Tests will be carried out by the Victorian Research Society into Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) which has appealed to the public for help.

The society wants property owners and the public to report any changes to wheat fields, and to provide advance warning of "wheat rings" found before harvest.

A spokesman for the society said yesterday that no wheat was lost or stolen in the phenomenon, and crop loss was minimal as it was restricted to the rings only.

He said current research had not found any dangerous radiation contamination, but warned that the rings should be treated with caution until the society's equipment had cleared the area.

The society said 400 rings occurred in Eng-

land during the 1990 summer.

It said the phenomenon occurred in a variety of field vegetation, but it is far more noticeable in wheat fields because of the nature of the crop.

The society says there is no guarantee that the wheat rings will appear again this year, but it wants people to be on the lookout for any recurrence.

"We have a wide variety of researchers, research tools, and monitoring equipment to ensure an accurate investigation is carried out," the spokesman said.

Two UFO researchers from the UK will take part in the Mallee and Wimmera research in late November or early December.

The society has guaranteed the anonymity of any reports from property owners.

CR: P. Norman

Strongest UFO sighting

UFO enthusiasts are on the trail of two mysterious flying objects seen hovering around Twyford Avenue, Great Wakering, at the beginning of July.

In the first case, a local woman spotted the object about 300 yards from her back door. It was circular with three lights and three brighter lights inside, and appeared at about 8.30pm on Friday July 6.

UFO investigators in South East Essex are convinced it is the strongest ever sighting in the area of one of the inexplicable objects because the woman's electricity went off three times while the strange apparition hovered.

After it took off over her roof at a 90 degree angle, her power came back on.

Another UFO, this time a mass of bright lights, was also spotted off Twyford Avenue at around 8pm on April 16.

Now members of East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association, which covers South East Essex, have launched a 24-hour telephone hotline in a bid to find out more about the strange objects.

The hotline number is 0375 373065 or you can telephone Mr Carr on 0708 860363.

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire,
England - Aug. 29, 1990 CR: T. Good

'Aliens made corn circles'

Graham Rodwell is convinced aliens are causing mysterious corn circles in Wiltshire's fields.

Graham, a hotelier from Great Yarmouth, has been visiting the county to research his theory and try to prove extra-terrestrial forces are at work.

He rules out hoaxers because the patterns have been appearing in corn fields across Southern England for ten years.

Mr Rodwell said: "I can't yet physically prove it is extra-terrestrial. But I want to study the past, present and future of the circles."

Graham is more interested to know why they form rather than how.

He believes alien life forms are trying to communicate with us.

"They are a very patient force as they throw down these markings and every August we wipe them out with combine

harvesters," he said.

"This could be considered an aggressive act but these beings are passive."

During the summer the circles attracted thousands of visitors to a field at Alton Barnes, near Marlborough, where elaborate patterns appeared.

Other circles appeared in corn fields in the south of England.

Mr Rodwell believes two things could happen in the future.

"They will come back next year with further drawings. We must immediately reproduce these in the same field. If we do that without further delay there will be another drawing," he said.

The other thing that could happen is that the aliens tired of their work being wiped out could stop sending messages.

Graham is considering putting his findings into a book.

CHASE POST, Lichfield & Rugeley, England - Aug. 9, 1990 CR: T. Good



Report RICHARD GREEN: Photograph TREVOR ROBERTS

Farmer's amazing find in cornfield

The 'best yet' crop circle has been discovered in a field at Chorley, Lichfield.

This one has four 'arms' leading from it and a 'baby' circle.

Two of the arms arc at the end, one to the left and one to the right.

One runs 20 yards then heads off at a right angle, another 15 yards and ends in an arc.

A 'baby' circle lies in the lee of this arc.

The fourth 'arm' runs 15 yards and fans out into a fishtail.

No cornheads are broken. All edges are even. Each element of the pattern is swept in one direction. There are no cross angles.

Local man Andrew Walker made the stunning find while out shooting.

Andrew said: "I thought a combine had been through at first but then realised it couldn't have been."

"I walked into the circle and round the inside of it. It's amazing."

I was gobsmacked.

"I don't know what made it. I don't think it's a hoax. I'm out there regularly and I've never seen anybody about."

The circle pattern is located some distance from the nearest road and cannot be overlooked. Access is

gained by trudging across three fields.

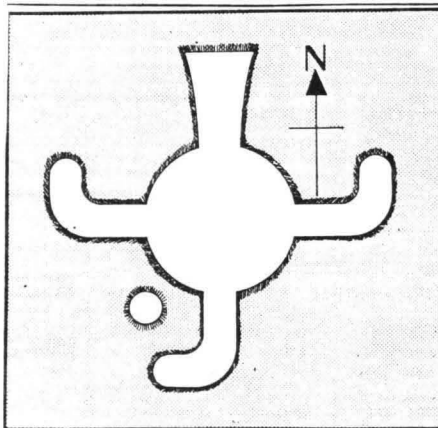
Mr. Walker, 19, alerted his relatives, farmer Allan Hulme and his wife Joan. Their Lodge Farm borders the corn circle field which lies on land owned by Sir. Eric Pountain, chairman of Tarmac.

Mother of three Mrs. Joan Hulme told the Post she was "stunned" by the finding. "It's a little eerie. There were no tracks leading to it. No obvious sign of what could have caused it."

She added that no one in the family had seen or heard anything unusual over the weekend.

"I am open minded to the cause."

*Pictured is three year old Ben Hulme.



New corn ring riddle

EVENING TELEGRAPH,
Peterborough, England
Aug. 21, 1990 CR: T. Good

YET another perfectly-formed circle has appeared in the middle of a cornfield to baffle a local farmer.

Eric Slater is the latest farmer to discover one of the mysterious circles, which have been appearing all over the country, but he remains sceptical of extraterrestrial explanations.

He said the circle

appeared on his land at Corneys Farm, Home Fen near Ramsey, over the weekend.

"I was told about it by one of the workers at the farm, and at first I thought my leg was being pulled," he said.

"But there it is, about 15 ft across and absolutely perfectly formed."

"It's very fine soil there - it would have been impossible for anyone to have got to the place without leaving any footprints."

EVENING NEWS, Manchester, England - Sept. 15, 1990 CR: T. Good

Apology to Mr Stanton Friedman and Mr Harry Harris

ON the 19th October, 1989, Stockport resident Ms Jenny Randles, the Director of Investigations of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, wrote to the Manchester Evening News concerning a forthcoming lecture shortly to be delivered at Radcliffe on the subject of UFOs by American nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman. The lecture had been organised by local Sale solicitor Harry Harris.

As a consequence of receipt by the Evening News of the letter, one of the paper's reporters interviewed Ms Randles at her home. Ms Randles accepted that her letter was defamatory of Mr Friedman and Mr Harris in that it described Mr Friedman as a "fanatic" and suggested firstly that he and Mr Harris were

"cultists and crackpots," secondly that they were not bona fide investigating ufologists and thirdly that the lecture which Mr Friedman was about to present to the Manchester public was composed of outrageous tripe, distortions, bogus documents and deceit.

Ms Randles also accepts that during the interview with the Evening News reporter she led the reporter to believe that Mr Friedman and Mr Harris had adopted a ridiculous belief that the United States government had made a pact with aliens for the abduction of human beings to another planet. Ms Randles accepts that Mr Friedman and Mr Harris never held

these beliefs. As a result of Ms Randles' letter and of its subsequent interview with her, the Evening News published on the 29th October, 1989, in two different editions of that newspaper, an article based on the views of Ms Randles.

