

UFO

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Man sights Halloween UFO in sky

BY ED WILCOX
Managing Editor

If you look skyward tonight, perhaps it might be to scan the heavens for something other than witches riding brooms.

There could be a fleeting glimpse of "the great pumpkin" as it traverses the skies over Bladen County.

Chris Vann at least, thinks there is the possibility of such a sighting.

Vann, of Dublin, saw something for a brief time in the sky Sunday night west of Elizabethtown and is at a loss for an explanation.

He explained that he got off work around 1:15 a.m. Monday and started on his way down N.C. 87 toward home.

"Between River Road and the old truck stop, I went around a curve and saw it and I pulled off the road near Nash Hester's residence," he said.

Exactly what "it" was, Vann isn't sure, but he gives a fitting description for the season.

"It was a bright orange color - maybe it was the great pumpkin," Vann says with a laugh.

He described the object as huge, bright orange and with the appearance of a ball that had approximately the top third cut off.

"The top third maybe, was flat. The round part was at the bottom," Vann said as he described the object.

"It was like the moon but it was too big and way too close," he said.

"When I came around the curve near the old truck stop I saw it. It looked to me like when I first saw it, it was still," he said.

"I pulled my truck off on the shoulder of the road and didn't hear

anything," Vann said in describing how he switched off his truck and got out to get a better look at whatever it was he saw.

"It got away so quick it wasn't real. If it had been a jet or a helicopter, I would have heard it. I didn't hear anything," he said.

"I guess that's when I began to get skittish - when I stepped out of the truck and didn't hear any sound," Vann said.

"You know, this time of year you usually hear frogs and crickets at night, but I didn't even hear them," Vann said of trying to understand the incident.

"I wasn't the only one who knew it was there. The frogs and the bugs and crickets even knew it," he said.

What happened to this object in the sky?

"It got up and went. It didn't mess around at all," Vann said as he described the object making its way in the direction of Lumberton.

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STAR PHOTO/KAREN MURPHY
Bruce Weaver in a "crop circle" on his property.

Alien encounters described at UFO conference

Retired military officer Dolores Galvin had always thought of herself as level headed, hard-nosed and "quite conservative." Then she began seeing aliens.

Speaking at the October 6 UFO Conference held at The Evergreen State College, Galvin and other speakers from Washington State described their encounters with aliens. She believes an alien visited her and cured her arthritis.

On an October evening last year, she remembers waking up. "I felt the presence of someone in the room with me."

A tall, dark figure was leaning over her with a silver pencil-shaped object. The figure pressed the object down on her left arthritic shoulder. "At first, it felt pretty good," she said.

The pressure increased, and for a moment, it felt like she was floating. Then she blacked out.

The next morning, there was a red rash on her left shoulder.

Her shoulder felt better, but she doubted her sanity. "I'm losing it," she told a friend. The same friend had read several books on aliens and recognized the description of a tall, thin figure with a light bulb shaped head. Galvin calls it "Friar Tuck."

She remembers seeing Friar

Tuck several times since then. Friar Tuck has never spoken to her. He appears only during the night.

Before Friar Tuck appears, Galvin has a C.B. radio sound in her ears. It says, "Hi, I'm in the area, see you tonight," she said. Galvin believes these are radio transmissions from implants put in her ears. She doesn't know what the signal actually means.

She has never had a doctor look for implants. "I'm afraid of what they might find," she said.

Bruce Smith

A refugee from Long Island, New York, Bruce Smith has lived in Washington State since May. He is writing a book of stories that include his experiences with aliens.

Smith writes that an "alien cross-breeding program is abducting men and women, copulating them with aliens and raising the offspring as a hybrid race." He includes himself as an abductee.

Smith describes himself as having been seduced by an alien. The alien appeared several times to him as a woman in a black wig. At least five other people have reported similar situations with the woman, Smith said.

Under hypnotherapy, Smith said he remembers being brought to 34 children. His job was to 'help

them be humans." He describes them as small, straight-limbed with large eyes.

Another abduction experience brought him into the presence of beings wearing white laboratory coats and with bodies like grizzly bears.

His experiences of abductions are revealed to him largely through hypnosis. Once Smith is in a hypnotic state, the therapist will ask him to describe a characteristic of his abductor. He will remember a particular characteristic and gradually reconstruct the experience.

He is abducted during the evening hours. "You're never snatched at lunch hour," he said. Before he is abducted, he remembers being in a sleep-like state. When he returns, he feels rested.

Smith said that other abductees have filmed themselves while sleeping and never see their bodies leave the bed. While this may be true for him, he said when he is abducted he is conscious of his body.

Are his experiences true? "I can't prove it," he said. Even though he has no hard evidence for the existence of aliens (let alone 34 hybrid children), he still believes.

It is a belief based on intuition, not fact. It's the "tears that make it real."

STAR, Indianapolis, IN - Dec. 3, 1990 CR: D. Worley

Hoosier crop circles spark extraterrestrial talk

By KAREN MURPHY
STAR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Warsaw, Ind. — While UFO experts have declared them authentic crop circles, a northern Indiana man simply calls them "earth noogies."

"You know, earth noogies. They're like rubbed spots on the earth," says Bruce Weaver, who owns a vacant one-acre lot where several crop circles were found recently.

Crop circles are downed or flattened patches of vegetation in cornfields or parcels of land. This year alone, 1,000 of the mysterious circles have been reported around the world. Some believe they are caused by UFOs.

In early October, Weaver's son discovered the circles. Since then, a neighbor said he first noticed them while picking raspberries June 27.

The circles have attracted a flurry of reporters, curiosity seekers and local residents, including Jake Huffer, a 14-year-old who lives down the road and now is claiming responsibility for designing the circles. He says he simply shuffled his feet around in a circle.

The youth's father, Jim Huffer, told reporters that Jake "made several of them . . . He thought they were neat."

But Weaver and other townsfolk aren't entirely convinced.

"If the kid says he did it, there's a distinct possibility that

MONDAY MORNING

he did do it, or that he and his friends did it. But I would like to see him do one. I have reservations about his ability to make some of the things I saw out there.

"If he has the ability to make those things, then any human being could have made the ones that you see on TV," said Weaver, referring to crop circles that have been sighted in Australia, England, Canada and elsewhere.

Scholars say crop circles were reported in England as early as the Middle Ages. Most recently, *The Chicago Tribune* reported that a Milan, Ill., farmer discovered a 44-foot crop circle in his cornfield Oct. 16.

The Weavers have tried to make their own crop circles to confirm the youth's claims, but their efforts have been fruitless.

The debate revolves around 10 crop circles on a subdivision lot, just south of Warsaw, where the Weavers hope to build a house.

Ranging in diameter from 5½ to 11 feet, the circles were made in a field of 3-foot-high weeds and small trees. All the circles have an even spiral pattern in a counterclockwise direction, starting on the outside and spiraling inward.

In the center is a swirl of twisted grass.

"It seemed to us — and it seemed to other people we've shown them to — that it was improbable it was made by anyone," said Weaver, who works as a telephone engineer in Fort Wayne.

Some townsfolk speculated the circles were deer lies, beds where the animals slept. A deer path cuts through the property, and hoof prints abound along a creek.

"But a lot of deer hunters have looked at those and said they'd never seen any circles like that before," Weaver said.

Since the media attention, the field has become well trampled, and predictably, a crop of bogus circles has suddenly appeared.

But the foot traffic didn't hamper the investigation by officials from Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, or MUFON, who examined the site during Thanksgiving weekend and declared six of the circles legitimate.

"We're positive that the circles are caused by UFOs," said George Coyne, of Flushing, Mich., regional director of MUFON. The group covers 20 Midwestern states, including Indiana.

"First of all, these were (mostly) 9-foot circles. Even at this late date — five months since they happened — the

grass is still swirled. The grass is still bent, but none of them (blades) are broken. They were bent low to the ground and laying flat. But they didn't break. This is typical of the circles all around the world," Coyne explained.

Coyne said it is unusual to find crop circles in vacant lots of a subdivision because they "take up so much room." But often there is a correlation between crop circles and strange light patterns spotted in the sky.

During October and November, residents of Argos and Culver — just 25 miles east — reported dozens of unusual light patterns. MUFON officials are investigating a possible connection.

Weaver said the results of a soil study found nothing unusual from samples taken from inside and outside of two of the circles. The samples were tested at Purdue University at West Lafayette.

Meanwhile, the Weavers continue to speculate what caused their circles.

"I suppose the boy made a couple of them. But I don't know what some of them are," said Weaver's wife, Barb.

Nodding at her husband, she added, "He thinks I'm crazy. But it might be some government (military aircraft testing) activity."

Unidentified Flying Objects

More than 100 seen around bay since '87

By John Witt
Times-Dispatch state staff

Investigators say that over the past three years, there have been more than 100 reported sightings of unidentified flying objects around the Chesapeake Bay.

"The reports come from all over, as far north as Annapolis, as far south as the Dismal Swamp, and as far west as Williamsburg," said Mark Blashak, Virginia state director of the Mutual UFO Network. "They come from the Northern Neck and the Eastern Shore, from state troopers, teachers, farmers, ship captains and housewives."

Few of the sightings have received any publicity and most of the witnesses have never met each other, yet in many cases the descriptions are remarkably similar.

"A lot of people say they saw lights in the shape of a kite or a diamond that zigzag around for a while and then either disappear or shoot off at high speed," Blashak said. "It appears to be a solid object, because it blacks out the stars when it passes overhead."

MUFON, based in Texas, has a worldwide membership of more than 2,000 volunteer investigators who report sightings of strange objects in the sky.

The Chesapeake Bay sightings generated intense interest in UFO circles not only because of the number of witnesses, but also because of the variety of incidents reported.

They include close encounters of the first kind, where unknown craft are seen in some detail; close encounters of the second kind, where there is physical evidence such as a circle of dead grass or a stalled car; and close encounters of the third kind, where extraterrestrial beings are seen.

The first to suspect that something unusual was going on over the sheltered waters and quiet towns along the Chesapeake Bay was Bob Oeschler, assistant state director for MUFON in Maryland.

While checking out reports that a whole village near the west end of the Bay Bridge had watched UFOs dance across the heavens for hours at a time, Oeschler had his own close encounter of the first kind on April 8, 1988.

"I saw several very brilliant, iridescent spheres. They were changing from bright greens and reds to blues and whites," he said. "Their maneuvers were unlike any known aircraft. ... We could plainly see planes and helicopters moving across the horizon further away."

Oeschler called on the many top-secret military bases and defense industry installations around the region, but no explanations were forthcoming.

"If these are some type of experimental military aircraft, they have capabilities far beyond anything the public knows about," he said.

The Oct. 1 issue of *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, a respected aerospace industry magazine, mentions repeated sightings near bases in the Southwestern states of a triangular aircraft resembling a manta ray or a fat guitar pick. The magazine said another experimental craft, seen only at a great distance, is distinguishable by the loud, booming pulse of engines that can propel it at hypersonic speeds.

Such shapes and sounds have figured prominently in some of the Chesapeake Bay sightings, although military spokesmen say they have no knowledge of any such aircraft being tested in the area.

As the search for UFOs widened, Blashak stumbled on a Williamsburg

businessman who reported a close encounter of the second kind.

One night in 1987, the man said he was driving home from a meeting in Newport News.

"He came over a hill on Route 60, and his car started to stall. He was ticked off, because it was a late-model Mercedes and he had just paid a lot of money to get it out of the shop," Blashak said. "All of a sudden, he saw a bright light approaching from the south, something that looked really unusual."

The next thing the man remembered was watching the light reverse direction and vanish southward, Blashak said. Shaken, he restarted his car and drove to a convenience store near Busch Gardens for coffee.

He arrived to overhear a argument between two soldiers who wanted to buy beer and a clerk who said it was too late. The man looked up at the clock to see that it was past midnight.

It was then that the businessman realized he had been sitting in his car for more than two hours, Blashak said. He never remembered what happened during that missing time.

The strangest and rarest of all UFO sightings, a close encounter of the third kind, was reported on the Eastern Shore in March of this year by two brothers, ages 10 and 11.

Blashak said he understood how frightened those boys were, having glimpsed his first UFO at age 7.

"My sister dragged me out to see a bright orange disk flying a couple hundred feet above our back yard," Blashak said. "I became terrified and ran back into the house to hide under the kitchen table."

A resident of Manakin-Sabot, Blashak earns his living selling high-technology industrial electronics.

Oeschler is a former project engineer for NASA who said he became fascinated by UFOs while working on the Apollo moon missions in the early 1970s.

"There was a lot of shop talk about astronauts seeing strange things in space," he said. "After every Apollo mission there were rumors about unusual objects being spotted."

Oeschler's research convinced him that astronauts weren't the only people seeing UFOs.

One poll estimated that 15 million Americans have sighted a UFO at some point in their lives. The list reportedly includes two presidents, a number of high-ranking military officers and thousands of airline pilots, police officers and photographers.

Classified documents, whose authenticity is still being debated, suggest that a UFO crashed in 1947 outside Roswell, N.M., and was immediately confiscated by the Air Force, along with the bodies of four alien crew members.

In 1952, unidentified radar blips over the White House had Air Force fighters scrambling in a vain effort to intercept what some people believe were flying saucers.

In 1965, a New Hampshire couple named Betty and Barney Hill were hypnotized by a psychologist searching for the source of their nightmares and headaches. The trance reportedly revealed hidden memories of an abduction by creatures from another planet.

In recent years, Ed Walters, a Florida building contractor, has created a nationwide controversy with dozens of close-up Polaroid pictures of strange, glowing, bell-shaped craft with portholes. While many outsiders consider him a publicity-seeking faker, hundreds of Walters' neighbors in and around the town of Gulf Breeze say they have seen the same thing.

Oeschler, who analyzed a videotape by Walters at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Green Belt, Md., said he could find no evidence of a hoax and was unable to duplicate the object's strange movement with models or double exposures.

"It appeared to have no mass and could change direction without decelerating. It was bouncing back and forth like a pingpong ball between invisible walls," he said.

One photo was taken of a UFO landing behind a high school near Walters' home, and the next day a bleached ring of grass was discovered at the site.

"It looked like the grass had been microwaved," Oeschler said.

There has been no official government investigation of UFOs since the Air Force shut down Project Blue Book in 1969, concluding that 75 percent of all sightings were actually weather balloons, swamp gas, bright stars or hallucinations; and there was no evidence the remaining 25 percent were spacecraft.

Officers and scientists who were involved with Project Blue Book have since criticized its slipshod investigation and its tendency to release flimsy explanations for strange phenomena reported by credible witnesses.

New York Times investigative reporter Howard Blum concluded in a recently published book that military and civilian intelligence agencies had never halted their secret investigations into UFO activity, nor had they stopped trying to infiltrate and discredit private UFO research groups.

"The government is in this up to their teeth, and they know a lot more than they are telling us," Oeschler said.

DAILY NEWS, Los Angeles, CA - Nov. 10, 1990

John Fuller, playwright, documentary film producer and author of many books about the unexplained, died Wednesday at the Norwalk (Conn.) Hospital.

He was 76. His wife, Elizabeth, said he died of lung cancer.

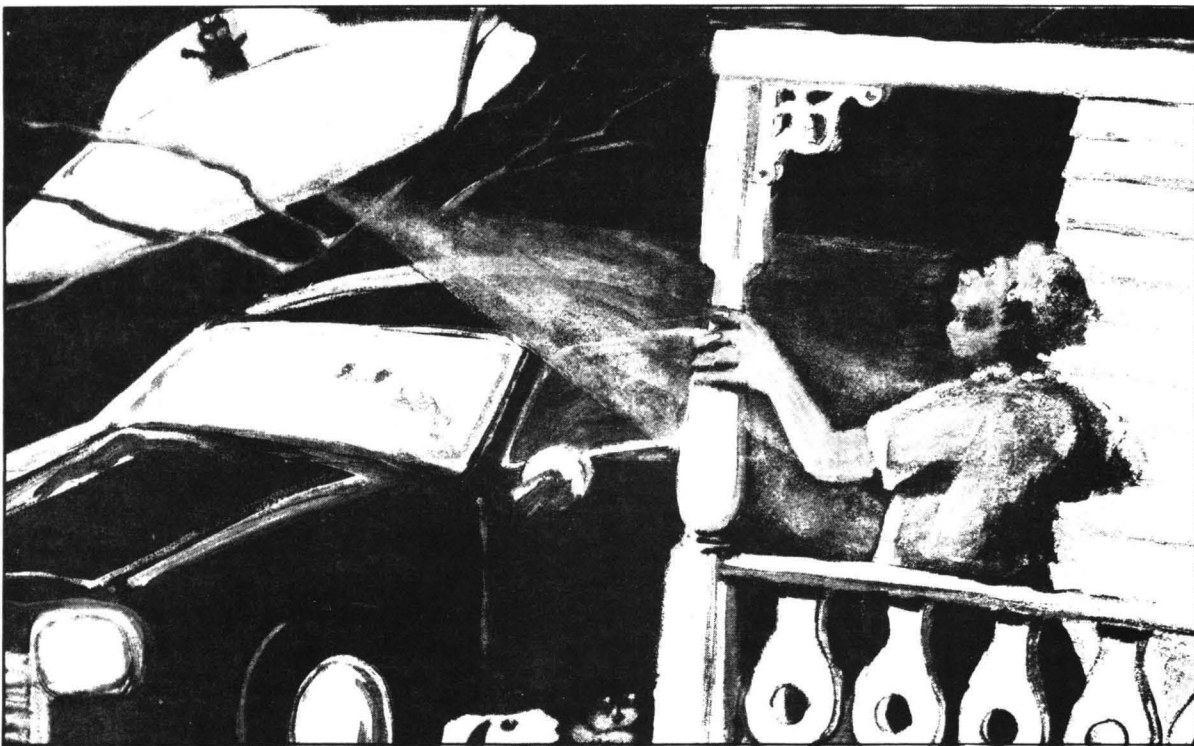
For all his versatility, Fuller was best known for books about unidentified flying objects, the occult and near-disasters.

"The Ghost of Flight 401," published in 1976, was made into a television movie starring Ernest Borgnine.

"The Interrupted Journey" (1966), about a couple in Portsmouth, N.H., who under hypnosis relate details of having been taken aboard a space ship and interviewed by its humanoid occupants, became a television movie starring James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons.

Fuller's last book, "The Pack" (1989), about rats taking over after a nuclear meltdown, is his only novel.

CR: J. Guma



Staff graphic by Martin Rhodes

'I don't care if you believe it or not'

By John Witt
Times-Dispatch state staff

CHINCOTEAGUE — They are a normal family with a terrifying secret: They have had a close encounter of the third kind.