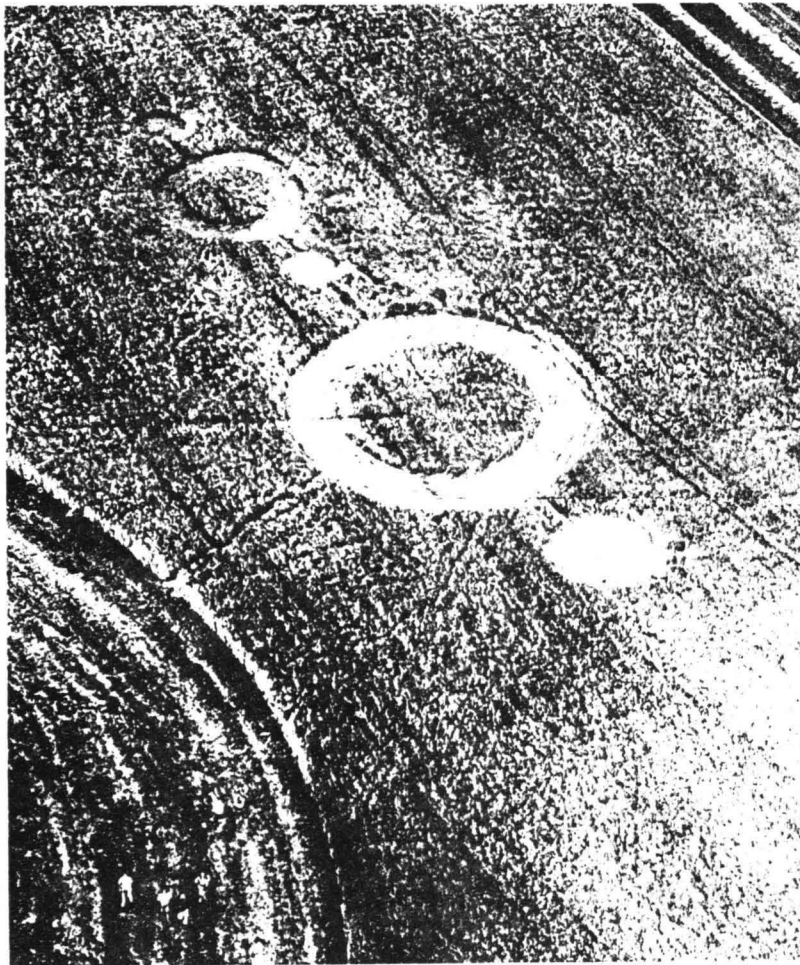
The Evening News now with regret recognises that those articles were defamatory of both Mr Friedman and Mr Harris and wishes to apologise to both Mr Friedman and Mr Harris for any distress and embarrassment caused by its repetition of Ms Randles' views.

Ms Randles now acknowledges that the lecture was sincerely and honestly organised and presented by Mr Harris

and Mr Friedman respectively. She accepts that they are committed and reputable researchers in the field and further acknowledges that the portions of the articles in the Evening News dealing with Mr Friedman and Mr Harris were totally untrue. Accordingly she apologises unreservedly to Mr Friedman and Mr Harris for the distress and embarrassment caused by her statements.

Both Ms Randles and the Evening News have agreed to pay Mr Friedman and Mr Harris undisclosed damages and costs in settlement of High Court proceedings for defamation which they have brought following the publication of the articles.

THE UNIVERSE LAST NIGHT!



CORN circles have appeared on a farm in North Devon - and farmer's wife Jane Poole says they are not a hoax. The seven circles and two rectangles appeared overnight at Cleave Farm at Newton St. Petrock, near Hols-worthy.

The 20-year-old son of farmer Peter Poole discovered them in a 150 acre corn field. Now his puzzled family are wondering how they got there. Corn has been grown in the field on their 465 acre farm for 17 years, but nothing like this has

happened before.

Mrs. Poole said yesterday: 'As far as we are aware they are genuine'. RESCUE services raced to an 'air crash' after a plane plunged from the sky while taking aerial pictures of corn circles. Eyewitnesses reported

seeing a micro-light in Warminster, Wiltshire, disintegrate on impact, but rescuers discovered the stricken plane was a huge remote control model aircraft being used by photographer Steve Holland, who says energy over the circles caused the crash.

COURIER & GUARDIAN, Halifax, England - Aug. 16, 1990

'LIGHTS IN SKY' MYSTERY



Mr Ronald Farrar keeps watch on the skies with his wife Muriel

STRANGE lights have been sighted in the dawn sky above Stainland.

Mr Ronald Farrar, of Thorn Hill Hey, Stainland, was walking his dog at 5 am when he saw three bright white lights hanging in the sky in a triangle.

"They were too big for aircraft lights and they weren't moving," he said. "And I've always worked at night so I know they weren't stars."

Mr Farrar woke his wife Muriel

and they watched the lights for 15 minutes through binoculars.

"They just hung in the sky, then seemed to merge into one and then just disappeared."

"I couldn't make head nor tail of it. I wouldn't like to even hazard a guess as to what they were," he said.

So far there have been no other reports of strange objects in the sky over Stainland but Mr Farrar is anxious to hear whether anyone else saw the lights.

CR: T. Good

AVON ADVERTISER, Fordingbridge, England - Aug. 8, 1990

DID YOU SEE UFO TOO ASKS PORTON PHYSIOTHERAPIST

PORTON resident Jane Manning-Philips has always considered herself a sensible, down to earth sort of person so, at first, she was loath to tell anyone of the unearthly object she saw flying over her home on Monday week at 10.30pm.

"I said to my mother, 'I'm going to keep quiet about this in case people want to come and take me away'", she laughs. "But then I heard about another sighting near the Isle of Wight so I thought I'd give you a ring."

"I'm no crackpot," said the 41 year old physiotherapist. "But what I saw must have been a UFO. I have never seen anything like it and we have a lot of strange MOD aircraft flying over here."

"It made a terrible noise, like it was about to crash. It was ugly, and really quite frightening."

It was the heavy, laboured and very loud noise which woke Jane that evening.

"It sounded like an aeroplane in trouble which is why I got up and looked outside," she explains. "Then I saw this strange cylinder shaped object which was flying along vertically. That was what

amazed me most. It was upright."

"It had two very big red lights at the top and bottom and an orangey yellow light either side in the middle," she says. "I watched it fly over Porton school towards Highpost and then round to Boscombe Down where it seemed to disappear."

"My mother got up and saw it as well, when it was a little further away, and my neighbour heard it but didn't bother to get up," adds Jane.

She immediately telephoned the MOD at Boscombe Down to see if it appeared on their monitors.

"I spoke to the MOD police who said they could see no sign of it," she said. "I couldn't believe that no-one there saw or heard anything."

The MOD confirmed that they had spoken to a "genuine-sounding" Jane Manning-Philips, but said they had seen nothing.

Ms Manning-Philips, keen to restore her peace of mind, would like anyone in the Porton area who might have seen or heard anything unusual on the night of Monday July 30 to contact the Avon Advertiser.

CR: T. Good

CORNISH GUARDIAN, Bodmin, England - Aug. 23, 1990 CR: T. Good

Mystery circles on lawn

BOFFINS are set to probe the mystery appearance of grass circles in the garden of a house at Nanpean.

By RAY TELFORD

The ten 1 ft diameter rings emerged overnight last week on Mrs Jennifer Ferris's lawn at Currian Vale and, so far, no one can explain how they came to be formed.

Spread across the grass, the perfectly formed circles are characterised by swirling, brown discoloured marks but they form no particular pattern and are unlike common 'fairy rings'.

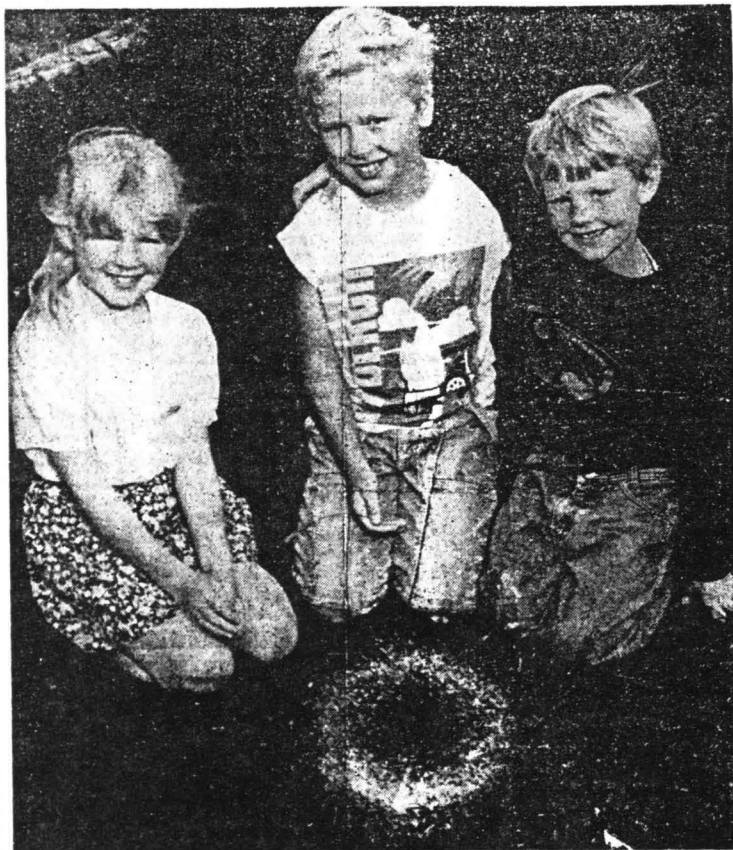
Sceptical

A baffled Mrs Ferris said: "We cut the grass the day before and they were definitely not there then. I

don't think it was a prank because we heard nothing go bump in the night and there are definitely no signs of little green men."

Teetotaler Jennifer, added: "I've always been sceptical about this sort of thing but I really can't explain this and I have to keep an open mind about it all."

A spokeswoman at the Circles Phenomena Research Office in Andover, which has been monitoring crop shapes at various sites throughout the West country this summer, said that circles phenomena expert Colin Andrews would be contacting Mrs Ferris with a view to carrying out a study of the Nanpean circles.



Wholly unexplained: Tamsin (8), Justin (10) and Neil (7) Ferris with one of the circles on their lawn.

Photo: Clemens Photography, Bodmin

Good Video may solve corn circles mystery

Aug. 22, THE riddle of the corn rings may soon be solved.

A video film taken in a field at night was being studied yesterday to see if it had captured the 'force' behind the ever-increasing circles.

BBC technicians are using technology to enhance the film frame by frame in the hope of getting a clear image of anything unusual around the area where the circles formed.

Producer David Morgenstern said: "There are certainly things on the film which are a mystery at the moment."

"They might be shadows from passing cars, but we hope that whatever happened will be clear from the film."

The video was shot during the Operation Blackbird vigil by teams of circle-watchers at Bratton Castle, near Westbury, Wiltshire.

Although nothing was spotted during the night, dawn revealed two large circles.

DAILY MAIL, London, England, Aug. 22, 1990 CR: T. Good

Archeologist believes crop circles are 'communication from another intelligence'

ARCHEOLOGIST Jill Burton, who is collecting information on crop circles in Cheshire, believes that they are "a communication from another intelligence".

Since the first ring appeared at Peover more than two months ago, Jill has been looking in to rings both here and in the south of England.

At first, she thought they must be related to archeology, but through a process of elimination, Jill has reached her present, controversial opinion.

She said she was willing to risk ridicule because of what she thinks.

Circles have appeared in Peover, Holmes Chapel, Mere and between Alderley and Wilmslow.

Jill, a part time archeologist, is one of a team from the extra mural department at Manchester University which meets to look into anything of ar-

cheological interest. When the first circle appeared at Peover, she called in the team, but it was not considered to be related to archeology.

During the past 10 weeks, Jill has talked on radio and TV, and given press interviews, but has only recently come to believe the circles are from out there.

The circles in Cheshire are relatively simple affairs, but in the south, particularly Wiltshire and Hampshire, where they exist in much greater numbers, the circles have impressions which suggest quite elaborate attachments, most of which are neatly defined, and angular.

Jill is collecting information for Circles Phenomena Research, an organization based in Andover and run by author and researcher Colin And-rews who has been looking into circles for several years.



Jill Burton...Circles are "beyond anything haphazard"

Currently, 35 scientists are investigating crop circles, Jill said.

"The circles in Peover, Holmes Chapel and Mere, are on the same line. I was shocked when I realised this," said Jill. "They are beyond anything haphazard".

She said that in the south, circles had been known to

appear the morning after UFOs had been reported as being sighted.

Jill took a certificate in methods in archeology 11 years ago. Much of the work she does now is concerned with archeological illu-strations.

She said she had come to her present

opinion after the elimination of other possibilities. "In this instance, it is a negative reaction. Because I am a logical person, I am asking myself what we have left".

Jill lives at Barrows Brow Cottage, Free Green Lane, Lower Peover, near Knutsford.

Crop circles: no radiation risk

AS an investigator into the crop circle phenomena, I was appalled to read in a recent issue of the paper (Spalding Guardian, August 3) statements made by one "amateur scientist" that crop circles are radio active?

May I allay any fears of the public that have recently visited Stow Gate circles, or any others in the country, that no such radiation exists. How can anyone with a scientific mind, believe that radiation could be present, for only the first few days, then be safe after that? Radioactive material the size of a pea could be dangerous for up to 20 years ahead.

I have worked in this research for the past few years, and have been this year in over 80 formations in Wiltshire and the surrounding counties. My peers have collected with myself the knowledge and research, of over 400 formations this year - all have been fully looked into. Not one of these crop formations have any sign of radiation. Indeed the MOD has been measuring them, and also doing its own investigation alongside the national crop watch team.

It is enough to cope with vast num-

ber of hoaxes that waste our time and money spent on this project, although they do not fool the experts, as real corn circles have fingerprints of compasses going wild and equipment put out action, and other pointers that show up the hoaxers.

Whilst I do appreciate that everyone is entitled to their own point of view, and I have been amazed at some accounts of huge lights being seen prior to a formation, we must not scaremonger the public with statements that have no foundation.

At present there are no definite answers, the formations are now pictograms, that look straight off a drawing board, and highly complex and intelligent. All information will be collated together this year, and scientists are to analyse the results. Whatever be the cause, wherever they come from, or whoever or what makes them, they are not radio active.

RITA GOOLD

Circles Investigation Studies

14 Langton Road,
Wigston,
Leicester.
Tel: Leicester 885643.

ASAHI EVENING NEWS, Tokyo, Japan - Sept. 20, 1990

In Fukuoka Pref. 2 Mysterious Circles Show Up in Rice Field

Two mysterious circles that appeared overnight in a paddy field in southern Japan have stirred speculation that they may be a sign of the arrival of an unidentified flying object, or simply the result of mischief.

The circles—one 18 meters in diameter and the other two concentric circles 5 and 6 meters in diameter—were discovered early Monday morning in the center of a rice paddy in Shinoguri, Fukuoka Prefecture.

Crops were felled evenly and counterclockwise to make the round patterns, which were next to each other, said Shunzo Abe, 65, owner of the field.

There was nothing wrong with the field when he walked through it during the daytime Sunday, Abe said.

Many similar circles that appeared mysteriously in farmlands in Britain and other parts of the globe have raised hot debates about their causes and significance.

Some people see the circles as a message from outer space, while others regard them as a hoax.

One person showed up to claim responsibility for making one such circle in Britain earlier this year.

The Japanese version of the circles, which drew many spectators from outside the town, cost Abe the loss of four bales of rice valued at some ¥60,000, he said.