"I don't care if you believe it or not," said Mark, who is 11. "I just hope next time it shows up in your yard."

Mark and his 10-year-old brother, Lonnie, said they don't like to talk about the UFO they saw seven months ago, because the memories still frighten them.

Their father, a retired military officer, and their mother have both heard the booming noises and seen the mysterious airship moving over their house on more than one occasion. But only

the two boys saw the wrinkled faces and gleaming eyes of its alien crew, and those faces have haunted their dreams ever since.

"Whatever they saw, they were scared to death," their mother said.

Concerned that their neighbors would think them crackpots and tabloid journalists would camp out on their lawn, the family agreed to tell their story only on condition that their real names not be disclosed.

They live in an old, cozy farmhouse on an isolated back road, not far from NASA's Wallops Island Flight Center. They know all about rocket launchings, weather balloons, airplanes and helicopters — and they insist that what they saw did not fit any of those categories.

Sitting in their paneled living room, decorated with family photographs and baseball trophies, it is difficult to doubt their sincerity. They seem to be rational people who had an experience they cannot explain.

"The boys and I were coming home from the grocery store" on the night of March 7, said the mother, whom we will call Meg. "It was a dark, clear night and the stars were out."

Her husband, Frank, was not at home. She said she went upstairs and left the boys outside to carry in the grocery bags.

"I heard this huge sound, like a plane was going to crash into the roof," Meg said.

There was no impact, and the loud noise

(continued on page 3)

stopped after a few seconds. Meg went on with her chores.

Mark said he was standing on the front porch when he heard the same booming, roaring sound his mother described.

"I saw all this bright light in the distance, real high. It was like the sun," he said. "I saw it coming real fast. It was right over the tree."

In the front yard is an old tree about 30 feet tall, its limbs dead and bare of leaves. Mark said the booming noise subsided to a barely audible hum as the light hovered motionless just above the tree.

"It was a flying saucer. ... It looked like a little plate," Lonnie said. "It wasn't like a helicopter where the trees were blowing."

As both boys craned their necks in amazement, they saw that the underside of the disc was blinking with red and blue lights. From its center, a searchlight reached out to illuminate the yard.

"As soon as it went over me, I looked up and saw the beam coming down and I jumped under the car," Lonnie said.

The family dog came around the side of the house about that time. Normally he would bark at strangers, the boys said, but this time he crawled under the car to hide with Lonnie.

"He seemed like he was scared. He ducked his head and he was shivering," Lonnie said.

A few feet away, Mark was frozen in the shaft of light. "I thought they were going to beam me up," he said. "I didn't move a muscle. I was too scared."

A door slid open in a dome atop the disc, both boys said. From the glowing pink interior, a bald creature three feet high stared back at them.

"He had an egg head, real wrinkled," Mark recalled. "He didn't have a mouth, but he had antennae."

Lonnie agreed with the description.

"His eyes were like diamonds," he added.

There were two other aliens in the craft, the boys said. One sat on a stool before a blinking control panel.

Another moved slowly across the rear of the craft. "They were kind of wobbly when they walked, kind of like a duck," Mark said.

The first creature gazed down at the boys for a few moments before raising his arms in a strange, but somehow familiar gesture. The alien placed his hands on either side of his face and wiggled two fingers on each hand.

"It was like sign language," Mark said. "I thought he was trying to communicate with us," Lonnie added.

The boys were too upset to wave back. They watched as the door slid closed again and the saucer rose into the sky and sailed off in the direction of a nearby swamp.

Meg estimated that several minutes passed between the time the loud noise stopped and the time her sons burst through the front door.

"They came running upstairs, both of them talking at the same time," she said. "They were just screaming that this thing, a UFO, had come into the yard."

Meg looked out her bedroom window in time to see lights playing over the swamp, but she could not see where they were coming from.

To calm her sons, she sat them down on opposite sides of the living room and asked them to draw what they had seen, without comparing stories or looking at each other's work.

The resulting sketches are childlike, but remarkably similar. Both are drawn from the perspective of a viewer on the ground, looking up at a round object outlined in lights.

On Mark's picture, the creature's face is round, the eyes look like crosses, and the antennae have round knobs at the ends. Lonnie drew faces that looked antlike, with almond-shaped eyes.

The boys didn't sleep at all that night and were afraid to go out after dark for a while, Meg said.

Things were just beginning to get back to normal when the UFO came back two weeks later.

This time Frank was home. He and Meg were getting ready for bed when they heard the same booming as before. They ran outside and saw what they described as a large object outlined in red, white and blue lights moving away from the house toward the swamp.

Meg said she saw it tilt up on edge, and saw a diamond-shaped pattern of lights underneath before it disappeared.



Staff photo by Stuart T. Wagner

UFO FOLLOWER — Mark Blashak tracks UFOs and makes his living selling high-technology industrial electronics.

Strange Occurrences in the Skies

Today there are many strange things happening throughout the world. For example, a unified Germany, and the Reds sweeping the A's in the World Series, but the strangest of all may be Unidentified Flying Objects. What are they and are they real?

Just recently near Kingsley, Iowa, a farmer may have found where a UFO had landed. How about it? Have you ever seen anything in the sky at night which you just can't explain? Many people have and many people think they are alien space ships or something along that line.

Here at Spalding Dale Degen and Matt Ricke claim that a couple of weeks ago while driving along they saw something strange and seemed to be driving at it, but once they got real close to it, it just seemed to vanish.

Mrs. Stokesberry also said that while she was driving home one night she saw a bright object in the sky and then as it was seen leaving, two green lines were glowing in the place where the object was.

So whether or not there are UFO's is a matter of private belief for now.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Nov. 29, 1990

UFO witnessed and photographed

By Bruce Morrison

On Friday, November 23 and on Sunday, November 25, a total of 14 people saw a soundless, brilliant red object hover over Gulf Breeze and the Three Mile Bridge.

The Friday sighting happened at 8:40 p.m., when a flash of bright white light suddenly appeared over Gulf Breeze. Within a second it turned red and hovered in one spot (in the 15-mile-an-hour wind) for approximately five minutes. Dr. "Adams" and his wife, along with four others, watched the object. He said, "During that time the red object blinked in and out once and then turned into a small white light and disappeared. It looked like it was over Highway 98."

The Sunday sighting happened

CR: E. Walters

at 9:37 and was photographed by three people with 35 mm cameras and two with video cameras. A large group of people had gathered at the south side of the Three Mile Bridge in the hope of seeing what had been seen two nights earlier. Most people were watching south toward Gulf Breeze, when Mrs. "Baker" called out, "What is that?" and pointed over the bridge to the north. Once again the large red glowing object hovered in one spot and then suddenly turned white and winked out.

The Mutual UFO Network is investigating the sightings and asked for all persons who might have witnessed the odd red object to call 436-2700. Your names are held in confidence.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 31, 1990 CR: R. Earley

Weird lights at night draw much attention but no explanation

BY TANUJA KANWAR AND DIXIE G. MARTIN
Democrat Staff Writers

Arkansans saw a bright light in the sky about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, but no one's quite sure what it was.

"We've heard it from all over the state, but I don't have any idea what it is," an Arkansas State Police spokesman in Little Rock said.

People in Boone, Nevada, Pike, Clark and Jefferson counties reported seeing bright lights. "It's pretty well statewide," the spokesman said. "Bright lights and a loud boom - that's what south Arkansas (callers) said."

A call had also come from a television station in Springfield, Mo., she said, adding that the caller reported sightings of a ball of blue light with a tail with some yellow and blue.

"It just looked like a pulsating light," said a Little Rock man. Its appearance was similar to a colored star with red, green, blue, yellow and white colors, and it was visible five or 10 minutes, he said.

At the air traffic control tower at Little Rock Regional Airport, Adams Field, an employee reportedly saw "something they thought was perhaps a shooting star," said supervisor David Wilmot.

Paul R. Engle, a retired professor of physics and astronomy and the former director of the University of Arkansas planetarium, said that based on information relayed from a reporter, it was possible the phenomenon could be the aurora borealis, or northern lights.

"They've seen it as far south as Florida and even beyond," he said. "If it's continuous and it's in the northern sky, then it's probably the aurora borealis."

Engle said the aurora borealis is characterized by shimmering color that occurs intermittently.

Mike Thompson, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in North Little Rock, said he doubted the strange

light was the northern lights.

"The aurora's not usually seen in the southern United States, and this is not the time to see the aurora," he said, adding, "but then again rules are made to be broken."

Although the aurora normally occurs in the depths of winter and isn't often visible in this part of the country, Thompson said it has been sighted in Arkansas at least three times during his 11 years in the state.

He said he observed it once and described it as a "diffused red light that doesn't have any specific shape at all."

Thompson added that by about 10 p.m. he hadn't received any calls from weather bureaus outside of Arkansas about an unusual occurrence such as the northern lights. Normally something that unusual is reported, he said.

Capt. Douglas Proctor of the Little Rock Air Force Base said Arkansans witnessed two separate phenomena the last few evenings.

He said a stationary, pulsating star that changed colors was responsible for the calls received at the base Sunday and Monday.

Tuesday evening, a meteor that disintegrated as it crossed the sky was responsible for producing a bright streak of light, he said.

Proctor said the base had received six or seven calls the past few days regarding meteors and other phenomena. The base usually gets about one call per month, he said.

Bill Johnson of North Little Rock and his son saw what looked to them like two or three "twinkling stars" Sunday night. Johnson said his son claimed to see colors in the stars. He said he watched the objects "twinkle" for about an hour.

Sgt. Jesse Willis of the Jefferson County sheriff's office said he received two reports of meteor showers late Tuesday.

"They are prevalent this time of year," he said.

A spokesman for the North American Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., had received no reports of any sky-related phenomena.

"We had about eight calls from several people who reported seeing lights, flashing lights and an explosion," said North Little Rock patrol Sgt. Phil Mask. The callers said they saw something fall by the railroad tracks near Interstate 40, he said.

"Our officers found absolutely nothing," Mask said.

About 15 minutes earlier, the Pulaski County sheriff's office received three calls from people in the Pratt Road area in the southern part of the county. They reported seeing a bright red ball streak through the sky, a department spokesman said.

Deputies checked the area and found nothing to substantiate the reports.

Staff writer Andy Gottlieb contributed to this report.

Close encounters?

Folks in Culver report strange lights

CULVER, Ind. (AP) — Reported sightings of unidentified bright lights in the sky have dozens of residents in this small farming town thinking about close encounters, possibly of the third kind.

Since early October, talk has centered on strange light patterns hovering above the town's landscape in northern Indiana.

Melanie Wagner said she has seen lights about three or four times a week, usually around 8:15 p.m. while driving along Indiana

10, a desolate country road. She said she first saw the lights Oct. 4 and has been seeing them every clear night since then.

"I've seen lights suspended in the sky, then go up and down, and go in all directions," Wagner said.

Fred Karst, editor of The Culver Citizen, said his newspaper has received "quite a number of calls" about possible unidentified flying objects in recent weeks.

While some people speculate the lights are

military aircraft, officials at Grissom Air Force Base, two counties south of Culver, say that's not possible.

"Nothing that they (citizens) describe meets the description of what we would be flying out here," said Lt. Bill Harrison, a public information officer with Grissom. He said the base flies KC-135 strato tankers (similar to a Boeing 707) and A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft.

TRIBUNE, Kokomo, IN - Nov. 19, 1990

INK



By DAVE JEWETT
The Columbian

What were those lights over BG?

Mert Oakes says he has never repeat never — seen anything in the sky comparable to what he saw over Clark County Wednesday night.

He's not saying they were UFOs, but he is saying he has no idea what they were.

He hopes there is someone else out there who maybe saw the same objects that he, his wife and an adult daughter watched in amazement as the objects maneuvered silently through the sky.

Oakes, manager of Vancouver Welding Supply, where he has worked for about 25 years, was outside his home at 16107 N.E. 38th Ave., working on his satellite dish, getting it adjusted to pick up Thursday night's heavyweight championship fight. His house is about four miles south of Dollars Corner.

The sightings occurred between roughly 9 and 10 p.m., he said, and the objects at first looked like bright stars, until they got closer. Oakes said there were about six or eight scattered in the sky over the county, including one that stayed in the north for quite a period, roughly over Battle Ground.

As they got closer, Oakes said he could make them out to be roughly in the shape and size of jumbo jets, but these could "stop and go whenever they wanted to." The way the lights were positioned made it clear to him that they were not normal aircraft. Also, he said, they were virtually soundless.

"If there was any noise at all they were very quiet. I know the sound of helicopters, they fly over frequently, and of airplanes, and these were definitely different."

Oakes went inside at one point and called the State Patrol. He says he then got a call back from 9-1-1 checking on a UFO sighting, and he told them he never said they were UFOs.

He was given a UFO Hotline number, and he reached an office and told them if they hurried and looked they could still see one over Battle Ground, but that didn't help because the person he was speaking to was in the Seattle area.

Oakes said he got the joshing he expected when he told the guys at work what he has seen.

"I know I saw something, I just don't know what it was," he said.

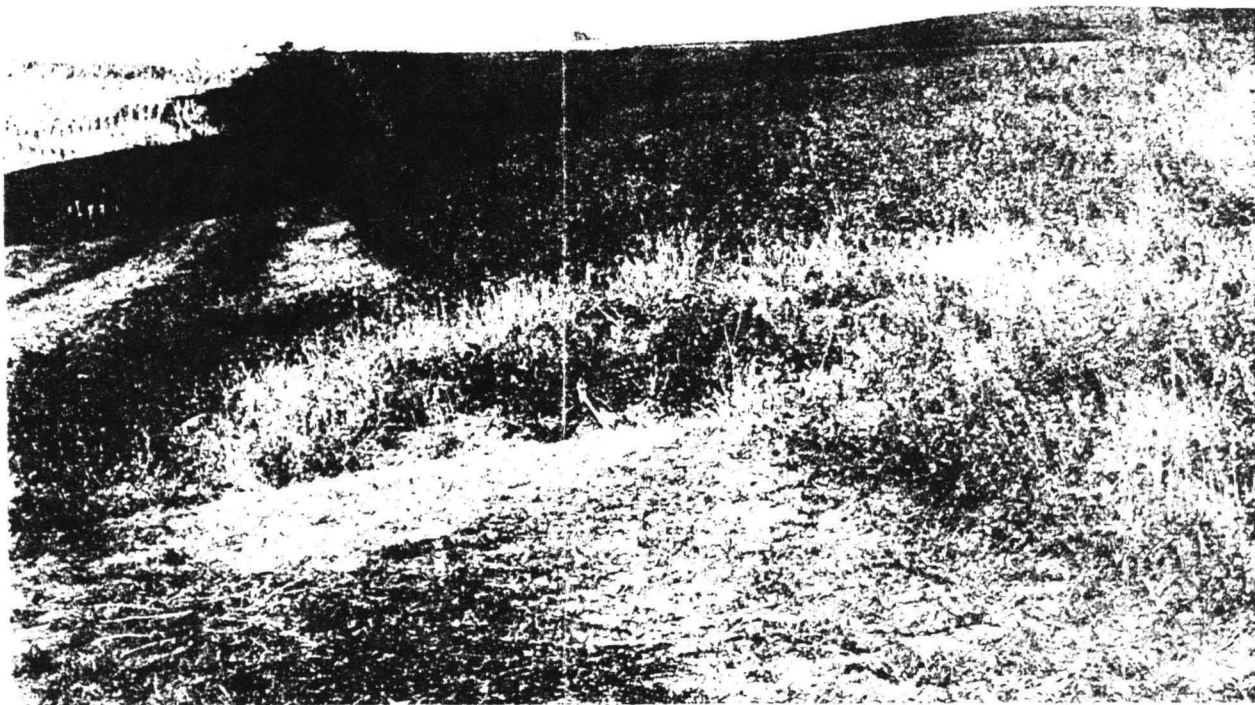
I called Portland International Airport and the Federal Aviation Agency Thursday and they said they had received no reports of unusual sightings over the area.

The UFO Hotline number didn't answer when I called.

MEANWHILE, there was another mystery in the Hazel Dell area Thursday about 9:35 a.m.

Cathy Ramer, 9106 N.W. 15th Ave., called to say she saw a bright flash of light outside her home, and her 5-year-old daughter said some-

CR: M.



One of the inexplicable circles which has appeared in Charlie Kirkendall's alfalfa field can be seen in the center of this photo. The other circle is about 25 feet to the left and out of camera view.

Kirkendall had begun to cut the field when he noticed the burned, dried circular patterns.

Mystery has farmer going in circles

Charlie Kirkendall, who farms east of Barada, has a mystery on his hands that has him pretty much going around in circles.

In fact, the circles comprise the mystery.

So far, Kirkendall has neither come up with nor received any answers—and he's real reluctant to draw any conclusions.

The puzzle began to develop on Sunday when Kirkendall was cutting alfalfa in a field just southwest of his home. He had noticed a peculiar pattern in the alfalfa as he cut near the bottom of one hill and then ran into a similar pattern near the top of

the hill.

What he encountered were two circular patterns which had apparently been burned into the green alfalfa.

Both circles are about 15-18 feet in diameter. On the inside of the circles, the alfalfa is a normal green. But the outside edges are dried, giving the appearance of having been subjected to a high, drying heat.

The burned, dried edges of the circles are approximately 18 to 20 inches wide. Neither the inside nor dried outside of the circles appears to have been otherwise damaged—it is not laying down and the plants are not broken.

Kirkendall said he's "never seen anything like it" in his years of farming. The circles, in seemingly perfect 360-degree patterns, are not the work of insects or disease and no equipment has been in the field which could have caused them, Kirkendall said.

Extension Agent Gerald Hopp, who is analyzing the dried alfalfa and the soil in which it was growing, confirmed Kirkendall's assessment. "I don't think it's anything environmental," Hopp said. "Nothing that we know of."

Kirkendall said the circles were not in the field last Monday, Oct. 15,

when he had last been through the area.

The mystery gets more interesting.

Kirkendall was showing the circles to a neighbor, Bud Runyan, who related a piece of information from his son, Don, who said a hunter had told of seeing something "with bright lights" land in the area on Tuesday or Wednesday. Whatever the hunter had seen was relatively far away and to the northwest—in the direction of the Kirkendall farm.

The topic of the unexplained circles was being discussed in the Extension office Tuesday morning when Carol Bierman volunteered a phenomenon witnessed by her husband, Gary, and Chad Scholl as they completed a combining job last Saturday night.

At about 10:30 p.m., the twosome saw a group of four dim lights moving in the northern sky. Gary said there were four distinct lights that appeared to be in different "stages" of brightness. They were unlike anything he or Chad had seen before.