Abe said he has no idea of where to bring a complaint because the cause of the damage has yet to be determined.

CR: Y. Matsumura

'Ice cream cone' from the sky probably more than a meteor

CHARLOTTETOWN (CP) — A researcher from Toronto and a local astronomer are lending credence to claims by some Prince Edward Island residents that what they saw Aug. 22 was more than meteor showers.

At about 8 p.m. that night, people along the Atlantic coast of Canada and the United States could see lights streaking through the sky, which defence and weather officials said were meteor showers.

But two astronomers said the same atmospheric conditions that induce meteorites to slam into Earth may have also brought down a piece of space junk, possibly a Soviet satellite.

Whatever it was, something landed in a field near the rural village of Ebenezer, P.E.I., a few kilometres northwest of Charlottetown.

Shirley Yeo and her family watched a bright object Yeo said was shaped "like an ice cream cone" land in a field and glow for about two hours.

"I saw it through the trees," said Helen Gallant, who lives in the Yeo home. "It looked like a great big round ball of light through the trees."

A short time later, residents said, helicopters and airplanes arrived and circled the site until 4 a.m.

Charlottetown RCMP confirm they received 13 calls about the Ebenezer object and that two Mounties were sent to investigate.

An RCMP spokesman later said one officer "could see it in the distance, but then he just lost sight of it."

Bumper crop of aliens?

NIVERVILLE, Man. (CP) — Manitoba farmers are harvesting a bumper crop of alien encounters this fall.

A fourth mysterious circle of flattened grain came to light this weekend in a farmer's field about 20 kilometres south of Winnipeg.

The latest circle, which showed up a field belonging to Jake Friesen, was about 10 metres in diameter. The wheat had been flattened in a counter-clockwise direction.

Other circles have been found near towns west and north of Winnipeg.

Similar crop-field rings — over 600 since 1980 — have shown up in the farmlands of southern England. Their cause has baffled scientists.

Clair Perry, president of the Charlottetown Astronomy Club, a group of about 30 amateur astronomers, visited the Yeos the next morning and searched for the object but found nothing.

"I wouldn't think it would be a meteorite when it glowed for so long," said Perry. "It pretty well had to be space junk or parts of a satellite."

"That's about the only thing that could have come down unless

you want to talk about little green men with buggy eyes."

Perry said he was puzzled by the object's disappearance but did not doubt the stories of Ebenezer residents.

"I met the family and they are very credible. It would take a pretty good mind to make up a story like that."

Paul Delaney, observation coordinator in the astronomy laboratory of York University in Toronto, also felt the object could not have been a meteorite if it glowed for more than a few minutes.

Delaney and Perry were intrigued by the arrival of aircraft since local residents did not know where they came from. There is a civilian airport at Charlottetown about 12 kilometres southeast of Ebenezer and a military airbase at Summerside, about 45 kilometres southwest.

Delaney speculated the aircraft were sent to Prince Edward Island by Norad, the North American Aerospace Defence Command, the military organization responsible for defending Canada and the United States from aircraft or missile attack.

"Norad monitors everything that is happening in the atmosphere and they would know about it if it (a satellite) was coming down."

Officials at Norad headquarters in Colorado and at a Canadian Forces rescue centre in Halifax, which has helicopters at Summerside, said any sightings were probably meteor showers. Neither military agency would say if anything struck the ground.

WILTSHIRE GAZETTE, England - Aug. 2, 1990 CR: T. Good

FACTS

ALTHOUGH no-one is quite sure what causes the corn circles, some facts do emerge.

● Despite recent media fuss, corn circles have been around for at least seven years. In 1983, five circles — one of them 45 feet in diameter — were found in a field below the White Horse, at Westbury.

● Wiltshire seems to be the favourite county for the crop shapes but they have been recorded in Hampshire, Gloucestershire and further afield.

● Scientists found an infectious jelly-like substance on a circle in 1985. At first they thought it to be sugar-based but tests showed people who came into contact with it suffered breathing problems.

● The largest circle yet was found in August 1989 — 100 feet in diameter. In four months, 222 circles were spotted in Wilts and Hants.

● This year, new patterns have emerged including squares, half-rings, straight linking lines and key-shapes.

● Even when the corn has grown back over the shapes, electrical equipment still picks up pulses over the area.

THEORIES

THEORIES on what causes the circles abound. ● Lance Pibworth, 71, from Bedford, believes they are a sign preceding the arrival of the anti-christ, as prophesied in the New Testament.

● But graphic designer Adrian Galloway, 28, from Haydon Wick, Swindon, says it is extra-terrestrials. Using diving rods, he claims to have found high energy levels, the points where "something" landed.

● A Wroughton man who calls himself August Fool says he makes the circles with a pair of stilts, a length of rope, a stake and a compass. He claims to have been doing this for ten years.

● Mark Bailey, of the Fitzharrys Astronomical Society, says it is difficult to come up with a reason the markings are seen only here, and not for example on the American midwest, unless they are due to either a weather phenomenon or human intervention.

● A Scottish pop group calling itself The Justified Ancients of Mu Mu also claims responsibility for the circles.

● Astronomy teacher Don Shirreff, a part-time lecturer at Marlborough College, is convinced the circles are formed by cheeky youngsters swinging a weight on a string around their bodies.



On the trail of Bigfoot



Monica Pihel-Bainter photo

Cliff Crook, left, and son Cary display the plaster footprint casts they took of a suspected Bigfoot track found in the Cascades.

Big noises in Bothell

Siting peaks interest of local Sasquatch expert

by Richard S. Clayton
Citizen staff reporter

For the past two weeks, Cliff Crook of Bothell has been almost as hard to find as the Sasquatches he has been hunting for most of his life.

Since three mushroom pickers in Mt. Rainier National Park went public with their encounter with an elusive Bigfoot over the Labor Day weekend, every Seattle television station and newspaper and radio stations from as far away as Oregon have been asking Crook for his assessment of the pickers' story.

One of Crook's three sons has been assigned to the phone to weed out all the non-essential calls, freeing up dad to show off the plaster casts he took last week near the mushroom patch and explain to reporters why this encounter seems like one of the few legitimate bigfoot en-

counters.

"It has been crazy," said Crook's oldest son Cory. "We are telling people he's not home, but they keep calling."

Crook's reknown as a Sasquatch expert comes honestly. For the past 33 years the gardener and handyman by profession has been searching the wooded areas of the Pacific Northwest for the clues that will prove the existence of the massive creatures.

Crook, 50, spends endless hours checking the validity of sightings, which often means camping out with his sons in densely wooded areas for days on end searching for the tell-tale clues of a hoax.

He has even converted a room of his Bothell home into "Bigfoot Central," part showroom and part laboratory of sorts with hundreds of Sasquatch tracks, video tapes

and other evidence.

The time and effort will be worth it when he can show conclusive proof to his naysayers, especially those who doubted his own brush with a Bigfoot back in the 1950s.

Crook, 16 at the time, was camping with three younger friends in a wooded area between Woodinville and Duvall ("It was pretty rough country then," he says) when he spotted a "massive" animal that was neither a human nor a bear. From the light of the camp fire at around midnight, Crook watched the hairy figure come within 12 feet of frightened campers.

"I was in complete horror when I saw it," he said. "The only thing I wanted to do was get out of there."

So that's what they did. The four ran for their lives, leaving behind all their camping gear to

get back home and share the encounter with their parents.

Only problem was nobody believed them, including Crook's parents. The younger kids were forbidden from playing with him after that because their parents thought Crook was trying to frighten them.

His search to prove the existence of what he saw in the light of the camp fire began soon after.

"When I first started, I wanted to prove to everybody what I saw existed," said Crook, still visibly scarred by those first non-believers. "After a while I wanted to learn the true nature of this animal for my own satisfaction."

Crook realizes it's going to take solid tangible evidence, such as a skeleton or a live capture, to prove to the general public that sasquatches exist. He hopes it won't take the killing of one to do so. "I wouldn't

ever kill something to prove its existence," he says.

This most recent siting, literally, has brought Crook a step forward in his search.

Crook received a phone call from the mushroom hunters hours after they smelled a terrible odor in the woods nearby. When one of the trio, who had gone to the car, honked the horn, the silence that had fallen over the woods was broken by a loud rustling and an worsening of the odor.

The three didn't actually see anything, but they did find what they consider strange manure droppings in the area. Also, another siting was reported several miles from the mushroom fields by a person who had never met the pickers and hadn't heard their story.

Several days later, with the spotting already hot in the news, Crook was whisked down to the area by KIRO television's helicopter and found the clearest track he had ever seen and a fairly-clear trail, which went in the direction of the second siting.

"This is the best track I've ever found in 33 years of tracking," Crook said. "It surpasses all the capabilities of human hoaxing or duplication."

The print is 14 inches long, seven inches wide at the toes and almost three inches deep in hard soil. It has a curved and inclined arch and a deep fore-foot and heel depression.

The depth of the impression leads Crook to believe the animal that made it had to be over 450 pounds. The distance between the prints, almost 37 inches, necessitates whatever made them be well over six feet tall, he says.

Crook will only discuss a few of the reasons this recent track and the trail around it are special, but said they passed all of his seven "tests."

For one, the print has the classic indentation marks — deep fore-foot impressions — of a wild animal. Its clarity — even showing the detail of the skin on the bottom of the foot — show other tell-tale signs that can't be duplicated, Crook says.

For two, the distance between the inside of the each foot print is too large for a man to duplicate exactly for a long distance. The 37 inch stance-line — twice that of a 6½ foot human — is duplicated exactly between all the tracks, he says.

Crook isn't willing to discuss the other tests he performs. It's his way of staying one step ahead of the imposters, which waste 90 percent of his investigating time.

"I'm skeptical too," says Crook about every report he receives. "They've pulled some real good ones on me over the years."

On this latest hunt, he almost gave up the hunt before it started because the manure sample the mushroom hunters sent him was obviously from a very tame animal.

"It's got all the properties of a horse," said Crook. But he is thankful he continued his search.

"This may be horse manure," Crook says, "but their story isn't. It checks out."

PEOPLE, Sydney, Australia - May 30, 1990 CR: R. Collings

SOVIETS DISCOVER MISSING THINK

TELEPATHY may be the tool to bridge the language barrier between humans and aliens, according to an American psychic investigator visiting Melbourne.

Belen Huizar has worked in healing and telepathic communication for 20 years and visited Australia to work at the Milagro meditation and healing centre.

She says some Soviet parapsychologists believe telepathy may be the link to communicate with other races.

"The Soviets announced that their astronauts discovered they were able to communicate telepathically in space," she says.

The Soviets even decided to include telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition

and psychokinesis in their astronaut training program.

"Some Soviet parapsychologists believe that in the future, telepathy is going to be the way astronauts will communicate with spaceships from other planets," Huizar says.

"It is believed that telepathy can be reinforced or amplified like radio waves. On the other hand, research indicates that thoughts being directed to us can only reach us if there is something inside ourselves that corresponds to that thought."

"Therefore the quality of the messages one could receive would depend very much on one's parapsychical structure — which means the way one lives, thinks and acts."

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada - Aug. 14, 1990

Ogopogo strikes again?

KELOWNA, B.C. (CP) — Tina Pascal was so startled she dropped her baby when a creature she believes was the legendary Ogopogo lake monster surfaced beside the family boat in Lake Okanagan.

"It looked like a humongous snake with a body that was all smooth and shiny," Pascal said.

"It came up like a submarine with water pouring off its body — you could tell how big it was by the powerful swooshing noise it made in the water."

Pascal, 21, said she was so shocked when she saw the creature on Friday that she screamed and dropped her five-month-old son, Jamie.

She and her husband, Mike, 25, from Fort McMurray, Alta., were on vacation in the Okanagan Valley when they saw what they are convinced is the legendary lake creature.

Cow mutilators 'good with a blade,' police say

Over the past three months Griffin had reported the loss of several other cows, the police chief said.

"He had just assumed they'd been stolen," he said.

The exact cause of death won't be known until the completion of an exam by a veterinarian, Williams said.

"Until then we'll just have to wait and see," he said.

the location of the cow at the time of the killing.

"That's what's really odd about it. His (Griffin's) house was only 150 yards away from the cow, but he was up and didn't hear anything," he said.

"Whoever it was was brave. They were wanting those parts real bad."

Williams said the cow was a registered Brown Swiss and was one of five that Griffin

breed. Over the past three months Griffin had reported the loss of several other cows, the police chief said.

"He had just assumed they'd been stolen," he said.

The exact cause of death won't be known until the completion of an exam by a veterinarian, Williams said.

"Until then we'll just have to wait and see," he said.

William's said another thing that caught his attention was

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Poltergeist

Tass reported a sober tale of terrifying telekinesis in the Volga region village of Madayev. For seven hours, objects like keys, candles and food swirled through the air inside a house, striking family members and others who came to witness the phenomenon. "Revolted onlookers waved away the unseen ghost that visited the house," said Tass. "Ten men were on duty in the house during these long and tense hours, ready to take some measures in case the stove surged aloft." Militia Lieutenant Sbitnev, who said he witnessed the haunting, reported the details to Soviet Interior Ministry officials in Gorky.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - Sept. 26, 1990 CR: J. Fry



A payoff if you see serpent

Erie occurrences: South Bay Bessie or maybe a log

By John Switzer
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Is it a mistake on the lake, or a sea monster?

Whatever South Bay Bessie turns out to be, it has a \$5,000 reward on its snakelike head.

The Lake Erie sea monster is being reported in a rash of sightings from Toledo to Vermilion. But something supposedly has been around throughout the 1980s.

Bessie is reported to be black, or blue, anywhere from 30 feet to 50 feet long.

Tom Solberg, president of the Huron Lagoon Marina, said he is offering a \$5,000 reward for its capture. He also is trying to get Lloyd's of London to underwrite insurance for a larger reward.

"We have been designated the official capture control center," Solberg said. A 225- by 250-foot area of water enclosed by an earthen dam will house the monster if someone shows up with it.

"We have Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf, professor emeritus from the Ohio State University Department of Zoology, to judge the authenticity of any creature caught."

And, he said, a fishing tackle company in Columbus is considering adding another \$5,000.

"If somebody comes in here with something 45 feet long, I'll be happy to give them five grand," Solberg added.

Plenty of people say they've seen something.

Fire inspectors Jim Johnson and Steve Dircks of Huron, Ohio, said they and a construction foreman saw it Sept. 11. Their view was from a third-story window toward the lake.

Johnson said whatever he saw offshore was dark blue or black and 30 to 45 feet long.

"It laid there motionless for three to six minutes and was flat on top."

He said he saw three parts of the creature above the water. The smallest part was to the west, the middle was "damn big," and the other end, probably the head, was east.

When Johnson saw it, he said his reaction was, "My God, when did they put a sea wall in here?"

"We walked one floor down, which probably took 15 to 30 seconds, and the object was gone."

Earlier this month, Harold Bricker of Shelby said he and his family were boating when they saw a 30-foot-long sea monster. He said it was black and moved swiftly through the water.

With all these reports, John Schaffner, editor of the weekly *Beacon* in Port Clinton, has set up a serpent hot line.

Schaffner has serpent experience. When similar reports surfaced in 1985 and 1987, *The Beacon* ran a contest to name it. The moniker South Bay Bessie was chosen, in part because of the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant near Port Clinton.