Bierman and Scholl were working in a field south of the Kirkendall farm.

Kirkendall was hesitant to contact The Journal about the circles for fear folks would think he'd gone off the deep end. And, without a rational explanation for the alfalfa field phenomena, people might be prone to giggle about flying objects hovering over an alfalfa field as the culprits.

Charlie isn't blaming the circles on little men from Mars, Jupiter, Pluto or anywhere else. All he did was discover them—their origin has been much harder to find.

"Anyone who can explain it," Charlie said, "please feel free to do so."

TIMES, New York, NY — Nov. 19, 1990 CR: E. Rager

Observers Say Shuttle Is Acting Mysteriously

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Nov. 18 (Reuters) — Amateur astronomers watching what they said was strange behavior by the space shuttle Atlantis on its secret military mission today questioned whether astronauts had to rescue a spy satellite. But the space agency remained silent on virtually every facet of the mission.

"It's very mysterious," said Sean Sullivan of Melbourne, Fla., an astronomer who watched the shuttle through a telescope Saturday night. "We've never observed anything like this before."

Mr. Sullivan and Ted Molczan, a Toronto astronomer who keeps track of worldwide shuttle sightings, both questioned whether a secret satellite put into orbit from the shuttle on Friday might have malfunctioned.

But the National Aeronautics and Space Administration refused to comment, saying only that Atlantis and its five-man military crew are doing well and are scheduled to land at 4:48 P.M. Eastern time Monday at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Mr. Molczan said the shuttle at one point appeared as a white point of light 24 seconds behind the satellite, which had a duller hue that changed from red to gold to white. But Saturday night, Mr. Sullivan said, the reddish light appeared in the same spot where the astronomers calculated the shuttle should be. That, they theorized, could mean the satellite was back aboard Atlantis or so close it could no longer be seen discerned.

NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS, Yelm, WA — Oct. 11, 1990

UFO investigator looking for reports of sitings and mutilations in rural areas

South Thurston County may be a rich area for Unidentified Flying Objects, said a UFO investigator.

Diane Young said contacts with UFO and aliens from space are more common in rural areas. Young is investigating UFO spotings in the area for UFO authority and television producer Linda Howe. Involved in UFO investigations for the last four years, Young said UFO sitings are often accompanied with reports of cattle mutilations.

Similar cases of cattle mutilations are reported around the county each year, Young said. Incisions on the carcasses are usually clean and close to the bone as if made by a laser, Young said. The carcasses are almost always pregnant females and usually have the tongue and gentiles removed.

Often mutilations are blamed on Satanic worship, but Young said that carcasses associated with satanism are bloodier and messier.

Young said that cattle mutilations may be explained by the fact that

cattle body tissue is similar to human tissue.

Young was among seven speakers at a UFO conference held at The Evergreen State College October 6. The seminar was sponsored by the UFO Contact Center International.

Young would like reports on cattle mutilations and UFO sightings sent to her. Her address is P.O. Box 3311, Kirkland, WA 98083.

UFO sightings



Sentinel photo by Dave Odets

Robert Morris says he saw a craft shaped like a triangle with white lights around the edges.

Lights hover over Olive, vanish

By Darin Estep
and John Agar
Sentinel staff writers

NEW HOLLAND — Robert Morris was driving his two children home from a hayride one evening this week when he spotted a bright light just above the tree tops to the north.

Deciding to tease the kids, Morris pointed to the light and said: "Hey, look — a UFO!"

His jest may have hit closer to the truth than he first realized.

Morris and his children are among several people who reported seeing an object in the sky north of Holland around dusk Tuesday. So far, that object remains unidentified.

Government authorities scoffed at the idea that the sightings were anything unusual. Most UFO reports can be explained as ordinary phenomena, they said.

But independent organizations expressed an interest in the reports. And one lecturer on UFOs said the descriptions matched "loads of reports" this year from across the United States and even Belgium.

The descriptions from rural west-central Ottawa County all were similar — a brilliant white light hovered silently a short distance above the ground around dusk, then disappeared.

Morris, who scanned the sky with binoculars, said he thought the object was gone when the bright light blinked out. Then he saw it again. It looked like a dark-gray triangle with white lights around the edges.

Before Tuesday, Morris said, he "probably would have just laughed" if someone had told him about a UFO sighting. In

"It's difficult to say what they saw. (But) 95 percent of all UFO sightings are explainable."

Farley Banks, Air Force captain

"More triangles, huh? ... This past year has sort of been the year of the triangle."

Stanton Friedman, nuclear physicist, UFO lecturer

fact, Morris said he has endured some razzing himself from co-workers. Even his wife was skeptical.

"I thought he was nuts," Mary Morris said. That was until she heard similar stories from acquaintances the next day.

One of those stories came from fellow Olive Township residents Kim and Chuck Huskey.

"I couldn't tell you what it was," Kim Huskey said, "but it was really bizarre."

Huskey said she and her husband spotted the object after their two boys, who had been playing outdoors, ran inside the house and reported seeing an object lift off the ground.

"It was just hanging there above the trees," she said, estimating its location about a mile away, between 124th or 128th avenues, near Polk or Stanton streets.

"It was just a huge, big, round light," Huskey said. "I can't say it was a helicopter. I know it wasn't an airplane. It just really made us wonder what it was."

After about five minutes, the light dimmed and disappeared, she said.

Dee Watson said she was returning from the store to her home near Grand Haven in the early evening Tuesday when she noticed a bright light through the trees.

She paid no attention until she arrived home and noticed the light was motionless, Watson said. The light then "arcked away," making no noise and leaving no trail, she said.

The Morris family reported their sighting to federal authorities, who said they would contact them if they had any other information.

Capt. Farley Banks, chief of public affairs at Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, confirmed that he received the report from the Morris family. But that was the only report, he said.

"It's difficult to say what they saw," Banks said. "(But) 95 percent of all UFO sightings are explainable."

The Air Force stopped investigating UFO sightings in 1969 with the closing of "Operation Blue Book," which listed nearly 13,000 reported sightings, he said.

A spokesman at Selfridge Air Force base in Mt. Clemens said the Air Force terminated studies of UFOs because not enough evidence exists to warrant spending public money.

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman in Grand Rapids said the agency had received no reports of UFOs recently. Local police agencies also said they had received no reports.

Ron Ludema, manager at Tulip City Airport, said he hasn't heard anything about UFOs from area pilots. He speculated that landing lights on an airplane were responsible for the sightings.

"It has happened before," he said. "They've seen landing lights, it seems like the plane is standing still when they go into a turn."

But when given a description of the object Morris reported, nuclear physicist and lecturer on UFOs Stanton Friedman replied: "More triangles, huh?"

"We've got those all over the place," Friedman said from his New Brunswick, Canada, office. "This past year has sort of been the year of the triangle."

"It doesn't sound like a flying saucer," he said. "It certainly is a UFO, but I would make a big distinction between a flying saucer and a UFO. All flying saucers are UFOs, but not all UFOs are flying saucers."

"The question is whether this isn't another form of secret government technology," he said.

Friedman said aviation experts are speculating that the government has developed a new form of "pseudo-Stealth" aircraft, a reference to the Air Force bombers and fighter planes designed to dodge radar.

Robert Gribble, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., said the triangular-shaped craft sounds familiar to him, too.

"It's been seen quite frequently over the years," he said.

The lack of any sound or movement "fits a pattern," Gribble said. "It eliminates aircraft (as a possibility). I don't know of any aircraft the Air Force has that moves without a sound or is stationary (in the air)."

Gribble said his private scientific agency, which opened a hot line in 1974, receives about six calls daily from around the nation. The hot line has received more callers in the past than now, he said.

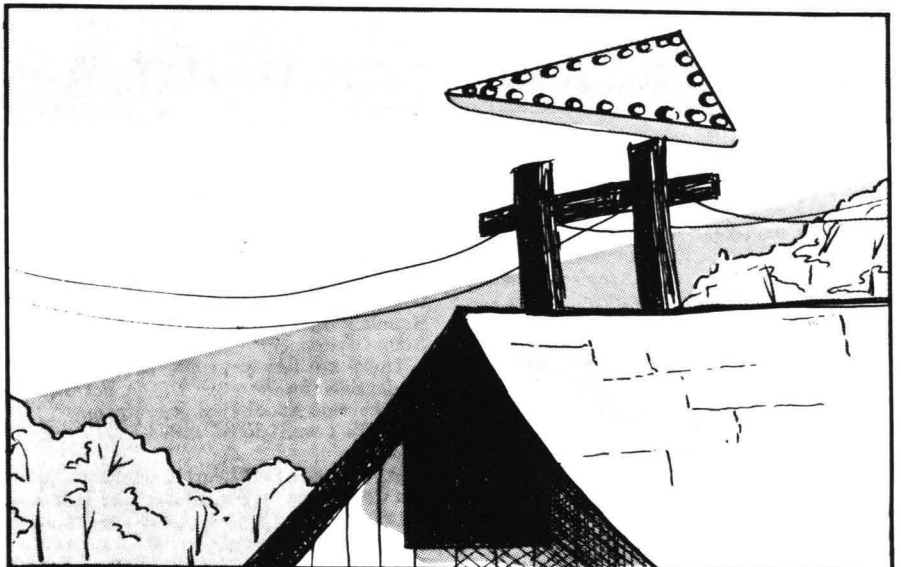


Illustration By Sentinel Staff Artists

Studying The UFO Phenomena County Man Says Abductions Do Occur

By Suzanne White

Being abducted by an Unidentified Flying Object is serious business ...

An avocado-colored desk phone in Richard Hall's living room rings, breaking his train of thought.

In a matter-of-fact voice he asks the evening caller, "Did it seem like a positive experience for you?"

"Uh-huh, uh-huh," he says, thoughtfully, leaning back in a straight-back chair. He jots down a few notes, listens, then writes again.

"That's good that you feel that way," says Hall, 59. "Do you want to look into getting your experience investigated?"

The caller is a woman from Virginia claiming she was abducted by a UFO. She needs someone — a serious someone — to hear her story, and Hall is the man for the job.

With a 35-year driven hunger to probe deeper and deeper into the UFO phenomena, Hall's expertise lies in investigating UFO sightings and lately, human abductions.

The Brentwood resident has written a book on the subject, "Uninvited Guests," published in English and Japanese with 30,000 copies sold.

He is a writer and editor with the Fund for UFO Research Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based corporation established in 1979 to provide financial support for scientific research and public education.

Last year he was recognized by 7,000 of his peers belonging to the Mutual UFO Network for his "Most Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Ufology."

"The first thing I want to make clear is we don't charge any money unless you want to go to a psychologist," says Hall, who also mentions support groups to the woman and perhaps hypnosis to help reveal repressed memories and mental blocks.

Hall lets the caller talk, offering none of his collected knowledge. He later explains he wants to examine the woman's story first to see if her abduction is similar to others.

"She sounded sane and curious, which is quite common," Hall says after he hangs up the phone. "I will read what she writes to see if it sounds like others, and if it fits I will try to work with her."

Hall's living room, which serves as an office, is illuminated by a single desk lamp, casting shadows on a cluster of willowy plants and a metal book shelf jammed with UFO-related books on every topic: *Flying Saucers*, *Aliens From Space*, *Scientific Debates*, *UFOs Exist*, *Observing UFOs*, *The UFO Reality*, *Missing Time* and *UFO Crashes*.

"I function more as a priest than an investigator because people come and talk to me," says Hall, the dim light reflecting off his glasses.

Hall says he has never been abducted and does not care to be. "Not with one of these sneaky characters," he says, adding an exception. "If they communicated to me and said we would like to talk with you and exchange information, then OK. But no, I don't want to be zapped, floated up and probed."

Hall says the aliens encountered today are unlike the friendly, peace seeking "Space Brother" kind Hollywood has sought to glamorize.

Hall says the extraterrestrial beings are — well — lacking in good manners.

"They kidnap people against their will or without knowing it by rendering them unconscious," says Hall, adding that the humans are placed on an examining table and subjected to probing and experiments.

"More and more cases are surfacing where people have scars and things implanted. There is also a lot of witness testimony," Hall says.

The UFO expert says descriptions of aliens are surprisingly alike — four feet in height, oversized heads, spindly bodies, long fingers and hands, roughly humanoid with no prominent ears and slits for mouths and enormous black eyes.

Hall says he became drawn into the



Photo by Suzanne White
Richard Hall of Brentwood has been studying UFO phenomena most of his adult life.

"This involvement and to have this intense interest (in UFOs) has changed my life," says Hall, who believes the government is hiding the truth from the public about aliens.

Hall continues his conversation with the Virginia woman and asks her to mail him a brief summary — "just the highlights" — outlining her experience.



UFO mystery in high school around 1952 when newspapers carried headlines that read, "Jets Chase Saucers Over Nation's Capital." He remembers thinking, "Wow that's neat ... what's happening here?"

Hall later went to Tulane University in New Orleans where he majored in philosophy and was taught to "practice reserved judgment."

While at the university working on a math scholarship Hall was opening a professor's mail and found a letter from the "National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)."

He was intrigued and set out to work in Washington, D.C., to be near the organization. Hall took a job there where he worked for 10 years and later became the acting director. During this time the group initiated a major thrust that led to a congressional hearing on UFOs.

Generals and others like Air Force pilots were calling the organization with leaks and tips on UFO sightings. Hall says inside leaks were received from NASA, Cape Kennedy (now Cape Canaveral) and the State Department.

"There are lots of people with serious credentials (interested in UFOs), but they are worried about their reputations ... they don't want to be called kooky and crazy."

Hall says the 1966 hearing conducted by the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on "Unidentified Flying Objects" has been one of two hearings ever open to the public.

Hall says after the congressional probe, the Air Force decided to launch an

Barada farmer discovers mysterious rings in field

By Paul Hammel
Journal State Bureau

BARADA — Charlie Kirkendall said he has seen the television reports about UFOs.

He didn't give them much thought until something burned three mysterious rings in his alfalfa field east of Barada recently.

"Earth is about like a pebble of sand on a beach in the universe. How do we know what's out there?" asked Kirkendall, 57, a work-hardened oil-rig worker and farmer.

Richardson County Extension Agent Gerald Hopp, however, said Friday the mystery appears organic, rather than alien, in origin.

The mystery began Oct. 21, when Kirkendall was cutting alfalfa and discovered two rings, approximately 18 feet in diameter, burnt brown on a sidehill about one-half mile from his home east of Barada. Later, he discovered a third ring, about 12 feet in diameter.

An initial study of plant samples by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln plant pathologist concluded that disease could not cause such a pattern, and it appeared the leaves had been burned. The study rejected one possible disease, anthracnose, which had been suggested by Hopp, and questioned whether lightning could have caused the rings.

"Lightning doesn't strike like that," said Kirkendall's wife, Marilyn.

Hopp said the initial samples were poor and Thursday dug up more extensive samples, plants and roots, and sent them to UNL.

Friday morning, Hopp said tests indicated the rings were caused by an uncommon fungus, violet root rot, which affects legumes. A soybean field in nearby Craig, Mo., was afflicted with similar burn rings lately, he said.

Does this kill the UFO theory?

"I would say never say never," Hopp said, "but I felt it was our obligation to explore biological alternatives because of the public conjecture. We went from conjecture to near fact to solid fact."

Kirkendall could not be reached for comment on the latest tests, but Thursday evening was unconvinced that a disease could cause such "perfect" circular rings.

Kirkendall's suspicions are buoyed by recent sightings of peculiar flying objects by a neighbor and two hunters.

"I'm convinced that something hovered over that ground," he said. "I don't think it lit, but it burned that field."

A lot of other people also are wondering about the circles. Since they were first reported in the Falls City Journal on Oct. 24, about 100 curiosity seekers have visited the Kirkendall farm. A well-worn path now leads to the site, which is marked with a red flag (actually an old pair of red underwear).

Most people leave convinced it is not a disease or a hoax, Kirkendall said.

He said the circles had to have been burned between Oct. 15, the last time he checked the alfalfa field, and Oct. 21. During that period, Kirkendall later discovered, there had been unusual sightings in the vicinity. Two hunters told a neighbor that they saw something with bright lights and legs on it on Tuesday or Wednesday in the direction of the Kirkendall farm, he said. A neighbor out combining reported seeing four red discs, that moved in and out, on Saturday night, he said.

Kirkendall also recalls an incident five or six years ago when his youngest son, Mike, now 27, saw a spinning disc-like object whirl to within 500 feet of the family home before disappearing over the bluffs of the Missouri River.

"It lit the whole yard up like a Christmas tree," Kirkendall said, before disappearing over a Missouri River bluff.

Looking out over the hillside Thursday evening, Kirkendall wondered if one or three objects might have caused the rings. If it was one, why would it sit down on such a hilly field, and toast three rings, two side-by-side and another 26 yards down the hill?

"I wish whatever did it would do it again and I could see it," he said. "I'd give anything to see that."

independent investigation where internal procedures of investigation for accuracy and scientific validity were studied.

On October 7, 1966, the Air Force commissioned the University of Colorado to make a scientific study of the UFO reports. A group of scientists conducted an intensive investigation of the hotly debated phenomena. Hall was a consultant on the project.

"They found there was nothing worthy of scientific study and no evidence of spaceships," says Hall, skeptically. "But there was something to it. The NICAP gave them reports, but they were not studied. They avoided all the good cases."

Hall, who works as an abstractor at a Washington area publishing firm, says his time with the NICAP, where he learned things not generally available to the public or news media, convinced him UFOs were real.

"There's a tremendous amount of resistance. It's hard to believe things that are this sensational can go on for so long," Hall says. "God knows why, but people seem to think we need government to cover up and tell us something."

When asked what the aliens want, Hall replies, "That's the ultimate question. We may have something they want or need. These are the answers we are trying to get."

As to the abduction question, Hall says some experts in the field recommend that humans put up a fight if approached by aliens. He suggests the opposite.

"If you resist you can get zapped," Hall says. "I think we're dealing with an extremely powerful force. There's really no advice you can give."

Hypnotherapist tells her close encounter stories to Athens State group

By JONATHAN BAGGS
DAILY Staff Writer

ATHENS — Every year, many people in the United States report sightings of UFOs, alien abductions, out-of-body experiences, poltergeists or believe they have lived a past life as someone else.

An Athens group got to hear some of these experiences at a Wednesday meeting of the Parapsychology Foundation at Athens State College.

Some of these sightings and experiences have scientific explanations, but some do not and cannot be explained through "normal" methods, according to experts who study psychic phenomena.

In 1979, Robyn Quail, a hypnotherapist from the Atlanta area, met a man named Allan who believed he had led a past life as an Egyptian pharaoh. In fact, the man had 16 past lives, according to Ms. Quail, who said she was wary about the man's tales and still doesn't believe some of them.