Schaffner told *The Dispatch* he has had five or six serious reports this week. Some say Bessie has several humps that protrude out of the water. They say the head looks like a snake's.

TV WATCH By Steve Murray

BEST BETS

Beam us up, whoever. Just in time to freak out impressionable school-age children, "Earth Mysteries: Alien Life Forms" (9 p.m. on WATL/Channel 36) takes a gander at, well, exactly what the title says. Emmy Award-winning TV producer, documentary filmmaker and author Linda Moulton Howe has put together this



Looking at aliens: Linda Moulton Howe produced "Earth Mysteries: Alien Life Forms."

LMH Productions

film, linking animal mutilations and human abductions to visits by alien life forms.

The two-hour special features anecdotes about a Missouri farm couple who watched two moon-headed creatures levitate a paralyzed cow into a cone-shaped craft, and a hypnotized Texas mother and daughter who claim to have seen a calf picked up by a beam of light from a pasture.

Mars wants meat.

Then there's a psychiatrist's report that an increasing number of women say hybrid children are being born — part human, part something else!

CR: L. Howe

Fliers unearth fears of flying dinosaurs; Californians hoaxed

The Telegram-Tribune, San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — "Warning! This animal is dangerous.... This living fossil will eat you!"

That warning screams off a flier that's been popping up around San Luis Obispo County in the past couple of weeks.

It alleges that a number of prehistoric reptiles called plesiosaurs have moved into the cold waters off California. The flier urges anyone seeing the 25-foot-long beastie to call the state Department of Fish and Game's hotline, and gives the real Caltips number.

The warning bears a tiny replica of the state seal to lend an air of credibility. But state Fish and Game Department officials say it's a hoax.

"I can fairly well assure you this is a joke," said Laurence Laurent, a Fish and Game marine biologist.

The department's Morro Bay office bulletin board sports a copy of the flier, but Laurent was unsure where it came from.

State officials in charge of the Caltips hotline said they've had no calls on the line reporting sightings of the ancient reptile. But they've heard about the flier.

"Our people are familiar with it in the field," said Mike Grima, a patrol captain in the Sacramento office of Fish and

Game. He said reports had been coming in over the past couple of weeks and were localized in the San Luis Obispo area.

The department isn't too worried about divining the truth of the matter, though. "We're not real concerned about it. No one else is taking it seriously either."

The flier describes the plesiosaur as often being mistaken for a large, swiftly swimming elephant seal.

"It is most prevalently found in areas of natural oil seepage or oil drilling activity. They nest in caverns with an underwater entrance and a dry vault. If you dive, avoid underwater caverns without a land entrance," it said.

There really was such an animal about 180 million years ago, according to Harry Fierstine, associate dean of math and science at Cal Poly and a biologist with training in paleontology.

"Some people think that's the type of animal that was (allegedly) found in Loch Ness," he said. "There's never been any seen."

Back when they lived, the flesh-eating reptiles grew to be very large, with long tails, short necks and big round bodies, Fierstine said.

Fresno is the closest that plesiosaur remains have been found to this area, he said.

out there."

Doubters could explain away Bessie as an apparition: Perhaps it's waves breaking over a sand bar. Or a log. Or, Edmond said, it could be what is known as a rogue wave, which is caused by the wake of a freighter that goes on for miles.

No one, anyway, from the Division of Wildlife has seen Bessie.

Neither has Chief Boatswain Mate William Spencer of the U.S. Coast Guard at Marblehead, Ohio. But, he said, "it's getting comical in this neck of the woods."

Lake Erie 'monster' is baaaaaack!

BY TOM FORD
BLADE STAFF WRITER

HURON, O. — In the wake of recent sightings of a Lake Erie "sea monster," some residents are becoming obsessed, like Captain Ahab was with Moby Dick and the inscrutability of what lurks under the surface.

The legend of a creature in Lake Erie has surfaced on and off since the early 1980s. It began growing again after a Richland County man reported seeing a serpentlike creature Sept. 4 two miles north of the Cedar Point amusement park.

Since then, other people have reported similar sightings, and even Dr. Charles Herdendorf, a marine biologist, is not closing the door on conjecture.

On Sept. 11, Huron fire fighters Jim Johnson and Steve Dirks were conducting a fire inspection at an apartment complex on the lakeshore.

Mr. Johnson, a retired coast-guardman, was standing on a third-

floor balcony with Mr. Dirks when they saw a long, dark, snakelike object floating just below the surface of the water.

"I would estimate it was 30 to 35 feet long, with humps on it," Mr. Johnson said. "I was about 100 feet away and 20 feet up."

John Schaffner, who opened a toll-free hotline at his Port Clinton weekly newspaper, the Beacon, for reports of sightings, has received two calls. A fisherman Monday told of a long, black creature three miles from shore in Maumee Bay, and a woman called yesterday to say she had seen a creature seven years ago but kept quiet about it until now.

Dr. Herdendorf said a strange — and to this day, unexplained — image showed up on a satellite photograph 15 years ago.

The image, a white, serpentine shadow extending from the mouth of the Maumee River into Maumee Bay, perplexed Dr. Herdendorf and other scientists because it didn't resemble any sediment pattern they

had seen before or since.

"We enlarged it, and even in the enlargement we could not tell what it was," he said. "The image would have had to have been about 100 feet long."

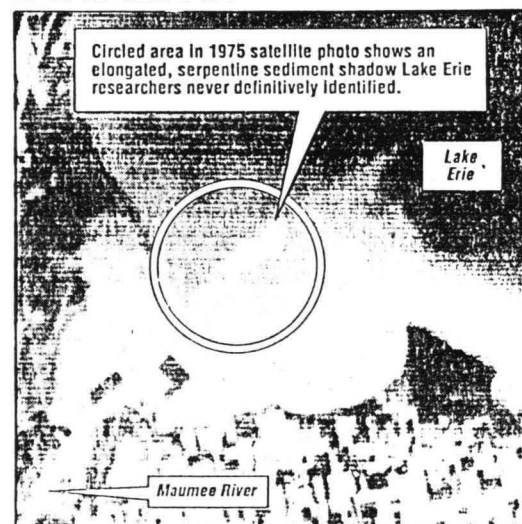
At a loss to identify the image, scientists called it the sediment plume from a passing freighter, but only because that explanation was expedient, Dr. Herdendorf said. A freighter didn't show up on the enlargement.

Dr. Herdendorf frequently encounters unexplainable things in his research. During an expedition in the Atlantic Ocean, a robot camera sled recorded on videotape a 20-foot-long green shark with eyes that glowed in the murky depths.

"That shark," he said, "was 1,000 miles south of where any like it has ever been seen. So who knows what we might not have found in Lake Erie?"

Blade correspondent Natalie Parsons contributed to this report.

Is it or isn't it?



Source: "Geobotany," Putnam Publishing Co. 1977

Bigfoot, big bear or big fake?

Oklahomans report a hairy, smelly creature lurking in the hills. Skeptics say it's no monster.

By MATTHEW SCHOFIELD
Wichita Correspondent

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — Soused and staggering, the drunk quickly sketched what he swore he'd seen: Gorilla head and shoulders, griffinlike legs, human waist and huge, hairy arms cradling a football.

Call it Bigfoot, Sooner-style.

But while many around here chuckle, others can't sleep or won't play outside and one just flat-out fled for fear of a similar vision.

Smellings, sightings and rumors of the maybe mythical Bigfoot have been popping up throughout Cherokee County in northeastern Oklahoma for the last three weeks. Some of the 12 recent

sightings, like the drunk's sketch, are ignored. But two sightings a week apart are drawing attention.

Two respectable families told police they saw in their back yards a foul-smelling, 8-foot-tall, 400-pound dark brown hairy creature with humanlike features and an upright stance.