Ms. Quail, 58, was guest speaker at the Parapsychology Foundation. Using guided imagery, hypnosis and other techniques, she has helped 7,000 to 8,000 people understand what she calls the positive aspects of encounters with the unknown.

Speaking before the meeting, K.C. Schmidt, 26, publicity chairman, said the foundation originated as a student club in 1970. The group's goals are to endow an academic chair in parapsychology at the college, stimulate study and research and serve as a public source of information. Meetings are on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Parapsychology is concerned with the investigation of evidence of paranormal psychological phenomena including extra sensory perception, psychokinesis, clairvoyance, tele-

lepathy, out-of-body experiences, discarnate survival (ghosts), self-empowerment and other areas.

Ms. Quail told the group of her four-month study of Allan in 1979. "I was skeptical of a lot of things he would do" she said. "It was just too bizarre to be true."

When she put Allan into a trance for a past life regression, she said, he could speak ancient Egyptian and write in hieroglyphics. She said experts confirmed the writings as authentic and he was "checked out by leading research institutes."

"He could speak it rapidly and fluently," Ms. Quail said. Allan would often walk around during his regressions and this frightened Ms. Quail because sometimes he would "crash to the floor." She recalled one night in particular when Allan caused phenomena to happen in front of her eyes. "He would move things and put his hand in fire and things of this nature."

When her daughter snickered at something Allan did, Ms. Quail said he walked to the door and opened it revealing a pile of dry leaves just outside. Allan then held one hand up in the air. "Immediately the leaves went into a very distinct whirlwind until he put his hand down," Ms. Quail said. "I saw this."

Ms. Quail also said Allan was possessed by an "alien personality" who would speak to her. "During these sessions he would go into what looked like convulsions and would speak to me in a different voice."

Ms. Quail believes in UFOs but not in all the stories she's heard. She said she saw a UFO "as big as a house" outside her Atlanta home during one of Allan's sessions. "Another one followed my car one time," she said. "We changed course and it followed us. This was in Birmingham

about 1970."

But why are aliens visiting earth? Genetics and control may be the answer, according to Ms. Quail. In the past 17 years she has worked with people who said they have been abducted by aliens.

"Their interest is to strengthen their own genetic ability," Ms. Quail said. "What appears to be happening is women are abducted, artificially implanted and after three months abducted again." She said men are abducted for their sperm.

"One patient had 20 medically confirmed pregnancies and each disappeared after three months," Ms. Quail said. "During regression, she recalled being abducted and the fetus stolen."

Ms. Quail told the group she was not there to make them believe these people had been physically abducted, taken aboard ships and examined but "psychiatrists are starting to be bombarded with abductee stories." Schmidt also said convincing people to believe is not the Parapsychology Foundation's goal, but to offer information on what they have studied. "We're not here to hit anybody over the head and say 'believe, believe, believe.'"

With about 60 active members, the group has a mailing list of more than 600, according to Schmidt.

"There are a lot of different personal interests in the group," Schmidt said. "We have several members who are working psychics. We have a lady that has solved three or four missing person and murder cases using psychic ability."

Of course, skeptics go along with the territory.

"A few people have a preconception — they like to classify parapsychology with parlor tricks," Schmidt said. "Ninety-five percent of the feedback I get is positive."

FOOTHILL LEADER, Glendale, CA - Oct. 10, 1990

Tujunga is hot spot for UFOs

By CYNTHIA TAKANO
Staff writer

Secrets lurk along with the wild-life and rugged terrain in the shadows of the Tujunga Canyons.

The remote canyons winding north of Tujunga have been a hotbed of UFO activity since as far back as 1949, when two Glendale women reported seeing a silvery shining disk flying northwest over the city and disappearing in the Little Tujunga Canyon area.

"Tujunga is a UFO window," said Ann Druffel, whose book, "The Tujunga Canyon Contacts," focuses on a particular series of seemingly related events dating from the 1950s. "The terrain or something about the area itself either attracts the UFOs or permits manifestation."

"This is an active spot for all sorts of reports, from high up in sky to actual encounters," Druffel added.

Written in collaboration with the late parapsychologist D. Scott Rogo, the book cites area UFO reports ranging from the classic: strange maneuvering nocturnal lights, bright daytime disks, car buzzing complicated by electromagnetic effects and an occasional landing or entity encounter.

More unusual reports include: mysterious unidentified helicopters without propellers circling a bright varicolored object; brilliant flashes of light seen at night, called Paul Bunyan's welding lights by the locals; and in the 1960s, "light people," misty, gray figures who appeared to be spying on groups of students camping out in the wilderness.

As recently as two years ago,



"This is an active spot for all sorts of reports, from high up in sky to actual encounters."

Ann Druffel

Druffel said, "A woman and son who were coming down the 210 Freeway from the Tujunga-La Crescenta area toward Glendale claimed to have been followed by a craft. It just followed them as if they were interested in them."

A Pasadena resident, Druffel has been investigating UFO activity for many years. She directs SkyNet, a filter center and tracking system for public UFO reports in the Los Angeles basin. She has published articles and reports in many UFO journals and books and participated in several research projects.

Published in hardcover in 1980

and updated and reissued by Signet in paperback last year, "The Tujunga Canyon Contacts" recounts the dramatic story of two young women who experienced a "lapse of time," a phenomenon often traced to encounters with UFO entities.

A scientific report with the trappings of a science fiction drama, the story begins, "On a chill March night in 1953, Sara Shaw and Jan Whitley lay asleep in their isolated cabin in the rugged Tujunga Canyons of California."

"Suddenly an illuminating glow of light, accompanied by a deathly stillness, enveloped the cabin, signaling the coming of an event that would change their lives forever."

Druffel's research began more than 20 years later when she received a call from Sara Shaw (a pseudonym), who was still bothered by the incident, even though she had forgotten its details.

The young women awoke to investigate the strange light, and seemingly instantly, it was two hours later, and they could not account for the lost time.

During a series of hypnotic regressions, Shaw remembered being abducted by shadowy humanoid creatures and taken to a hovering spacecraft to be examined.

Moreover, as Druffel continued her investigation, she learned that several friends of the women had experienced similar encounters.

"This was the first case of its type where there seemed to be a chain reaction of abduction scenarios of people who all knew each other," Druffel said.

"Jan Whitley seemed to be a UFO Typhoid Mary. When other

BOOKS/J. ANTONIO HUNEESUS

A New Perspective on The Ancient Civilizations of Mexico and Peru

The Lost Realms, by Zecharia Sitchin, Avon, \$4.95, 298 pp.

In his long-expected fourth volume of *The Earth Chronicles* series, Sumerian and Biblical scholar Zecharia Sitchin continues the exploits of the Anunnaki — "those who from Heaven to Earth came" — into the ancient civilizations of Mesoamerica and the Andes. As in his previous books, Sitchin's research is thorough and well documented with historical records and academic sources. His conclusions, however, are like a ton of brick on the accepted notions of what transpired in the Americas before Columbus.

Sitchin's basic theory, as presented in his previous volumes, is that the gods of ancient Near Eastern mythology — the Sumerian Anunnaki or Biblical Nefilim — were real extraterrestrial beings from an outer planet of the solar system called Nibiru in Sumerian astronomical tablets. These beings, he maintains, settled the Earth and were basically responsible for the dawn of our civilization.

This brief summary, however, doesn't do justice to the extensive linguistic, mythological and historical research undertaken by Sitchin in his previous books. *The 12th Planet* laid the foundation of the theory from Sumerian and Near Eastern cuneiform tablets, while *The Stairway to Heaven* brought the Egyptian lore into play and *The Wars of Gods and Men* chronicled the endless feuds between rival Anunnaki clans from which, he says, mankind learned the curse of war.

Sitchin has taken the "genre" of the so-called ancient astronaut theory into a fine art. In terms of scholarship and research, his books are light years away from those of other popular authors. Unlike von Daniken and others, his evidence has not been challenged by the academic or archeological communities, although his conclusions are a radical departure from what is taught or believed about the ancient world. He now brings this unusual perspective to what he calls "the lost realms" of Mesoamerica and the Andes.

His basic tenet is that the complex cultures of the New World, with its astonishing architectural achievements, its sophisticated calendar and astronomical knowledge and its rich body of legends and mythology, are not isolated from those of the Old World. For instance, he asks, could the legendary Aztec leader Tenoch, builder of Tenochtitlan in Mexico, be linked with the Biblical Enoch, descended from the line of Cain? And what about the numerous traditions about a deluge among the ancient inhabitants of the Americas?

One Inca chronicle recorded by Father Molina, for example, mentions that in the deluge "no living thing

survived except a man and a woman who remained in a box." And then we have the puzzling bearded Semitic-looking figures found in stellas and the definitely African heads of Olmec sculptures.

The list goes on and on. "The evidence, it appears," writes Sitchin, "also challenges the current theories about Man's first migrations to the Americas." In Sitchin's view, most of the earliest activities which took place in both Mesoamerica and the Andes were linked to the extraction of minerals and various mining procedures.

Evidence of "a scientifically conceived plant for the separation, refining or purification of mineral substances," he writes, can be found in Teotihuacan and Tula in Mexico, Tiwanacu in Bolivia and Chavin de Huantar in Peru. Gold, silver, copper, tin and other metals were mined and processed in these and other sites.

Perhaps a reference to these ancient mining activities of the Anunnaki in the Americas, he points out, can be found when Job speaks of "a land of which the ingots come/Whose underground is upheaved as with fire." While all this may sound pseudo-scientific to some, *The Lost Realms* does provide considerable evidence for each one of these claims. The famous "feathered serpent" god Quetzalcoatl becomes the Egyptian deity of knowledge Thoth, who gave the sophisticated Mesoamerican calendar to the ancient Nahuatl peoples, while the Sumerian god of mining Adad or ISHUR was the Andean Viracocha. His symbol, the forked lightning, can still be seen "from the air and from the ocean, on a mountainside in the Bay of Paracas."

Throughout the book, Sitchin skillfully compares old Mexican codices and Peruvian chronicles with Near Eastern and Biblical records. He identifies Machu Picchu with the lost capital of "Tampo-Toco" ("Restplace of the Windows") mentioned by Fernando Montesinos in his 17th century "comprehensive and chronological history and prehistory of the Peruvians." Montesinos, too, provides a reference to a dreadful event when "there was no dawn for 20 hours."

According to Sitchin, "if the Andean recollection is true, then somewhere else — on the opposite side of the world — the day had to last just as long, not ending when it should have ended but lasting some 20 hours longer." He points out that we can find precisely such an event on Chapter 10 of the Book of Joshua when "The Sun stood still in the midst of the skies/and it hastened not to go down/about a whole day." Sitchin's calculations for this double event in Palestine and the Andes is circa 1433 B.C.

Few stones will remain unturned in the academic view of ancient America, yet Sitchin's style is sober and all his references are carefully documented. A must for all those interested in ancient mysteries and a challenge for all the rest.

J. Antonio Huneusus writes a weekly science column for the New York City Tribune.

CR: A. Huneusus

people came into contact with Jan, they seemed to have independent experiences. Other researchers have since found that it can even continue through generations."

Druffel also began to feel there were heavy psychic elements in the Tujunga case, and she called on Rogo, a noted parapsychologist, to join the investigation.

"I was one of the first researchers in the field to indicate there are heavy paranormal aspects in UFO sightings," Druffel said. "In 1967 a photo of a UFO was taken in Yorba Linda outside a young person's window. At same time, there were poltergeist occurrences in house, and the effects followed family to another house in another city."

Many researchers now accept the fact that there are heavy psychic aspects of sightings and abductions, she added.

The Tujunga case also marks the discovery that people are able to fend off encounters with the entities.

"Jan Whitley was able to fend off invisible presences in her bedroom.

She said they gave her the feeling they wanted her to go with them, and she didn't want to go. She felt she wouldn't return," Druffel said.

"Being able to fend them off is a highly significant aspect of the field. We want to find out what types of personalities are able to fend off the approach of these entities."

UFO research is expanding into many fields of scientific study today, Druffel said. "Open-minded scientists are realizing UFOs are real phenomena to be studied. Why are so many thousands of people worldwide being contacted by the entities, who intrude into their lives, take them aboard their crafts and then let them go? Some are benign, but most witnesses experience sheer terror."

"No researchers have been able to figure out the nature of the entities," she added. "We don't know what they are."

INK

By DAVE JEWETT
The Columbian

Others sighted odd lights

Mert Oakes happily reports that he wasn't the only person seeing strange lighted objects in the skies over Clark County one night last week.

When Friday's INK column carried Oakes' mysterious story, he immediately started receiving phone calls from other county residents who said they would back him up that something strange was flying around Wednesday night.

Oakes compiled a log of calls from 10 people who said they saw objects similar to what he had described in this column.

Hazel Wolverton, for example, told Oakes she saw two of the objects at about 9:20 p.m. in the area of Mill Plain Boulevard near 104th Avenue.

Theresa Weiner said she saw them in the area of Royal Oaks golf course.

Another woman said she saw three or four of the objects about 10 miles north of Battle Ground.

A Mrs. Nelson said she made a sighting from west Vancouver.

A woman on Northeast 99th Street in Hazel Dell called with another sighting.

To top it off, Oakes said he saw more of the same objects Friday night from his home south of Dollars Corner. They were heading toward Vancouver Lake, so he called an acquaintance **Bobbie Jones**, who lives in the Fruit Valley area, and asked her to take a look. He says she called back to say she went outside and saw three of the objects going over and making no sound.

Oakes, manager of Vancouver Welding Supply, emphasizes that he isn't calling the objects UFOs. He just says he has seen nothing like them, particularly in their ability to stop in midair and change directions, all with what seemed to be no sound at all.

I called Portland International Airport and the Federal Aviation Agency office at Hillsboro, Ore., last Friday and they said they had received no reports of unusual sightings in the area.

HERALD, Grand Forks, ND - Nov. 20, 1990 CR: J. Salter

UFO course to beam to 3 campuses

By Steve Schmidt
Herald Staff Writer

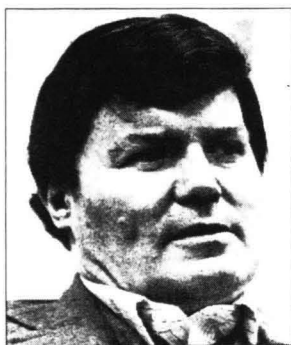
UND says it will beam a new UFO course to three other state campuses this winter.

Indian studies chairman John Salter will teach the course called "UFOs, ETs and Close Encounters" through North Dakota's new Interactive Video Network.

The division of continuing education at UND says interest from other campuses led to the two-credit-hour course offering.

Salter, who began offering a UFO class at UND this fall, will talk about his own encounter with "friendly UFO humanoids," and about how he is healthier because of it. But he told the Herald Monday he has no intention of offering reports from physical or psychiatric exams to document his claims.

He said he didn't want to upset what he described as a delicate medical process that's improved his



John Salter teaches the UFO course.

health, habits and appearance. He took a similar stand in response to a request for medical confirmation several months ago.

His classroom at UND will be connected by video to sites at UND-

Lake Region in Devils Lake, North Dakota State University in Fargo, and UND-Williston.

UND officials said it will be a two-credit-hour course, running Jan. 15 to May 7.

The class will meet Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Salter's UFO class this fall drew 150 students.

The course includes what he describes as a personal encounter with extraterrestrial visitors while driving across Wisconsin on March 20, 1988.

Salter since has become the North Dakota director for a national network investigating reports of unidentified flying objects.

In an interview Monday, Salter said he continues to have a long list of "positive" physiological signs, which he attributes to the encounter with visitors from space. As he said in response to inquiries several months ago, Salter continues to decline requests for medical documentation of his claims.

His response: "First, I'm in better shape than I've been for a long time. Second, there are over 20 positive physiological changes, and many of these are quite evident to everyone around me. Thirdly, I have kept certain medical and other types of scientific people in the United States and Canada apprised of this. Finally, that's all I intend to do. I have no intention of letting anybody probe too deeply into me and upset a delicate and complex medical process, which is paying off so handsomely."

Salter said he's enjoyed, among other changes, more hair, faster healing of wounds and more energy.

"I now have had extensive contact with large numbers of people in the U.S., Canada and abroad, and we see this as very friendly, and continue to be convinced what's going on here is an orderly, sensitization process designed to acquaint the human race with the presence of nearby, intelligent and friendly extraterrestrial life forms."

Tuition for the course is \$168.

PALLADIUM-ITEM, Richmond, IN - Oct. 28, 1990 CR: D. Worley

Connersville woman recalls experience with UFO

By BILL ENGLE
Palladium-Item

The following are the recollections of a Connersville woman whom we'll call Rhonda. She says she saw an unidentified flying object in a field near her home in 1973. Fourteen years later she said she remembered being taken aboard the vessel.

"It was Oct. 15, 1973, I'll never forget that date. My husband worked nights and was not home. My sister and I had observed this huge light for awhile. She had gone inside and it moved across the sky so I ran and got her. Then it darted across the sky and started to come down. I was not scared, but I was curious as hell."

Her sister has since moved from the area but corroborated the story by mail to UFO researcher Don Worley of Connersville.

"I walked up close to the ship. I felt like I could jump up and touch it. I seen people to my left. I didn't take my eye off it but I could see them. They were like dim images out of the corner of my eye. But they were there. But we were all looking up. It was like you couldn't take your eyes off it."

She noticed one man with auburn hair and freckles and a woman with shoulder-length blond hair, all staring at the vehicle. She recognized no one. After the vehicle left, she remembered hearing a door slam.

No one else has come forward to report having seen the spaceship.

Rhonda described the craft as having three windows. In one of the windows, she spotted a small crea-

ture. It was four feet tall and had four fingers on each hand. It resembled a small man.

A thought occurred to her: "Do not be afraid. We won't harm you."

She is sure the message came from the craft.

"I could see him full. After I seen him nothing else mattered. When I looked into his eyes it had the most calming effect on me. I felt calm and peaceful. I was sure he wasn't there to harm me."

The glow of the ship lit up the whole field.

"It was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen in my whole life. Then all of a sudden it went up, up, up and was gone. It seemed like five minutes but I went in and looked at the kitchen clock and it was an hour later. My sister came up and said I'd told her to go call the police, but I don't remember saying that."

"My sister and I sat down and talked about it. Then I grabbed a piece of paper and pencil and drew a picture of the ship. But I never showed it to anybody and I threw it away three days later. I don't know why."

"A couple of hours later I sat down and cried. I don't know why."