"It sure is a puzzle," said Cherokee County Sheriff Andy Sellers, whose department is investigating. "You take a two-

footed monster walking upright for 100 yards and in my book you've got a mystery."

Skeptics say people are seeing bears or big, unkempt vagrants, both known to reside in the dense forests of this hilly country.

"I'd say they're really seeing Elvis, but I'd probably offend a lot of people who believe Elvis is still alive," said Dana Eversole, news editor of the *Tahlequah Daily Pictorial Press*. She added that one of her photographers last week saw a very muddy transient in the forest. "I don't know. The UFO sightings stopped in March. I guess it's almost surprising Bigfoot waited until August to show up."

But others say these sightings aren't like reports of strange lights in the sky. The people eyeballing Bigfoot are lifetime forest residents, and they know: 1) a bear when they see one; 2) vagrants don't stand head and shoulders above 6-foot-high weeds; 3) these things smell really bad, "a cross between a skunk and a wet dog"; and 4) it would take some kind of idiot to try to trick the local rustics.

"If this is some prankster, it's a prankster with a death wish," said Beverly Doss, who said she saw the creature two weeks ago. "Folks around here were raised to shoot first and ask questions later. Now I can't say it's a Bigfoot, because until the other night I'd never seen one. But I can say that bears can't run upright that well and men aren't that big. Let's just say it was a big, hairy creature. And it smelled awful."

Doss said she saw the creature about 9:30 p.m. Aug. 8 in the glow of her backyard lights. She and Janet, her 8-year-old daughter, had been arguing about some new boots for school, and Janet ran out the back door. When Janet immediately hushed, Mom followed.

"He was huge, just standing there at first. Then he started to move back down the hill with these long, slow strides," she said. "He wasn't making any noise himself, but as he moved you could hear weeds rustling and rocks rolling."

She said he grabbed a sapling to steady himself, and she later noticed the tree had been snapped in half.

Janet said that when she came out of the door, the creature was slowly eating food they'd left out for their dogs.

"His face was real light, like ours," she said. "His hands were smooth like ours on the palms but real hairy on the back. It scared me."

Cherokee County Undersheriff Dan Garber, who is investigating the case, said the other sighting, which happened on a day when the resident was cooking ham, took place in daylight. Garber said a woman about three miles through the forest from the Doss home smelled something strange and went outside. From her front porch she saw a huge, hairy creature standing next to a shed about 40 feet away.

Garber said the woman called her children inside and the creature, flat-footed, jumped a 4-foot-high barbed wire fence and loped off. He said a footprint left behind measured 18 inches long. The print, which is still visible, looks like it was made by a human foot, albeit a long one, said Garber.

Since the sighting, the woman, according to her mother, has taken her children and gone fishing for a while to get away from the area.

Garber said both residents who reported sightings were reliable and weren't Bigfoot-seeing types. He said he started out a skeptic but might be changing.

"Back in the early 1970s, people started finding so-called Bigfoot signs, like footprints and a door ripped off a dairy," he said. "Some expert trackers came in and determined there was something big in the woods besides bears. These are thick woods and something could hide a long time in here. I know I'd sure like to get a peek at what these folks are talking about."

However, Melinda Benge, administrative assistant for the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce, summed up the situation for a lot of area residents.

"I don't really think there's a Bigfoot out there," she said. "I think it's a big bear, and I'd have to see otherwise to believe otherwise. And I don't want to see otherwise."

STAR, Kansas City, MO

Aug. 19, 1990 CR: V. White

Reward sparks try at finding 'Nessie'

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland (AP) — Pouring rain and a thick mist Saturday failed to dampen the enthusiasm of hunters hoping to win a half-million-dollar reward in the first major search for the Loch Ness monster in three years.

But there was no immediate sign of the legendary beast.

National oddsmakers at the William Hill Organization Ltd. have put up the cash — 250,000 pounds, or \$477,500 — for the first person or team to discover "conclusive evidence" of the creature's existence.

Based at the village of Drumnadrochit near the northern shore of the loch — or lake — in the Scottish Highlands, four groups are taking part in the two-day search. They range from serious contestants to publicity seekers.

William Hill has offered an additional \$2,865 prize for the best search method.

Daniel Isted, the 25-year-old London-based editor of a corporate in-house magazine, said he was using what he called "crystal divination." He said a tourmaline crystal, suspended from a yacht over the inky waters, would swing to indicate Nessie's direction.

Former rock singer Screaming Lord Sutch, head of a political group called the Monster Raving Loony Party, said his secret weapon was a whistle that produces the mating call of monsters.

Tongue in cheek, he announced he would use haggis — a Scottish delicacy consisting of chopped entrails and oatmeal cooked in the lining of a sheep's stomach — as bait to lure the creature to the surface.

The Raving Loony Party, created to poke fun at politicians, runs candidates in most elections.

Andy Gray, 38-year-old managing director of a Scottish company that supplies underwater sonar equipment for the North Sea oil industry, is taking a more scientific approach with a sophisticated underwater radar.

"Typically this system can work 3,200 feet beneath the sea. If Nessie comes within our search scan we will find it."

Loch Ness is 754 feet deep, 23 miles

long and a mile wide.

Iain Bishop, deputy keeper of the zoology department of the Natural History Museum in London, will examine any evidence found on behalf of the oddsmakers.

Standing in the pouring rain and looking out at the mist-covered lake, he acknowledged some skepticism.

"I don't expect to be overwhelmed by it (evidence)," Bishop said.

Locals, who have seen it all before, picked their way through the army of news people and television crews from the United States, Japan, France, Britain and elsewhere that have invaded the village.

The legend of the Loch Ness Monster dates from A.D. 565 when St. Columba castigated the creature for attacking a follower.

In modern times there have been more than 4,000 reported sightings, including the October 1987 sighting that spawned the last major hunt.

That search, Operation Deepscan, used sonars and reported detecting what was called a large "fish-like arch" at a depth of 450 feet on the southern end of the lake.

Deepscan spokesman Guy Pearce said then the object registered as a clear, large blip on the sonar but when the same boat scanned the area again the object had disappeared.

Skeptics have explained away the sightings as everything from waves, logs and rotting vegetation to otters, swimming deer and overindulgence in Scottish whisky.

A study by a Scottish company, Mackay Consultants, printed in *The Times* of London in May, said the Loch Ness Monster was worth \$47 million a year in tourist revenue and responsible for 2,500 tourist industry jobs.

It said half a million visitors a year from all over the world come to Loch Ness in hopes of seeing the fabled creature.

Cattle Mutilations Still Unexplained

By FRANK FISHER
Associated Press Writer

The serene, rolling pastures of the McCarthy farm in northeastern Mississippi look like the last place in the world to hide a secret.

Within four months, a calf and a heifer were found savagely butchered on the 150-acre dairy complex. No one knows who or what slaughtered them, and the McCarthys are afraid the culprit might come back.

"He goes out there with a light and a gun now," said Bare McCarthy, referring to her husband, Taylor. "If he catches whoever is doing it, he just might kill them."

Although Taylor McCarthy refused to let veterinarian William McMillan of nearby Guntown perform necropsies on the carcasses, McMillan said he got a good enough look to sense that something wasn't right.

"They were strange kinds of deaths," McMillan said. "There are things in both cases that really don't add up."

On April 8, a 200-pound calf was killed within yards of McCarthy's house. The cornea of one eyeball had been cut out with surgical precision, as well as half the tongue, McMillan said. But what was more unusual, he said, was that there was no blood anywhere near the body.

A 500-pound heifer was later found in early July, with the left ear and 18 inches of skin from its left rib cage cleanly severed. Where the hide had been, a hole was bored through to the beast's heart, which had not been removed, McMillan said.

The veterinarian doesn't think predators were responsible for the mutilations. Teeth would have left jagged, not fine, cuts. McMillan does concede it could have been the work of cults, however.