"Then 14 years later I seen a picture in my mind of me and the alien. He was small with eyes protruded. An entire outfit covered him, his hands, his feet. He had a hood over his head and had no hair or ears that I could see. He was very, very tiny. Maybe 65 or 70 pounds. He had no mouth, but still seemed to talk to me."

"I got a mental picture of the in-

side of the ship. For some reason it was in my mind that it was a mother ship. I don't know where that came from. I'd never heard of the term before."

"Inside the ship we didn't move, we glided around. We were side by side. He never left my side. I never was scared. A little apprehensive, but not scared. I saw three cubicles inside the ship. I had the idea they were going to take me in there. Everything on the inside was rounded off. Rounded corners and rounded walls. I touched a wall and the edge of one cubicle. It wasn't hot or cold and it gave just a bit."

"The walls were beautiful. It was so bright in there. But a soft bright yellow light. We glided up to the front of the ship to the front window which was like a huge magnifying glass. I could see clearly for several blocks. Two aliens were at the control panel. They looked the same as the other one. They turned around and looked at me and then turned back as if I didn't matter at all."

"The ship had no doors and I don't remember going on or exiting, but I'm sure I was on that ship. All these things came back to me in an instant. I think they were here observing us. But why? I was brought up to face reality and these things were real."

"I'm not crazy. I'm not stupid. But I don't want to be out in public with people pointing at me and laughing at me. I'm a very realistic person and I'm telling you what I saw."

Biloxi convention

Hickson addresses UFO crowd

By WENDY WALKER
Mississippi Press Staff

Charles Hickson was raised in Jones County, a hardshell Baptist who was taught there was only two places to go out of this world — heaven or hell. In 1968 he and his family moved to the Gulf Coast, and in 1973 an event took place that changed his life forever. Charles Hickson says that he was taken aboard an alien space craft.



Charles Hickson

Hickson told his story to a crowd of about 200 Saturday at the Great Gulf Coast UFO Gathering in Biloxi, along with six other speakers who also claim to have seen UFOs.

Hickson said he and Calvin Parker, a friend and fellow shipfitter, were fishing at an old abandoned shipyard when he "heard some kind of hissing sound like steam leaking out of a pipe."

He said he turned around and saw some kind of round craft with two blue pulsing lights hovering above the ground.

"I didn't know what to do," said Hickson. "A door opened and a very brilliant light came

out, then three things came out and two of them took hold of me and one took Calvin."

Hickson said the beings were about five-feet-six inches tall with grey elephant like skin which ran horizontally and was very wrinkled.

After the beings took Hickson aboard the craft, examined him, they let him go. He said Calvin was still on the river bank and seemed to be in shock. After long consideration they decided to report the incident to the Sheriff's Office in Pascagoula.

Parker, now living in Louisiana, later suffered from two nervous breakdowns. "I thought I was losing my mind,"

said Hickson.

Hickson claims the aliens kept in touch with him telepathically and he knows now that they mean him no harm. He has a small object about the size of a quarter that he says heats up before he receives telepathic messages from the aliens.

"I know these things sound very strange, and I don't expect you to believe them, but I hope one day you will," he said.

Hickson said the aliens keep track of him but have no intentions of sharing their knowledge at this time.

Other speakers at the convention included Peter Robbins of New York City who spoke on the government cover-up at the Dentwater Air Force Base, Debbie Tomey of Indianapolis, Ind.,

who claims to be the victim of an alien abduction, Ed and Frances Walters of Gulf Breeze, Fla., authors of *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*, and Bob and Betty Luca of the infamous "Andreasson Affair."

W.D. "Bill" Clendenon of Biloxi, UFO Researcher and former Navy aircraft identifier, was also on hand to answer questions and promote his new book *Mercury: UFO Messenger of the Gods*.

Folks Recall UFO Sightings In Anson

(First Of Two Parts)
By SANDY BRUNEY
Record Reporter

"UFOs make trips around the universe like we go to the moon," said Henry (Punky) Morton, regional director of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network.

Morton, who was MUFON's state director for nine years, has long been active in tracking down these elusive visitors from outer space. His own journeys have been con-

siderably shorter than the extra-terrestrial voyagers because many of these sightings have been made here in North Carolina — many in Anson County.

Lib Constantian will never forget Christmas Eve 1976. On her way back from church, she and her daughter saw a bright light in the sky. They pulled in to the Duff-Norton parking lot and got out.

"We watched the thing go over Country Club Road,

headed west from the golf course, and over the nursing home, following the road," she said. "Then, as though they had seen us, they changed direction and went back to the intersection between Duff-Norton and the National Guard Armory. As quickly as you can say 'quick' it ascended straight up. There was no sound."

She described the object as round and large with "not just lights, but dazzling lights." Af-

ter reporting her sighting, she said that she was called by people who had had similar experiences. One couple said they had been followed all the way home from Owens Auditorium in Charlotte, and that the object had even hovered motionlessly over their car as they let other passengers out.

A second sighting about four years ago was similar. She saw something "like a moon" rise over the horizon. Again, there was the circle of lights in two

sizes. One circle stayed on, the other softly blinked. Both times, they were going "very forcefully" in a southwest direction. And, both sightings took place in the early evening.

"It was so eerie. Absolutely bewildering," she said.

Silence is the rule in 90 percent of the cases, said Morton. But a family in the White Store area has a different tale to tell.

"We heard a roaring like a

tornado," said Joanne, who didn't want her last name revealed. In trying to leave their house to investigate the noise, she and her husband found they could hardly open the doors because of the suction. The trees outside were twisting as if caught in a spiraling wind.

The object they saw came from the south, traveling northwest in a diagonal path

over their home. It was so low that it brushed the tops of the trees.

"It was definitely not a plane," she said.

The suction pulled pictures off the walls of her step-daughter's house, and broke a window. A ceiling fan began spinning so hard that it broke a light. Items from counter tops and the top of the refrigerator were sucked off. The television and VCR were scrambled.

Several neighbors verified the sighting of the object which Joanne described as with "lights up and down but going around, like on a plate. It went real slow until it got to a bunch of trees and then it cut to the left and was gone."

The lights were spinning in a counter-clockwise direction — as were the trees the object passed over.

"I hope I don't ever see anything like that again," she said.

There is a pattern to the sightings, said Morton. January is the biggest visitation time. Between January and April 1985, there were 30 documented sightings in Anson County. There were 21 in 1987 and 16 in 1988. There have been none in 1990 — yet.

Morton feels that the beings, whoever they are, are studying us, and probably have been for thousands of years. Some experts feel that ancient monuments like Stonehenge in England or the Poverty Point bird mound in Louisiana acted as guides for the celestial travelers.

"We have gone through phases of credibility," Morton said. Early man attributed the sightings to the gods — as they did weather and other unexplainable phenomena. As civilization advanced, "experts" in science and philosophy couldn't explain, and so couldn't admit, the existence of UFOs. People who

persisted in their stories of seeing them were in danger of being burned as witches or locked up as lunatics.

"Now, since we have landed a man on the moon, it is not so unbelievable," said Morton. "At least 65 percent of the people believe in the possibility of extra-terrestrial life."

When the U.S. government closed its investigations in 1969, stating that it found no threat to the security of the United States, groups like MUFON were organized to find an answer.

"The stance of the government is really the only one they can take," said Morton, citing the panic that would ensue if the sightings were given official credence.

MUFON investigators like Morton look at over 100 natural causes that might explain a sighting — ruling out stars, marsh gas, weather inversions, weather balloons, advertising planes and other aircraft, or hoaxes.

Good quality cases, said Morton, are where physical traces of evidence have been left — such as road burns, magnetized vehicles, bent antennas or scorches grass.

"About 100 a day pass all scrutiny," Morton said.

How can one tell if they have seen an UFO? "First, they are intelligently controlled and interact with people on the ground or with pursuit planes," Morton said. Natural phenomena can't do this.

"Second, they do things beyond our technology — such as making sharp 90-degree turns at 30,000 miles per hour, defying the laws of gravity."

Many sightings go unreported because humans have a "safety valve" that allows them to disbelieve what they have seen, he concluded.

However, for many Anson Countians, seeing was believing.

Mysterious Sightings Still Reported in Area

CITIZEN, Culver, IN - Oct. 2, 1990 CR: D. Worley

Whatever the objects are that have been sighted repeatedly in the nighttime skies over southern Marshall County recently, one thing is certain:

They aren't going away! Melanie Wagner (Russell) of 413 Lake St., Culver, whose reports triggered several news reports in the last week, has told the Citizen that the sightings are continuing.

After South Bend television and newspaper reports followed the Citizen's initial story a week ago, our Jan Johnson decided to join Wagner in her Operation Skywatch.

And in a Monday night patrol near Poplar Grove Church and along Queen Road and Ind. 110, Johnson was definitely not disappointed.

"The strangest thing I recall seeing was a triangular light formation," Johnson said. "Each point of the triangle was illuminated by a large light, but between

them were smaller flashing lights. The large lights remained lit and the smaller ones flashed."

Johnson also reported seeing other forms of lights, some of them obscured by clouds, but others low enough to seem more clearly.

"These lower sightings came in two or three different colors," Johnson said. "One which came from the eastern sky was red and flashing and, at one point, stopped flashing and continued coming toward us just red. They all came from the east-southeast sky."

Johnson said she also saw another light that was bright white and flashing, and yet another variety that flashed red, green and white.

Johnson is the second person from the Citizen to make sightings. Publisher Fred Karst also reported them on the night of Oct. 4, the same night of Wagner's original experience.

Wagner has reported additional sightings on several occasions, all between dusk and about 11 p.m.

So far, no law-enforcement or governmental agency has offered an official explanation for the phenomena.

Wagner also reported that a relative of hers saw strange lights — this time pinkish — in the Monterey area, also on Oct. 4.

UNUSUAL SIGHTS REPORTED IN SKY

CITIZEN, Culver, IN - Oct. 2, 1990 CR: D. Worley

Several persons reported observing unusual sights in the sky over Culver last Thursday night, although there was no official word on what they might have been.

Melanie Russell said she observed about eight bright lights in the southwestern sky as she drove toward Culver on Ind. 10 after closing shop at Park 'n Shop at Argos, where

she works, about 8:35 p.m.

At first she thought she was witnessing a heavy concentration of aircraft but later decided a different explanation was needed to account for them. At one point two of the lights headed directly toward each other but veered away before colliding, she said.

She also observed three lights that appeared to be directly above Culver, pos-

sibly circling the town. Two of them were "stacked" with one on top of the other. One appeared to drop down around Ind. 8, she said. Another was a pinkish color and hung on the horizon.

When she got home, she ran into the house and told her baby sitter, Brenda Brooker, and Brooker's husband, James, who also observed them. They con-

tinued to watch after returning to their home at Hibbard, where they used binoculars to look at what looked like green and red lights in a group.

Russell also called her mother, June Sage, who said she also saw some of the lights which disappeared from view shortly after 10 p.m.

Citizen publisher Fred

Karst said he observed what he thought was a meteor descend from directly above him toward the southwest in the direction of Monterey about 10 p.m. He was driving west on Ind. 10 after attending a Candidates Night program at the VFW in Culver.

He also noticed lights of what he thought was an aircraft in the southern sky at the same time.

Russell said she called the Marshall County Police and was told she probably had seen helicopters searching for something, but she doubted that explanation could account for what she had seen.

Dust devils? UFOs? Residents ponder mystery circles

By MICHAEL JOHNSON
Courier-Tribune Staff Writer

Flying saucers in Randolph County? Well, maybe not, but while Hilda Lilly, Route 9, Box 168, was walking in a field near her home Thursday afternoon, she noticed something she had never seen before.

A 30-foot wide circle. A school bus had gotten stuck in some mud on Sheridan Road Thursday afternoon, and while checking out that situation she spotted the circle.

"It is perfectly round. ... I've never seen anything

like it before," Lilly said.

As soon as she found the circle, which is a band of thinned-out grass and dirt about a foot wide, she contacted the county soil service, which dispatched a representative to investigate.

"The girl the agriculture people sent out said she hadn't seen anything like this either," said Lilly.

— Hilda Lilly

The soil service representative took soil samples from inside and outside the circle, as well as from the actual ring itself. Results from the soil tests are not expected to be available until late this week.

An isolated incident? Maybe not.

Once Lilly began investigating the circle, she found that her neighbor, Floyd Miller, has had three smaller circles appear mysteriously in his yard over the past year.

"I just didn't think anything about them (circles) ... they were there and that was that," said Miller.

Miller said the circles in his yard would stay for a long period of time before becoming grown over with grass.

"I don't know, it kind of looks like something set down out here," said Lilly. "But I don't think something ... like that could happen."

Circles similar to the ones Lilly and Miller found have been appearing in England since about 1980, and some have been spotted recently in midwestern states, as well as Florida and Canada.

In a story published by the Associated Press last month, one theory about the mysterious circles' appearances was explained by a civil engineer at the University of Kansas, who said he 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," said Glen Marotz. "One way is to create a spinning vortex. There is nothing uncommon about that."

Spinning vortexes also are known as dust devils.

George Fawcett of Lincolnton, state director of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, said the circles probably are caused by some natural occurrence — but not necessarily.

"The ring phenomenon is really quite commonplace," he said. "Sometimes they're lightning strikes, sometimes it's bacterial growth ... and sometimes they're bona fide (UFOs)."

He said it's really kind of hard to say exactly what has been happening on Sheridan Road during the past year, but it could possibly have something to do with the loud noise and lights seen in Randolph County skies last week.

The Randolph County Sheriff's Department received more than 100 calls from people from all over the county reporting that they saw or heard something early Tuesday.

Austin Guiles, assistant director of the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill, said that the callers might have witnessed or heard a bolide — a meteor that enters the atmosphere and disintegrates or explodes.

"Everyone says it was a meteorite, but they don't stop and say hello ... they either hit or burn up in the atmosphere," Fawcett said, adding that he plans to investigate both the "bolide" and the rings.

EAST SIDE ZOMBIES?

Welcome to the intriguing mystery in East Connersville.

It's preliminaries began when for two starry nights, probably October 13-14 in 1973, a large yellowish object sat and occasionally moved at bewildering speed in the sky. On October 15, the same night all the D&M employees on break saw a structured UFO, the object hovered and zipped around the sky for much of the evening.

At about 11:30 p. m., it suddenly grew larger and in the blink of an eye appeared just above the ground over a field on the north edge of East Connersville. A person I'll call Abductee B had called me a year after this sighting but recently she had been able to recall more of what happened that night. Such persons always suffer a loss of memory and time, thus the designation Lost Time Abductee (LTA).

LTA B, whose house was very near the large fish-shaped craft, now remembers sketchy details of the craft, its beautiful exterior, lights, sound, and its occupants, strange interior, and so on when she suddenly found herself inside it. From the beginning of the experience, she was constantly mesmerized by the hypnotic eyes of one of the slight four-foot beings. All she ever got from him was "Don't be afraid, we will not hurt you" and although curious, she felt secure and tranquil.

Now that I have given you a basic

explanation of the situation, let me get to the important part of this letter. Before coming under the control of the being, LTA B had looked to her left and there in the brilliant glow of the craft was a group of maybe eight or 10 people. She remembers a tall man with sandy hair and a blonde woman quite near her. Her sister, who stood behind her, and a young daughter also remember seeing this group of persons. These persons stood there like silent statues, unnaturally close to the UFO. Later, when LTA B magically found herself back standing in her yard, she saw the strange people walking away.

The UFO had taken off over her house, emitting a great ball of fire and then vanishing. It has been reliably ascertained that LTA B, her kin, and the mystery people all suffered approximately an hour and a half of lost time and memory. It's my experienced guess that no one assembled at this eerie scene was left standing around.

The stunning part of this riddle is, who were these people? I have failed to find a single one in this locality. But then, it's easily possible that I am up against total mental erasure. Hopefully, someone else had bits of recall. If you have any knowledge of this October 15th incident only, and possibly were strangely ill later, or had a mysterious wound, scar or unusual dreams, please get in touch with me.

DON WORLEY
1051 Beech Street

NEWS-EXAMINER, Connersville, IN - Aug. 28, 1990 10
CR: D. Worley

ANSON RECORD-MESSANGER & INTELLIGENCER, Wadesboro, NC - Nov. 1, 1990

UFO expert. Morton suggested hypnosis, and an expert in criminal hypnosis in Winston-Salem was contacted. After a number of sessions, the amazing story unfolded. After he left the bridge, the

suffered until he finally wrote to a UFO center in Illinois, which in turn referred him to Henry (Punky) Morton of Wadesboro, who is regional director of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network. "I wish I could go to sleep and have the whole dream and see the end," the man told the

was given a cream for his burns. He began being troubled with both nightmares and "walking dreams" in which he pictured himself in the cockpit of an airplane, looking down at the moonlit earth below. He began having panic attacks. Not a science-fiction buff, he

6:10. He went to bed, and woke with a severe "sunburn." As he drove to work, he noticed the paint was peeling on his demo car. "Have you been working with an arc welder?" co-workers asked him. Suffering dizziness and nausea, he visited a doctor and

The victim, a car salesman, left a friend's house at 3 a.m. and headed for home (10 miles away). He remembered crossing a steel bridge over Rocky River, and looking up to see a bright star. The next conscious recollection was of driving home, and the sun rising. The clock inside his house said

By SANDY BRUNNEY
Record Reporter
Although many people in Anson County have reportedly seen an UFO, they have so far been spared the experience of being in one. A man from Locust, a small community near Albemarle, was not so lucky some 10 years ago.

victim, still in his car, was lifted closer to the "star," which he now saw was a globe-shaped object. He could not move his body, but nevertheless had the feeling that all was well. He entered the globe, noting that the interior seemed larger than the outside. Three beings opened the car door and levitated him out, putting his body on a table.

As the tranquilizer effect wore off, he became excited, nearly paranoid. The beings left the room, and he again experienced the tranquil feeling. On their return, he was examined, stuck with needles, and had a globe passed over his body. He could see a screen on the wall — like an x-ray — and then he was driving home.

Even when confronted with the tapes from the sessions, the man refused to believe that such an experience had happened to him. He still thought it was a dream, except for the burns on his body and his car.

He died of natural causes two years ago, but "had learned to deal with it by then," according to Morton.

This, said Morton, was but one of thousands of documented cases — the most famous being the Betty and Barney Hill abduction in 1966. Credibility was given this case when astronomers matched up stars with a map Betty Hill was shown, and later reproduced for researchers.

Not all victims have gotten off as lightly as the Locust resident. Some report that their abductors use no tranquilizers or anesthesia as they take blood and tissue samples, and even samples of ovum and sperm.

"They were treated worse than lab animals," said Morton.