Authorities in Lee County, where the McCarthy farm is located, as well as in other parts of Mississippi, are familiar with occult groups. Sheriff's Department investigator Dan Crum said Lee County had a problem with satanic followers roaming the countryside in 1988.

James Crocker would prefer officials to just come right out and admit they have no idea what happened.

"There are different types of animal mutilations," Crocker, a 34-year-old contractor, said. "One is the cult variety. But there's another, where the incisions are entirely different. There's never any tracks, no vehicles, no symbols, no identifiable characteristics that could link it to any particular person or organization."

In the 1970s, a wave of unexplained livestock mutilations swept Colorado

and the Midwest. Most were marked by skillful removal of parts and organs. In 1975, after 130 mutilation cases were reported in Colorado alone, then-U.S. Sen. Floyd K. Haskell, D-Colo., asked the FBI to investigate.

The two incidents on the McCarthy farm reminded Crocker, a part-time phenomena researcher, of what had plagued Colorado. He has begun but-tonholing sheriff's deputies, farmers and veterinarians throughout the state, hoping to collect information on any other mutilations that haven't been reported.

Crocker said he has found out that two other similar, unexplained mutilations have taken place in the McComb-Brookhaven area within the last six to eight months.

"This thing is a senseless slaughter of animals," Crocker said. "I believe it's coming to a point where a comprehensive effort is needed to compile data on a national basis and get something done."

State veterinarian Frank Rogers said the McCarthy mutilations are not the only cases he knows about in Mississippi.

"Previous to now, I guess six to eight years ago, we had something similar reported in southwestern Mississippi, around Simpson and Copiah counties," Rogers said. "The farmers got together and began cruising the roads and the problems stopped."

In *Alien Harvest*, a book based on interviews and alleged classified government documents, Linda Moulton Howe advanced a novel theory to explain the bizarre mutilations. She suggested that UFOs might be beaming up cattle, dissecting them and then placing the remains back on earth.

"The pattern suggests that at least one non-human intelligence is manipulating and harvesting earth life, that the alien life forms are controlling and using human ignorance to accomplish the harvest," Howe wrote.

Other theories that saw print during the heyday of the mutilations in the 1970s ranged from top-secret military units experimenting with lasers to oil prospectors hoping to use animal viscera to determine if valuable minerals lay beneath the grass the cattle ate.

Crocker is the first to admit he doesn't have any answers.

"I mean, you pick your theory," Crocker said. "I don't have an explanation anymore than the hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officials who have looked into this. There's a million theories."

NEW ZEALAND HERALD, Auckland, New Zealand - July 20, 1990



THE LIVING MICROSCOPE

John Thomas Heslop, of Birmingham, is a lad whose powers of vision are marvellous.

He is known as "the living microscope," on account of being able to see the most minute objects clearly defined.

In 1878 or 1879 he was attacked with some baffling eye trouble and came very near losing his sight for ever.

After the disease had reached its worst there was an instant and startling change for the better, which resulted in a complete cure of all inflammation in an incredibly short time.

CR: R. Collins

HERALD JOURNAL, Spartanburg, SC - July 10, 1990

LAKE BLALOCK

Serpent slithers into local legend

By COLLEY CHARPENTIER

The large head of a serpent rises and silently cuts through the murky lake water, briefly peering at the curious humans gawking from the shore before disappearing into the lake's depths.

No, it's not the latest sighting of the Loch Ness Monster. It's what some people say is a giant snake playing the waters of Lake Blalock in northeast Spartanburg County.

And it's the talk of the town in the nearby communities of Chesnee and Mayo.

Michael and Melinda Thomas were the first to claim to have seen the snake as it swam around a point near their Sandy Ford Road home. They believe the snake may be a pet python or boa constrictor that escaped from or was let loose by its owner into the lake. Pythons are comfortable in water, but boa constrictors usually shun it.

"Some people looked at me like I was crazy when I talked about it."

MELINDA THOMAS

The couple and their children, Michael Jr. and Misty, were swimming along the shore one afternoon about four weeks ago when Mrs. Thomas saw the snake lifting its head above the water like a periscope.

"It was kind of looking over at them swimming. I thought it was too big to be a snake," she said of the head she described as about the same size of the head of a medium-sized dog.

Her husband didn't believe it at

first. He dismissed the creature as a muskrat, common in that area of the lake. He changed his mind a couple of weeks later, however, when he spotted the snake five times while fishing from the same point.

"I definitely think it was a snake," he said.

He said the snake just swam around, surfacing occasionally. He's since caught glimpses of the snake on several occasions and has heard that some of his neighbors also spotted the snake at different locations on the 700-acre reservoir.

Sightings have been reported as far as the Buck Creek Bridge on the lake's western edge more than a mile away, Thomas said. But James Elder, lake warden for the Spartanburg Water System, said only one call reporting the snake has been received, and that was from Thomas.

"I'm not saying what they saw or didn't see. But we looked in the area and didn't spot it," Elder said.

The Thomases said they understand the skepticism. "Some people looked at me like I was crazy when I talked about it at work. Or they wanted to know what I'd been drinking," Mrs. Thomas said. "But I know we saw something."

Thomas said he has never seen the full length of the snake, but has seen about 6 feet of it at once. He described the snake as having gray and greenish-brown markings in square and triangular patterns.

Mrs. Thomas said the body of the snake is about 8 inches in diameter at its biggest point.

They are unsure if the snake is Bocephus, the 3-year-old pet Burmese python of Betty Jean Effler. The beige, black and brown 11-foot snake has been missing since June 6 from its home near Asheville Highway in Spartanburg. But the large snakes are not avid travelers, and it is doubtful the snake could have slithered the 10 miles to Lake Blalock, although someone could have carried it there.

The Thomases had not heard of the missing snake.

Thomas said he tried to photograph the Lake Blalock snake but hasn't been very lucky. He shows two photos, but the snake apparently managed to submerge before it could be captured on film.

Despite the mysterious appearance of the snake, the lakeside neighborhood remains relatively quiet, although Mrs. Thomas admits, "I'm a little leery about going swimming anymore, since he's shown up."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 8, 1990

2-day search for Loch Ness is fruitless

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland (AP) — A two-day search for the Loch Ness monster ended Sunday with two blips on a radar screen but no evidence of the legendary beast.

National oddsmakers William Hill Organization Ltd., which had offered 250,000 pounds (\$477,500) for "conclusive evidence" of Nessie, kept its reward but paid 1,500 pounds (\$2,850) to a Scottish company for the best search method.

Oceanscan, which supplies underwater sonar equipment for the North Sea oil industry, used underwater radar and registered an unidentified object up to 26 feet long.

"The object which showed up yesterday registered as two blips on the sonar screen but it moved out of range very quickly. We can't be sure what it was," said Andy Gray, Oceanscan's managing director.

The three other hunting parties participating in the first major search in three years came up empty.

The lake is 754 feet deep, 23 miles long and a mile wide.

William Hill is offering 100-1 odds that Nessie's existence will not be authenticated within a year.

POST, Denver, CO - April 17, 1990

Genius traits and all, Berlitz still puzzler

Charles Berlitz seems like your normal genius. Grandson of the founder of the Berlitz language schools, he's a deep-sea diver, World War II spy and best selling author. He speaks French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese, Japanese and Russian, and "gets along in" Turkish, Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Greek, Malay, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Romanian and Catalan.

Still, he does have his eccentricities. For one, the author of "The

Bermuda Triangle" claims to have seen at least 14 UFOs, mostly while out at sea.

"I'd be a skeptic, too, if it hadn't happened to me and some of my friends," he told the Fort Lauderdale News & Sun Sentinel. "Two of my acquaintances disappeared there. They got into a vortex. It may not be 'supernatural,' it may be very natural, it could be currents, or something at the bottom, but we haven't discovered what it is yet."