The movie "Close Encounters Of The Third Kind," starring Richard Dreyfuss, was a very accurate interpretation, said Morton. The repeated visions, the obsession, the great silent ship are all documented by hundreds of abductees. So, too, is the description of the small beings with globular heads and huge, slanted eyes, and the telepathic communication many experienced.

The local UFO specialist also thinks that phenomena — like the mysterious circles in

Great Britain's wheat fields — are a form of experimentation.

"If you found a Stone Age civilization, you wouldn't just appear in their midst," he said. "You would make some small change in their environment, and then step back to see what happened."

UFO sightings, he noted, always follow the discovery of a new circular pattern in the wheat fields.

"If we can accept the present age of the solar system as 15 billion years, and we know that man has existed for four million years," he said, "then the possibilities for other civilizations are limitless. They could be ahead of us, behind us, or equal to us."

Not all visitors are bent on scientific inquiry, he speculated. "Some are here as tourists — like we'd go to a zoo."

They may also come from different galaxies, he added, given the range of shapes and behavior of their ships.

And some have crashed, like the ship in Rosewell, N.M., in 1947, which has recently been brought to public attention as the people involved have begun breaking their vow of silence. This vow was taken after United States government teams removed the bodies of the aliens and the wreckage of their spacecraft.

Why this silence on the part of the government?

"If the media or the government started treating each sighting as an actual event," said Morton, "it would have far-reaching effect from Wall Street on down. The implication is that they are farther advanced. Look at the invasion potential. It is human nature not to look at a benevolent scenario. It would throw the nation into a turmoil."

Yet there is evidence, he said, that aliens have been interacting with man for centuries: teaching them and leading them, and even using them to build their "runways" in Peru, the Pacific Islands and England.

Many people believe that the circles and patterns in the fields of southern England are a sign that such contact will soon be made again.

And many others will tell us that, for them, it has already been made.



FOREIGN NEWS



By Joe Bryksa, Winnipeg Sun

IN CANADA: Farmer Keith Ryan stands in the front of a crop circle in his Rosser, Manitoba, wheat field. The mysterious circles have been found in 30 countries.

Circles in the fields inspire talk of UFOs

By Maria Goodavage
USA TODAY

Farmer Don Johnson has a perfect circle mashed into his wheat field outside Winnipeg, Manitoba, and everyone has an explanation for it.

Some say it's the wind that bent the stalks to within 2 inches of the ground. One person has suggested grasshoppers. A few are crying hoax. And many are saying that the 31-foot swirl in Johnson's wheat field could have been made by only one thing: the clandestine landing of an unidentified flying object.

But most folks agree with Johnson, an agriculture lecturer at the University of Manitoba, who explains the circle with this line: "Damned if I know."

His circle is one of an estimated 1,000 mysterious circles reported in fields around the world this year. So far, they've appeared in 30 countries, including England, the USA and the Soviet Union — and now, most recently, in Canada.

They usually show up in wheat fields, but they've also appeared in corn and sorghum fields, rice paddies, snow plains and in sandy prairies. They range from the size of a tire to the size of a football field. And when investigators arrive, they rarely find footprints, tire tracks or any other evidence of human intervention.

The crop circles, as they've come to be called, are not new phenomena. Scholars say they were reported in England as early as the Middle Ages. But their frequency during the last decade has increased dramatically.

"I was hoping these things would go away because they attract too much attention from nuts," says Jay Anderson, a meteorologist with the Canadian government. "But they keep happening."

Anderson contends that many of the crop circles are hoaxes, caused by humans brandishing hockey sticks or similar instruments. But he says if there are any genuine crop circles, they're likely caused by low, whirling winds known as dust devils.

But Grant Cameron, who researches and writes about UFOs in North America, says he has seen damage from dust devils, and it's nothing like this.

"Why is it that we have to have a scientifically proven explanation for everything?" demands Cameron. "The crop circles are the result of an intelligent force we don't know about."

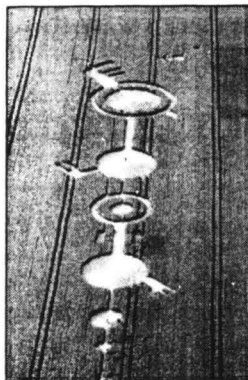
He says that the circles are often accompanied by strange occurrences: Apples in an orchard fall to the ground; corn disappears but husks remain in place; divots of soil vanish. "It's as if they're exploring here," he says.

Others think UFOs are trying to leave messages. This year, several surreal patterns — including test tubes and dumbbells — have emerged. In one field in England, nine connected circles were formed with key-like protrusions stemming from their edges.

In South Dakota this summer, a farmer discovered an 80-foot-long backward question mark swirled in his wheat. While many people rushed to call it a hoax, many saw the possibility of a UFO.

"There are no hoaxes in Leola, South Dakota. These are hard working farmers who live here. They don't have time for nonsense like messing up their fields," says Yvonne Hermson, with the Mutual UFO Network, an international organization of UFO watchers.

Michael Strainic, also with the UFO network, says a family in rural British Columbia found a 39-foot ring dug in their driveway. "The gravel was smashed deeply into the dirt. It was very strange," says Strainic.



IN ENGLAND: This aerial view shows a complex set of crop circles in a field 20 miles north of Salisbury, England.

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, Leeds, England - Sept. 24, 1990 CR: T. Good

1990 — year of the circle

1990 will be remembered as the year when the public became aware of crop circles, a scientist has told a Leeds conference.

But the remarkable phenomenon was first recorded in the early 70s, said Mr George Wingfield, who has also written on the subject.

"Behind the circles there is some form of non-human intelligence," he told his audience at the Yorkshire UFO Society's annual conference.

More than 100 people from as far afield as Scotland, Kent and Bristol attended the day-long conference at Centenary House, North Street.

Mr Wingfield said that in 1990 crop

circles had increased in number, size, formations and complexity.

In England in 1986 there were 17 reports, 75 in 1987, 110 in 1988, 280 in 1989 and there would probably be more than 1,000 this year.

He said crop circles were evolving and although some of them were the result of hoaxes, there was no doubt that many were genuine.

Mr Wingfield, a member of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, said that shortly before a 130-yard long formation appeared, a strange humming was heard coming from the field, dogs in a near-by village began to bark and cars would not start.

Mr Wingfield reported a "twilling" noise which he himself heard last year in the vicinity of a circle.

He dismissed the view that the circles were caused by freak atmospheric conditions, fungi, hedgehogs or helicopters.

They were caused by an energy force which remained on the surface of the earth both before and after the circles appeared, he claimed.

Quite often when circles appeared at a site for the first time, they were accompanied by events associated with UFOs, such as descending lights.

Crop circles appeared earlier in the year in 1990 than before — from the end of April — and both the Government and the military had taken an interest.

GLOBE & MAIL, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Nov. 9, 1990 CR: G. Conway

Mysterious orange lights startle hotel swimmers

Special to The Globe and Mail

MONTREAL — Hotel guests and police officers stood on the deck of a heated outdoor pool in downtown Montreal Wednesday night, staring up at a strange and as yet unidentified set of lights hovering in the sky.

Line St. Pierre, a lifeguard at the Hilton International Bonaventure Hotel, said she was watching about six guests swim in the pool at about 7 p.m. when they called her out onto the deck because they saw lights in the sky. She said there were eight or 10 lights in a circle in the sky about 1,000 metres above the pool.

She said the lights were orange but radiated white light and they seemed to hover in one position for several

hours.

"The pattern was very symmetrical. It was really freaky. I was just stunned," Ms St. Pierre said. "I'm just glad I wasn't the only one who saw it."

Ms St. Pierre called security as dozens of guests gathered.

The hotel's assistant director of security, Albert Sterling, said he watched the lights for 2½ hours before they seemed to move higher and out of view.

The object stayed put long enough for observers to call police and a local newspaper, La Presse, which published a photograph of the lights yesterday.

"If that was an airplane, it was a very slow one," Mr. Sterling said.

Montreal Urban Community police spokesman Serge St. Laurent said three officers were called to the scene.

"Yes, they (police officers) saw something in the sky. They saw lights but we don't know what it was yet. The RCMP is investigating," Constable St. Laurent said.

He said the officers contacted air traffic control centres at Dorval and Mirabel, and radar detected no aircraft in the area.

François Bourbeau, founder of a Quebec network that studies and records sightings of unidentified flying objects, said there have been many such sightings that have not been detected by radar.

FREE PRESS, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada - Nov. 9, 1990 CR: T. Stevenson

Montrealers see UFO hovering in sky

MONTREAL (CP) — Some swimmers in the heated outdoor pool at the Bonaventure Hilton Hotel are convinced that the strange lights they saw hovering over them Wednesday night came from outer space.

Lifeguard Line St-Pierre called hotel security for help at about 7 p.m. when the lights appeared. The hotel called in Montreal police.

"Should I use my gun?" Const. Francois Lippe asked jokingly when he stepped out of the hotel

elevator. Then he looked up at the sky and his tune changed.

"It was clearer than that a while ago," hotel security director Albert Sterling said. "It was clearer because it was less cloudy. For a while we saw six lights in a circle with rays shining out of it."

Directly above the hotel, journalists who arrived shortly afterwards saw two lights shining through the clouds. Montreal La Presse published a photo of them yesterday.

Most witnesses said the cluster of lights were white although some people said they had seen blue, yellow or red lights as well. The lights remained over the hotel for about three hours, then moved away slowly towards the north.

The federal Transport Department said nothing had appeared on air traffic control radar screens at the time the lights were reported over downtown Montreal.

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE EXPRESS, England - Sept. 28, 1990 CR: T. Good

Intelligence behind the corn circles

YOUR extensive report on Ms Jenny Randles' theory about the mysterious crop circles appearing in fields in the West Country must be answered. The whirlwind theory espoused by Ms Randles holds no truck with local farmers who know only too well what such storm-damage looks like.

Anyone who has visited and investigated these remarkable circles, find them to be perfectly geometrically symmetrical, even beautiful, to look at, and as your photograph showed, could in no way be caused by the odd freak whirlwind. Just as ludicrous are the other theories that the

crop circles are caused by helicopters flying upside down, hordes of demented hedgehogs rotating in unison, or the exhaust fumes of a flying saucer! These annual appearances seem to have just about everyone going around in circles!

As a ufologist I am surprised Ms Randles has not fully taken account of the reported landings of strange craft in various parts of the world and particularly in the Warminster district of Wiltshire, where crop circles have appeared in abundance — the physical evidence in the form of Ufo "nests", perfectly formed depres-

sions in fields forming an unbroken "swirl", usually in anti-clockwise direction.

There can be little doubt that there is an intelligence behind these formations and the energy concentration left behind by the force-field often remains afterwards, is detectable with scientific instruments and is even downsable.

KEN ROGERS,
President,
Unexplained Society,
32 Buckhurst House,
Dalmeny Avenue, N7.

SUN, Melbourne, Australia - Nov. 9, 1990

UFO fans take to farms

FLYING saucer investigators expect to yield rich pickings from this year's Victorian wheat harvest.

Members of the Victorian UFO Research Society have recruited farmers and aircraft pilots in the Mallee and Wimmera districts to report appearances of "wheat rings".

Society vice-president Paul Norman said he expected to investigate some 30 sightings of circular patches of flattened

wheat during the harvest beginning next week.

"The sceptics blame pranksters for this phenomenon, but the wheat is not broken off — it is bent over level with the ground like it has been steamed," he said.

Mr Norman said the "wheat rings", averaging about 4m in diameter and often clustered in groups, occurred all over the world on different, often populated, terrain.

CR: P. Norman

J. ANTONIO HUNEEUS / SCIENCE FRONTIERS

UFO Flap In Belgium Among Best Documented Ever

First in a two-part series.

For the past year, citizens in the French-speaking region of Wallonia in Belgium have experienced an extraordinary UFO wave. Thousands of witnesses, including dozens of *gendarmes* (national police) and officers of the Belgian Air Force, have described triangular-shaped vehicles flying slowly over rooftops, hovering, beaming searchlights and performing incredible maneuvers. The objects have been captured in some 25 videotapes and tracked on both ground and airborne radar by the military (see photo).

An Oct. 10 front-page story in *The Wall Street Journal* titled "Belgian Scientists Seriously Pursue A Triangular UFO" said, "Since the rash of sightings here began almost a year ago, more than 2,600 have been reported of a triangular object with three huge lights hovering in the night sky over Wallonia."

The question being asked is whether these objects could be explained by the testing of a new secret military aircraft. Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPVs), AWACS, the Stealth Fighter, and a modified version of the B-2 Stealth Bomber are some of the options that have been suggested. We shall explore these possibilities in this series' second part.

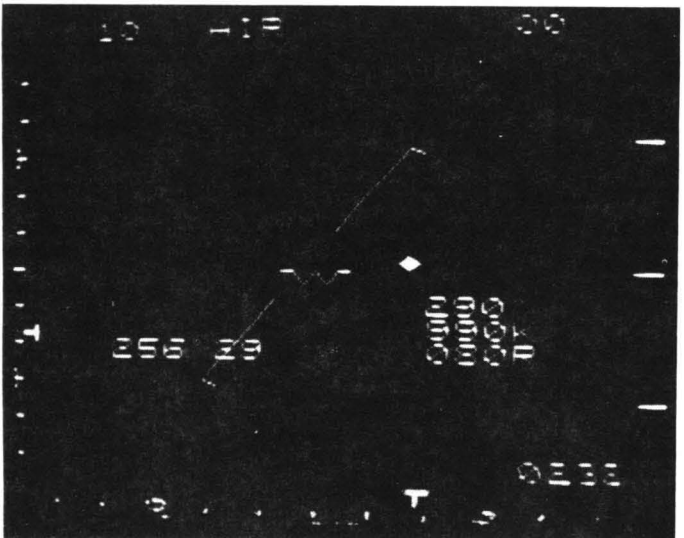
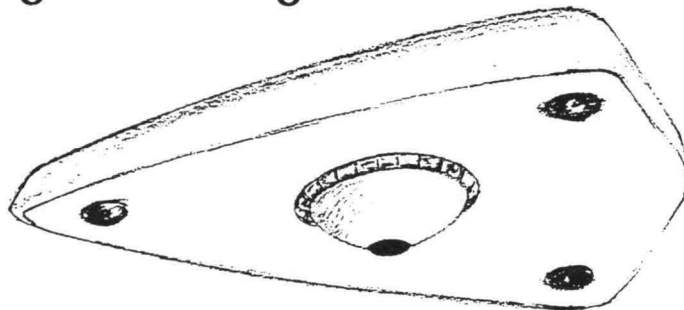
Besides the large amount of well-documented data gathered by the Gendarmerie, the Air Force and civilian scientists from the Belgian Society for the Study of Space Phenomena (SOBEPS), the Belgian flap has broken another record. For the first time ever in the controversial history of UFOs anywhere in the world, the Belgian Minister of Defense, Guy Coe, has authorized the Air Force to fully cooperate with SOBEPS, forwarding their reports, and even putting at their disposal a Hawker Siddeley aircraft equipped with infrared cameras and sophisticated electronic sensors.

As French physicist, Jean Pierre Petit, explained to *Paris Match* magazine, "We are living in a time that is the beginning of a period of openness. First the Berlin Wall crumbled, now the wall of silence about UFOs is falling. Concerning the UFOs, we are entering a phase completely different from the earlier ones. It is the end of commercialism and fakery. The true scientists are finally making their appearance." Dr. Petit is a senior physicist and director of research with the National Center for Scientific Research of France. An iconoclast and a world class expert on magnetohydrodynamics (MHD), Dr. Petit has also conducted some rather interesting UFO research of his own, publishing recently his results in the book, *Investigation of UFOs*.

Unlike many other UFO groups around the world, the SOBEPS has a team of respected scientists, including Leon Brenig, a nonlinear-dynamics theorist at the Free University in Brussels, and professor August Meesen from the Catholic University at Louvain. Among the numerous UFO witnesses, in fact, were Lucien Clerehaut, Secretary General of SOBEPS, Patrick Ferryn, a film producer and founding member, and Jose Fernandez, another SOBEPS investigator. "Here is an opportunity where we can apply the scientific method," Brenig said.

SOBEPS files show that the first sightings occurred on the night of Nov. 7, 1989, when two gendarmes from Esneux observed a silent huge craft "with two very powerful white lights directed downwards and a sort of green and red garland." The flap, however, gained momentum and notoriety on the evening of Nov. 29 when 41 witnesses, including six gendarmes, observed the huge triangle — sometimes referred as "a stationary platform" — in Eupen, Verviers, and several other locations in Wallonia near the border with Germany. As the press speculated about AWACS and Stealths on the following days, the defense minister Coe dismissed these rumors, stating that "all hypotheses involving the presence of military aircraft in our airspace are definitely to be ruled out."

It is perhaps because the objects are so far unidentified, that the Belgian Air Force has undertaken the task of chasing and investigating the intruders. As



RADAR PICTURE taken from an F-16's targeting radar (above) on the night of March 30-31. The UFO is indicated by the diamond in the center of the picture. A drawing (top) based on eyewitness descriptions of the UFO observed throughout Belgium from "MUFON UFO Journal".

Col. Wilfried de Brouwer, the chief of operations of the Belgian Air Force who is coordinating the UFO investigation, told *The Wall Street Journal*, "Our approach is that it's our job to see what's going on." Indeed, the UFO flap climaxed on the night of March 30-31 of this year, when unknown targets were tracked by the radar installation at Glons, located southeast of Brussels and part of the NATO defense group, and at Semmerzake, located west of Brussels and in charge of controlling military and civilian traffic in the entire Belgian territory. At that point, the master-controller at Glons ordered the scramble of two F-16 interceptors, which also locked the UFO on their onboard radars.

We have obtained, courtesy of French researcher Jean-Luc Rivera, a copy of the complete report of this incident, which was prepared by Air Force Major P. Lambrechts, from the Air Force General Staff in Brussels. The report was forwarded to the SOBEPS following the instructions of full cooperation with that group. The "Report Concerning the Observation of UFOs During the Night of March 30 to 31, 1990," includes a full chronology of the events, as well as a thick dossier of enclosures with eyewitness descriptions from several gendarmes.

Major Lambrechts explains at the inception that, "the observations both visual and by radar were of such nature, that it was decided to order the scramble of two F-16 aircraft with the goal of identifying these UFOs." The report also indicates that "the presence or testing of B2 or F117 A (Stealth), RPVs (Remotely Piloted Vehicles), ULMs (Ultra Light Motorised) and AWACS at the moment of these events in the Belgian airspace, can be excluded."

According to the chronology, the sequence of events began at 10:50 p.m., when the "master-controller at Glons" received a telephone call from gendarme Renquin, who reported he was seeing from his house in Ramillies, "three unusual lights ... forming an equilateral triangle, and with changing colors of red, green and yellow." At 11:05 p.m., the gendarmerie at Wavre sent a patrol, which confirmed the observation. At 11:15 p.m., Renkin called again to inform that he was seeing a new set of three lights, while the radar screens at Glons detected "an unidentified contact moving at a

speed of around 25 knots." (A knot is equivalent to one nautical mile (6,080 feet) per hour.)

For the next two and half hours, an increasing number of gendarmes and other witnesses continued to observe the strange maneuvers of up to three sets of triangular lights in the outskirts of Brussels. By 11:49 p.m., the radar screens at Semmerzake confirmed the targets and the order to scramble two F-16s was given at 11:56, taking off at 12:05 of March 31. According to the report, "the aircraft had brief radar contacts on several occasions." However, each time that "the pilots were able to secure a lock on the target for a few seconds, this resulted each time in a drastic change in the behavior of the UFOs."

During the first lock on at 12:13 a.m., continues the report, "the speed of the target changed in a minimum of time from 150 to 970 knots and from 9,000 to 5,000 feet, returning then to 11,000 feet, in order to change again to close to ground level; this resulted in a 'break lock' in a few seconds and the pilots lost the radar contact." In another lock on at 12:30 a.m., the "break lock" was achieved by what the report calls "a jamming signal on the screen."

Col. de Brouwer explained to *Paris Match* reporter Marie-Therese de Brosse, that the change of velocity from 280 KPH to 1,800 KPH while descending from 3,000 meters to 1,700 meters in one second, was a fantastic acceleration equivalent to 40 Gs. This would exclude any human pilot onboard the UFO, since humans can only withstand 8 Gs. (A "G" is a unit of acceleration equivalent to the gravitational pull of the earth, 9.81 m/sec/sec.)

When the UFO approached the ground level, continued Col. de Brouwer, "it was out of the question for the F-16 to catch up with the object at this low altitude, where the density of the air limits the speed to 1,300 KMP. Above that speed, the temperature in the compressors of the jet turbines would cause the engines to burst. There was a logic behind the motions of the object," added the colonel.

In any case, the cat and mouse game went on until shortly after 1 a.m., when the F-16s were ordered to return to base. On the ground, however, Captain Pinson and other gendarmes continued to observe "four white luminous spots forming a square" until around 1:30 a.m., when "the four UFOs lost their luminosity and seemed to disappear in four different directions." Significantly, the weather conditions on that night were very clear, allowing ground witnesses to observe the objects in detail, as well as the pursuit by the F-16s. The pilots, however, did not observe the objects visually.

Major Lambrechts finally excludes a number of alternative hypotheses for the UFOs, such as "optical illusions, confusion with planets or other meteorological phenomena ... weather balloons ... or meteorological inversions ... holographic projections," etc. More important, he writes that "the speeds measured at the moment of the change of altitudes, exclude the hypothesis that the UFOs observed could be confused with aircraft." Still more puzzling was the fact that, "despite that on several occasions high speeds above the speed of the sound barrier were measured, the shock wave was never observed. Here, no explanation can be given."

Although Belgian military authorities insist the Wallonia UFOs are not secret aircraft, the similarities of the reports in Belgium with those from the Hudson Valley in recent years, and in Whyteville, Virginia and Puerto Rico among other places, have led some researchers to suggest the source of all these observations is terrestrial. We shall explore this theory in next week's column.

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

SWINDON STAR, Wiltshire, England - Aug. 30, 1990 CR: T. Good

From circles to aliens the mysteries grow

IS it a bird? Is it a plane? — no it's a spaceship, claim families living in West Swindon.

Several people living in the Westlea and Shaw areas of West Swindon have reported being woken by a rhythmic high pitched noise.

Ann Farthing, who lives in

The Laurels, Shaw, said: "I woke up about 1am in the morning and I thought someone's alarm had gone off."

"I looked out of the window to see if I could see anything."

"It sounded like a spaceship it was making a hovering, whirring noise and it went on

for so long.

"It stayed in the same area and it worried me because I did not know what it was."

The mysterious noise was also heard by Mrs Farthing's daughter Glenna and son-in-law Mike Noble.

They live in Saddleback

Road, Shaw, with their 18-months-old daughter Mica.

Mike said: "It was like a fast, whizzing sound."

Neither Swindon police nor Thamesdown's environmental health department have received any reports of strange noises in the night.

DAILY MAIL, London, England

Aug. 24, 1990 CR: T. Good

Moving in the top circles

SCOTTISH farmer the Earl of Haddington, 48, has joined crop circle investigators in the West Country and is somewhat excited by what he saw in a field at Wansdyke.

Former Sixties hippie Haddington, who has always had a penchant for the arcane, reports that he saw 'hundreds of black, rod-like things jumping up and down above the top of the crop,' accompanied by flashing lights and an odd, bell-like sound.

P.E.I Residents Claim Something More Than Meteor Crashed Near Rural Village

CHARLOTTETOWN (CP) — A researcher from Toronto and a local astronomer are lending credence to claims by some P.E.I. residents that what they saw Aug. 22 was more than a meteor shower.

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 was a meteor shower.

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 satellite.

Whatever it was, something landed in a field near the rural village of Ebenezer, P.E.I., a few kilometres north-west 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."

Clair Perry, president of the Charlottetown Astronomy Club, 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."

'Little Green Men'

"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

thought the object could not have been a meteorite if it glowed for more than a few minutes.

COURIER, Lothian, England - Nov. 2, 1990 CR: T. Good

Aliens secret held by — Bob's trousers!

PSYCHICS could solve one of the world's best known UFO mysteries...

By examining a West Lothian man's old, torn trousers.

But while that idea has not impressed Bob Taylor, he did reveal some startling news — a new UFO puzzle has landed on his doorstep.

In November, 1979, ex-forestry worker Bob claimed to have had a close encounter in a hillside wood near Livingston.

Part of his story centred around rips on the trousers he was wearing at the time.

The idea to have psychics examine the trousers came when three research

groups — Scottish Research Into UFOs, Strange Phenomena Investigations and Scottish Earth Mysteries Research — held a meeting at East Calder Community Centre last Friday.

Organiser Ron Halliday said: "We still have the trousers Bob was wearing and we're planning to carry out a psychometric exercise on them."

According to Bob's story, he stumbled across a flying saucer in a clearing. While he watched the craft, two objects shaped like sea-mines fell from underneath it and rolled up to him.

Bob lost consciousness and when he came to, there were rips on each side of his trousers.

"The tears could indicate that Bob was lifted up in some way," said Ron. "What we're hoping is that the psychics just might pick up something to explain exactly what happened."

This week Bob was sceptical about the idea when he spoke exclusively to the Courier from his retirement home in Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

"I haven't heard anything about the trousers since the police took them away for forensic tests 11 years ago," said Bob.

"But the UFO people can go ahead with whatever they think best."

GRANGE & DISTRICT MEMORANDUM, England Nov. 1, 1990 CR: T. Good

Couple see UFO over Bay

A GRANGE couple saw a UFO hovering over Morecambe Bay on Friday evening. Mr and Mrs Roy Brightmore spent 15 minutes observing it from their Yewbarrow home.

The only aircraft in service which hovers is the RAF's Harrier, and Mr Brightmore was sure that the plane he saw was a different shape from the famous jump jet.

He explained: "It was definitely some sort of plane that I saw - it didn't come from outer space! It was a delta wing craft,

with eight or ten lights underneath apart from its red and green lights, and it hovered over towards Morecambe for some time.

"I watched it for five minutes, then went to fetch my binoculars, but I couldn't get a very clear focus. The first thing I saw was a light over the bay, too low for a star and too bright. It was hovering, then it went higher before moving to somewhere over the Netherwood area.

"I heard engines as it went over, and wondered if it could be a helicopter, but I'm sure it wasn't. I first saw it at nine o' clock,

because the news was just coming on the television, and I wonder if anyone else could have seen it?"

The RAF's Community Relations Officer at Carlisle, said: "I'm mystified. I am certainly unaware that anything major was going on, and we don't normally fly during evenings and at weekends.

"We would normally be notified about any weekend exercises so that we can inform flying clubs who operate then. Perhaps it was

a helicopter, or a remote possibility is a Sea Harrier performing calibration exercises with a ship or submarine, but I think we would have known about it."

A spokeswoman at VSEL, Barrow, was intrigued by the report, but said nothing was happening to their knowledge. Equally puzzled were British Aerospace at Preston. They checked with their air traffic control department, which said that they had nothing in the air.

NORTHERN ECHO, Darlington, England - Oct. 1, 1990 CR: T. Good

Those baffling close encounters

IT was just like any other night in Redcar town... until one young couple's baby awoke with a startled scream.

What happened next has baffled experts and laymen alike — a close encounter of the most peculiar kind which involved bright lights, a space ship and three-foot tall aliens coming up the stairs.

Why creatures from another planet would want to land their space ship on a half-built carport in the suburbs of a North-East seaside town remains a mystery.

But the couple concerned — who, unsurprisingly, wish to remain anonymous — are adamant they came face to face with large-eyed aliens who entered their home. Everything after that is hazy.

Their story has convinced others, including experts from the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association who have spent many hours investigating the sighting.

Three people are working on the case. Now Bufora's director, Philip Mantle, is considering using regressive hypnosis to draw out more detailed information from the puzzled pair.

In his 11 years as a UFO investigator he has come across many weird and wonderful cases — from the young boy in Wales who had unexplained scars on his wrists after an encounter with a bright light to the policeman apparently whipped aboard a flying saucer for 15 minutes in Todmorden. Little surprises him: "The Cleveland couple described a UFO landing in their carport and have vague recollections of very small entities ascending the stairs. There was a small light and through a haze they



John North

saw these things."

He and other researchers have interviewed the couple in detail separately at their home and compared their accounts with those of other sightings: "They are not lying, they haven't made the story up. They have had a genuine experience. As to the nature and origin of the experience I am still open to ideas," he says.

"They are puzzled by their experience and are perhaps looking for an answer to what happened to them. We can't give them any answers, perhaps we can help them understand and come to terms with it."

The Cleveland case is just one of hundreds — including a record number of sightings in the Pennines — Bufora is still struggling to understand. The self-funding organisation, set up in the 1960s to gather and investigate UFO information, is the only one of its kind in Britain.

It has more than 400 members, as well as a host of scientific experts it can call on for help. New research is published in UFO Magazine or raised at international conferences and information is stored at the organisation's London archives. Philip, who works full time in the printing industry, remains, unlike some of his ufologist colleagues, open minded: "I haven't got a conclusion, I'm a fence sitter. I believe nothing

and I question everything." Now 32, he first became involved after he saw strange lights in the sky at Warminster: "I wrote letters and read some books. I realised there was a genuine phenomena behind UFO reports."

He met his wife on a UFO watch in the Pennines — the top tier of their wedding cake was an iced flying saucer — where there have been more sightings than in any other region. Bufora has now launched a new investigation called Project Pennine: "There has been everything and it has not just been over a short period of time. It has gone on for decades."

Ufologists call it a 'window area'. The most recent case, in South Yorkshire, involved hundreds of sightings of a slow-moving triangular shape. In another incident a man travelling from Carlisle to York claimed he saw a UFO and later woke up in bed with no recollection of the journey home.

Two investigators have been despatched: "What they are looking at is the strange nocturnal lights and unusual luminosities. One theory says they could be caused by fault lines in the earth."

Some researchers believe UFO sightings are due to altered states of consciousness or hallucinations brought on by powerful earth lines. Scientific advances increasingly narrow down the possibilities. Another theory, of course, is that everyone could be having Bufora on. Philip admits: "We are not infallible, if people want to go to great lengths to fool us it can be done. But experience plays a part, and being involved in various cases."

Ufologists use certain key words and

phrases, which Philip likens to IRA call signs, which separate genuine experiences from the hoaxer: "There are various things which crop up from time to time that are not reported and are only known to a certain few."

He admits there is no hard evidence of the existence of alien visitors — only isolated eyewitness reports.

It would take a lot more than the mysterious corn circles to convince him there is intelligent life on other planets: "If they really come all that way and all they can do is crush some corn that's not intelligent, that's stupid."

He says 95pc of UFO sightings are easily explained by aircraft, stars, planets or even the moon being misinterpreted in the sky. But the other five per cent remain a mystery.

One case in West Yorkshire, where a middle-aged woman and several of her children saw an aircraft in the shape of a Mexican hat land in a field and suddenly disappear, will always have Philip baffled: "I have never been able to explain it."

"They saw two tall men in overalls and gloves wearing a visor and scanning the ground with instruments they held in their hands. We interviewed them separately and they all reported what they saw, they didn't call it a space ship or a flying saucer."

Philip adds: "There are sceptics who say it is all bumpkin. Even if it is all bumpkin, it should be of interest to someone. Why are people reporting these sightings, why are they having these experiences?"

Anyone in search of an answer should call Philip on 0924 444049.

Ruth Campbell

CR: T. Good
12, 1990
England - Oct. 12, 1990
EVENING CHRONICLE, Oldham, England

Alert on reports of UFOs

THREE separate reports of a flying saucer hovering above the moors had police in Saddleworth and West Yorkshire on the alert last night.

A 27-year-old Stalybridge man was shaking uncontrollably when he reported the UFO to police officers from Uppermill.

He saw the object earlier as he drove into Yorkshire and, as he returned, it shone a spotlight on his car, close to the county boundary on the Holmfirth road.

Large

His description of a large, saucer-shaped object, with flashing white lights, matched two independent sightings in West Yorkshire.

One was given by a woman who regularly travels the road and both sightings were within 45 minutes.

The moors have been the location for a substantial number of intermittent UFO reports over the past 20 years.

Aviation authorities were not aware of any craft in the vicinity around the time of the sighting, from 9 45 p.m.

CR: T. Good
30, 1990
NEWBURY WEEKLY NEWS, Berkshire, England - Aug. 30, 1990

Circles mystery

The mysteries of the corn circles which recently formed near Beacon Hill, Hampshire, could soon be unravelled, thanks to the BBC.

BBC film crews spent three weeks in June and July filming cornfields at Bratton Camp, near Westbury, in Wiltshire, in an attempt to discover the cause of the circles.

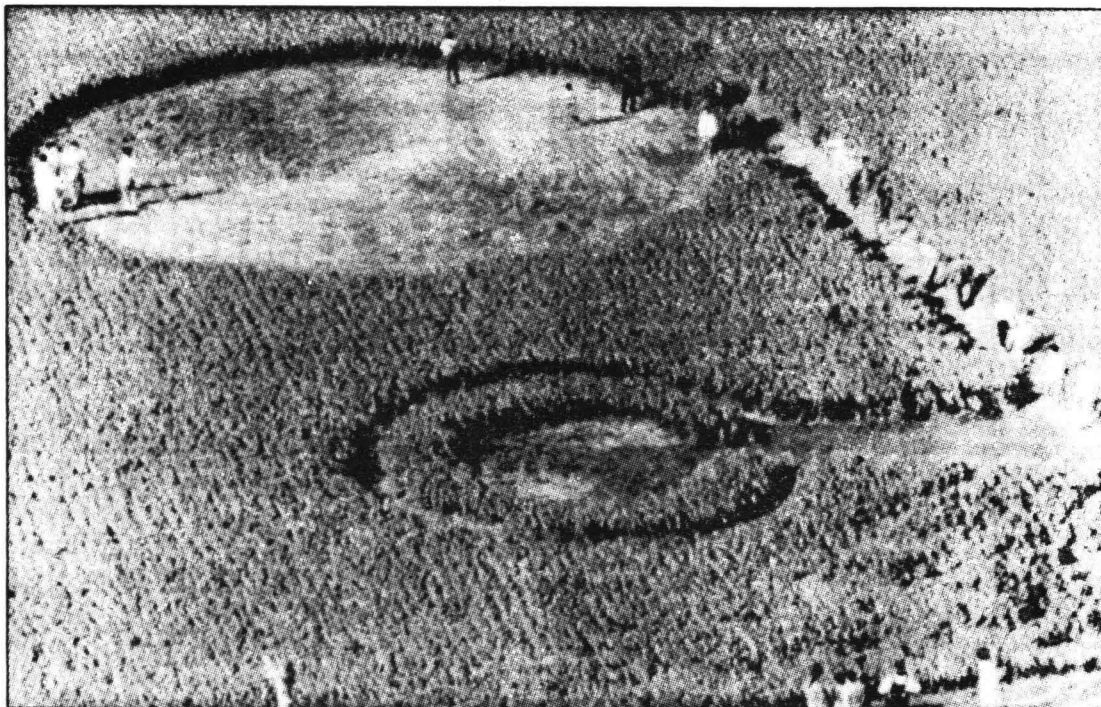
The images caught by their low-light cameras are now being electronically enhanced, and researchers are confident their project, Operation Blackbird, will throw some light on the mystery.

BBC Producer Mr David Morgenstern said, "What you see at the moment are shadows and speckles of light. It is just up to the individual to decide, subjectively, what is happening. The picture is far from perfect and will only give up their secrets when electronically enhanced."

The film is scheduled to be broadcast in October as part of the BBC's daytime magazine show, UK Today.

The project was the third time BBC crews have co-operated with the foremost British experts on crop circles, Mr Colin Andrews and Mr Pat Delgado.

The weird flattened areas of corn have so far been blamed on whirlwinds and UFOs. Mr Morgenstern said viewers would have to watch in October to discover more.



These mysterious crop circles appeared this year in Japan.

AP photo

CIRCULAR EVIDENCE

BY BOB ROSS

STAFF WRITER

The ground looked like a giant cup had been turned upside down and pressed into it.

"It was just such a perfect circle, that's what struck me first," Marian Marcotte said last week. "Then I got this eerie feeling and called my husband, Roilie. We were both a little spooked. There were no other marks. It seemed to us that the only way the ring could have been formed was by something coming down from above."

It was about 7 p.m. Sept. 1 when Marcotte opened the back door of her Williams Lake home and saw the ring — 12 metres (40 ft.) in diameter and 15 cm (six in.) wide — pressed into the gravel back yard. It marked the first recorded sighting in B.C. of the crop-circle phenomenon, widely publicized for its hundreds of appearances in the fields of southern England and other parts of the world in recent years.

Seven weeks after the Williams Lake sighting, another ring — this time 10 metres in diameter and 15 cm wide — appeared in the lawn of Dawson Creek-area farmer Ralph Thomsen.

What caused these rings? Are they evidence that B.C. has been visited by alien spacecraft?

Whatever, they're the kind of cosmic curiosities that excites Graham Conway, Lorne Goldfader and Mike Strainic — B.C.'s resident gurus of unidentified flying objects.

Strainic, B.C. director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), is intrigued by the rings.

"As far as I know, they're the first evidence of just a narrow ring being left," says Strainic, whose group is investigating both incidents. "All the ones in England seem to involve flattening the whole circle."

Goldfader, president of the UFO Research Institute of Canada (UFORIC), says scientists have tried to explain the circle phenomenon by saying they're caused by whirlwinds formed by sudden temperature inversions.

"But when more complex, straight-line patterns started appearing in England this summer, that kind of

put the lie to the whirlwind theory," says Goldfader.

Conway, vice-president of UFORIC, says infra-red cameras in England have captured a red glow and a humming noise over the area where a circle appeared the next day.

"Unfortunately, it's not hard evidence of anything," he says. "The mystery and speculation only mounts."

Things got even stranger in Belgium this summer, where more than 1,000 sightings of strange, delta-shaped objects were reported.

Belgian air force interceptors once managed to lock on their radar but the objects suddenly dropped from 5,000 metres to 500 metres in one second, continuing to play a cat-and-mouse game for an hour or so.

UFOs are old hat for Conway — he has seen lots of them in more than 40 years of skywatching.

"I'm what they call a repeater," says the North Delta

resident, who on three occasions this past summer saw objects whose presence he couldn't explain.

"I see airplanes and helicopters and I see meteors and satellites. . . . And sometimes I'm left in doubt and I stand there and ponder," he says.

UFO sightings aren't uncommon in B.C. these days. Each week, about half a dozen reports are filed with UFORIC (685-1836) or MUFON (683-6168).

The hot spot for sightings is Vancouver Island, which accounted for 36 per cent of UFO reports last year. The Castlegar area has also seen a surge of UFO activity recently.

In the Lower Mainland, UFO reports appear to congregate in Surrey, in a corridor between Scott Road and the King George Highway, running from the Fraser River to the border.

Conway says that in most cases it's not worth following up simple sightings: "All you have is a very impressed witness and nothing to investigate."

One of the more frightening aspects of ufology is the so-called "abduction phenomenon" in which victims report being taken aboard an alien craft, given a medical exam that often involves the removal of sperm and ova and then released.

"These are incredible stories told by credible people," says Strainic, who has worked on about 15 abduction cases in the past two years.

"People are reluctant to come forward and report these kinds of experiences," he says. "We believe we're hearing from maybe one in 100. I'd say over 100,000 North Americans have had abduction experiences in the last 10 years. You could say it's epidemic."

As to where "they" come from, Strainic wonders aloud: "Why do they travel all this way here? Or do they just pop in and out of our reality from a parallel dimension? We still have lots to learn about the physical and the psychic world."

Lower Mainland UFO experts: Lorne Goldfader, Mike Strainic and Graham Conway.

Staff photo by Rick Loughran



Farmer peer going round in circles

THE Earl of Haddington is heading a new national bid to solve the crop circles mystery.

And yesterday the Scottish farmer told me he favoured an out-of-this-world explanation for the riddle.

"I tend to think it's the work of the little people," he said from his home at Gordon in Berwickshire.

"Science just hasn't come up with an adequate explanation."

The Ampleforth-educated 13th earl has agreed to become patron of the Centre For Crop Circles Studies, which is publishing a regular journal — The Cereologist.

Father of two Lord Haddington told me he had kept his own vigil at a secret Wiltshire location this summer and heard a strange noise suggesting an electrical charge.

"The tape recorder just couldn't handle it," he said.

He has been studying the phenomenon for three years and was delighted when the first set of circles in Berwickshire cropped up a week ago.

"There is definitely something afoot," he said.

"These things just beggar explanation."

SUSSEX EXPRESS, Lewes, England - Aug. 24, 1990 CR: T. Good

The mystery uncoils

I WAS most interested to read 'Spheres of Mystery' (August 17th) concerning the discovery by Lewes architect and dowser David Russell of a line of energy through a crop circle configuration at Ditchling, and of an energy line with tumuli nearby.

The recent spate of crop circles in Sussex has given additional proof that the circles are not caused by whirlwind's, tornado's, or any meteorological phenomenon, neither are they the result of UFO's.

All the crop circles that I have examined can be related to energy lines in the ground.

A configuration near Lewes of three large circles, with a small circle at the centre, and a connecting trough to two larger circles, appeared in relation to eight energy lines converging and flowing into the centre of the small circle.

At Wilmington, two circles - one with a rectangular spur, with another rectangle between the circles, appeared in relation to the intersection of two energy lines.

There is an energy line connection between this configuration at Wilmington, and where another crop circle

appeared at an energy line junction point in a wheat-field near Arlington. This crop circle is particularly significant because another circle appeared at precisely the same place in July 1984.

There is substantial evidence that many of the energy lines link some prehistoric sites and features in the landscape. David Tilt, Earth Energies Research, 50 Hindover Road, Seaford.

**David Tilt
Earth Energies
Research, Seaford**

BOB'S UFO IS STILL A MYSTERY

AWAY BACK in November 1979, forestry foreman Bob Taylor was carrying out routine checks in the woods at Dechmont Law, near Livingston.

Just after 10 a.m. on the ninth, he stumbled into one of the best-known UFO mysteries in Britain.

The statement he gave to the police describes how he spotted a 30-foot high flying saucer on the ground in a clearing.

It was grey, with a large flange round the middle and portholes above. There were several antennae on the top.

In the seconds it needed to take the scene in, two spherical objects like underwater mines came rolling out from the underside.

Bob was partially overcome by a pungent smell. He was seized by the thighs and under the chin, fell forwards, heard a whooshing sound then passed out.

When he came round, the saucer had gone. He staggered to his van and tried to radio for help but couldn't speak.

Bob even ran the van into a ditch as he tried to get away. He walked home and got in at around 11.15 a.m., ashen-faced, dirty and exhausted.

THE POLICE examined the area and found strange tank-like tracks, about 10 feet long and seven feet apart. There were also holes in the soil, big enough to put your hand in.

But they couldn't find any tracks leading into or out of the clearing. Something being lowered straight down seemed the only way into it.

They checked with the military and the airport to see if anything that could have made the marks might have fallen off a plane, without success.

The file is still open at the police station and the mystery still unsolved.

They could find no reason to disbelieve Bob, but no concrete evidence to confirm his story, either, other than the marks on the ground.

But tourists and visitors don't need hard evidence, and Livingston is still an important place for UFO watchers.

The police get regular enquiries about the incident, and now Livingston Development Corporation have decided to mark the spot with a plaque.

UFO team seeks sightings



height of cereal crops, makes the rings most noticeable.

Paul says the rings occur in many areas and in a variety of field vegetation, though the nature of a wheat crop makes them far more noticeable.

The rings occur in the form of large circles of compressed wheat. The ground is often compressed rock hard, and the wheat is flattened in a clockwise or anti clockwise direction.

LIGHTS

In Australia, the rings have often been reported in conjunction with strange lights in the night sky, and electromagnetic interference.

But in England, where hundreds of the rings were reported in the last summer alone, there have been few such sightings connected with the appearance of the rings.

The society's interest in paddock rings in this area began in the early '80s, when a ring was discovered in a paddock in Beulah.

This was followed in later years by the appearance of rings in the northern Mallee town of Nandaly, and interest was heightened with the appearance of 12 rings in a paddock of the farm of Max and Nancy Jolley of Turriff. Two years prior to the discovery of these rings, the Jolley's experienced the mysterious complete disappearance of water from a tank on the farm.

LINKED

Now, the society wants to hear from other farmers who have experienced not only rings, but other unexplained occurrences which, while they may seem isolated or insignificant to the observer, could be linked to other sightings or phenomena nearby.

He says the best indicator to the public of UFO type phenomena is elec-

tromagnetic interference with home lighting, or radio or TV reception.

"This type of interference is often reported at the same time as UFO sightings, and it's a good time to go out and take a look at the sky", says Paul.

Of the reports the society receives, 85 percent can be explained by science, or are simple cases of mistaken identity.

Paul is interested in breaking down and investigating the remaining 15 percent.

Similarly, there are formations similar to paddock rings, which are caused by a crop fungus, which develops from a central point, spreading and killing wheat in a circular pattern.

EXPLANATION

Again, the society's researchers can detect cases where this is the cause, and offer an appropriate explanation.

Particular occurrences the society are interested in investigating in this region are:

- rings in wheat fields.
- depression or alteration to normal wheat growth.
- mysterious lights over fields.
- radio or TV interference (electromagnetic) that may have only just started.
- major obvious or substantial water loss from farm reservoirs or water tanks.
- general and/or mysterious family illness or disturbance.

All reported ring locations, other sightings and property owners' names will be confidential, unless the owners themselves decide to go public.

INTEREST

Paul's interest in UFO related phenomena stems back to 1953, when he saw a UFO, while still an American citizen.

He migrated to Australia in 1963, and later took early retirement to study and investigate UFO reports full time.

He has since seen two objects he believes to be UFOs, both in Echuca, between December '77 and January '78.

During this period he watched the night sky for 15 nights, in the hope of catching a glimpse of the strange and unexplained lights which had been reported by various residents of the area over a three month time span.

Paul now spends 4-6 months each year overseas, meeting with other UFO researchers and studying their reports and observations.

Those wishing to report sightings or other phenomena can phone the society's day contact, Mr Pat Gildea on (03) 3794930.

• Paul Norman shows a variety of photographs of "UFO" rings found throughout north western Victoria.

SUNDAY MAIL, Glasgow, Scotland
Nov. 11, 1990 CR: T. Good

Airline pilot spots UFO

A PILOT who has been flying for 23 years is convinced he saw a UFO last week. British Airways Captain Mike D'Alton said the bright object must have been travelling at a phenomenal speed.

He described it as a large silver disc with three points of light - in arrow formation - in the front, and a fourth light behind it.

"I've never seen anything like it before and can't explain what it was," said the 42-year-old West Sussex flier.

He said it was visible for about two minutes over Genoa, during his Boeing 737 night flight from Rome to Gatwick.

"My co-pilot and I called in two cabin crew to see it and then it went out of sight."

"Ground radar couldn't pick it up, so it must have been travelling at phenomenal speed."

Captain D'Alton said he has told the UFO Society Research Association about the mysterious object.

VICTORIAN UFO Research Society Vice-President and Researcher, Paul Norman is currently in the Wimmera Mallee investigating reports of UFO activity in the area, and in particular, the phenomena known as paddock rings.

His visit deliberately coincides with the period shortly before the Wimmera/Mallee harvest which, due to the even-

AVON ADVERTISER,
Fordingbridge, England
Aug. 22, 1990 CR: T. Good

Are UFO's from MOD?

Dear Sir

I was extremely interested in the report of a sighting of a UFO by Ms Manning-Philips since her report is identical to my own sighting of such an object in May.

One morning at 6.30am I looked across the field behind my house and saw this object in the sky glowing red. When I opened the window to get a better look, it moved off backwards which was what amazed me.

I mentioned it to people in my office at the University of Southampton who suggested it might be an experimental type of craft owned by the MOD but I didn't take it any further.

Like Ms Manning-Philips I consider myself to be a down to earth person, very sceptical of "UFO's" but it does seem as though something is happening - is the MOD responsible?

Mrs J V King Landford Salisbury

Going round in grass circles

MADAM - As considerable interest is being generated between scientists, ufologists and all thinking people about the mystery circles/rings appearing in corn and grass fields. Please permit me to correct Bethan Moore's article, August 30, as this does go out to The World Press Clipping Service.

Mrs Vivien Hughes-Davies of Gronant first noted some rings in Erwgoch field in mid-July. It is a sheep grazing pasture with 50-60 bare earth rings now there, which have not increased in diameter as fugi rings do, nor have they decreased.

One area of the field is totally red sand, overall it is hard compact sandy soil.

Mrs Coulson of Voel Farm, Llanfair TH, thought the three mystery circles in her cattle field appeared between April 28/29, so that they have been visible for four months now. Again on a leeward hill-side of closely cropped grass.

The mind boggles at imagining little UFOs busily landing on Erwgoch, throughout the dry month of August, without even the sleepy small village of Gronant noticing.

The only person who appears to have noticed the rings was the observant naturalist.

If these bare soil rings are generated by some form of fungi, it is under extraordinary rare conditions and worthy of more extensive scientific study. So the mystery remains.

UFO INVESTIGATOR for
Bufora & Contact International UK
Frys Croft,
Parc Aelas,
Llangernyw.

Europeans report seeing silently moving UFOs

PARIS (Reuter-Kyodo) Mysterious shapes in the sky, variously described as orange balls, triangles and points of light, set off Europe's latest UFO scare Tuesday.

The silently moving lights were reported from France, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium.

Only Britain, where millions were firing up rockets anyway for Guy Fawkes day, which marks a thwarted attempt to blow up Parliament in 1605, appeared immune from the visitations.

French police and firemen from the German border to the Atlantic coast were flooded with calls in the early evening about "unidentified flying objects."

A Reuter technician in Geneva reported seeing a large

orange ball streaming westward across the night sky from the Jura Mountains toward the Alps.

In France, Belgium and Italy, witnesses talked of a moving shape composed of three, five or six brilliant points of light. The timing and dispersal of the sightings suggested a very large phenomenon at very high altitude.

Experts in Munich said a meteorite might have exploded.

But Belgium, where dozens of people reported a triangular object with three lights flying slowly and soundlessly to the southwest, said its air force was studying the reports in liaison with neighboring air force observers.

Jean-Jacques Velasco, director of France's Service for

the Investigation of Re-entry Phenomena, said the country would launch an investigation.

He said several airline pilots had reported sightings, but no radar contact was recorded in French air space.

One Air France pilot told a radio interviewer: "We were on a flight to Barcelona at about 10,000 meters at 19:03 hours when we first saw the shape. It couldn't have been a satellite because it was there for three or four minutes."

A French yachtsman off the coast of Brittany said, "We saw this geometric shape - hard to call it a mass - with five or six twinkling points of orange light with white trails behind them."

In Italy, six airline pilots reported "a mysterious and intense white light" southeast of Turin. Pilots also reported five white smoke trails nearby.

Belgian radio said the crews of several civilian and military planes had also sighted unidentified flying objects. A British pilot reported four of them flying in formation over the Ardennes hills in the south of Belgium.

CR: Y. Matsumura



HEAVENS above! A Coveney man is convinced he had a close encounter with a UFO last week.

Stephen Fawcett (36) stopped for a breather after jogging on Monday night and looked at the starry sky. What he saw held his attention for 45 minutes.

"I noticed a flashing light and didn't think anything at all of it, because I assumed it was a satellite," said Mr Fawcett, who has belonged to Ely Astronomy Society for seven years.

"Then I looked in the sky again and found this thing had hardly moved at all, which was hardly like an aircraft and hardly like a satellite."

Sceptical, he went indoors to get binoculars, then looked again. It was 7.45pm.

"What I saw was a regular and pulsating, very bright blue flashing light."

"But what was remarkable is that as I looked, the flashes were appearing in different parts of my field of vision."

This led him to believe the flashes were appearing on a much larger body.

And because it was moving in and out of high altitude altitudes clouds, the object was

■ Mr Fawcett claims he saw a large object in the sky above Coveney - perhaps like the USS Enterprise from Star Trek

Amazing UFO claim

very high up.

"It would have been extremely large — half a mile to a mile wide," said Mr Fawcett, who telephoned a friend to get a second opinion.

"He came back to the phone and said, 'What is it?'"

Assured

Mr Fawcett contacted Ely Police, who put him in touch with a UFO monitor at RAF Wyton. Staff took his report and assured him no aircraft manoeuvres were taking place.

"I am a professional person,

and I work as a chartered surveyor in St Ives — it would not be in my interests to make a fool of myself," added Mr Fawcett, of Main Street.

"But I am very interested to know whether anybody in the area saw it as well, because I don't know what I was looking at."

"I was not looking at a stellar object or any kind of solar system object, nor a geostationary or moving satellite."

He is desperate to hear from anyone who saw the mystery object. If you did, contact him on Ely 777457.



■ ET - has one of his kind been spotted in Coveney?

Family's close encounter near Laurieston

ANOTHER UFO has been sighted in the Stewartry. On Monday night Mrs Morag Agnew was driving her young family home to Twyholm when she saw a UFO pass in front of her near Laurieston.

Eight-year-old Kelly also witnessed the strange sight, while Jody (7) caught only a brief glimpse and Danny (4) slept on, blissfully unaware of what was happening.

According to Morag, her parents came across a darker, cigar-shaped UFO with lights on it up near New Galloway a number of years ago.

In September 1981, an object about the size of a Vulcan bomber, with three banks of lights numbering about 15 in all, was seen hovering beside the road near Balmacellan, while, a year earlier, the 'News' reported on a sighting by two women from a house in Castle Douglas.

Back in the late 1970s, there were reports of UFOs being seen in the Crockettford area.

Nothing to do with the moon

MADAM, — If Mr Sheldon of the Cotswold Astronomical Society had been given the full facts of my sighting ("UFO" — or was it just a touch of the moon?), he would not have dismissed the episode as he did in Ferret (September 11).

The moon was on my right in a clear sky with the Bredon and Malvern Hills lights visible. The bright amber light was at least 60 degrees north of it and less than 100ft feet higher than my vantage point, which was 500ft above sea level.

The phenomenon had nothing whatever to do with the moon nor, for reasons which space inhibits me from summarising, with a helicopter, a hot air balloon, microlight or hang glider, aircraft, vehicles or celestial bodies.

The suggestion that the light was shed by the moon, so far from meeting the facts, is speeding away from them.

Perhaps others saw what I did and can offer a credible terrestrial theory that accords with the facts as described to your reporter.

Ferret's Informant,
Pifford Road,
Leckhampton.

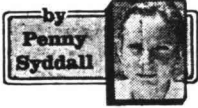
GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO, Cheltenham, England
Sept. 20, 1990 CR: T. Good

WEIRD CIRCLES IN CORN IS MYSTERY FOR FARMERS

TWO sets of the mysterious corn circles which have so far defied explanation appeared at a Berwick St John farm. Their appearance was accompanied by reports of strange lights and winds.

"The first appeared on the Saturday night and the second on the following Monday morning," farmer's wife Mary Pocock said. Together there were two large circles of flattened corn, three small ones and another ring.

"I don't believe it is a hoax, because we tried to replicate them and we couldn't," she said. "If someone is doing it, they are very clever."



Like other corn circles which have appeared overnight around the country, there were no tracks leading through the corn.

These were the first complex circle designs to appear in the village, although a neighbouring farm has had a simple circle, Mrs Pocock said.

Speculation over who the hoaxers might be have included journalists, hippy travellers or young farmers, but Mrs Pocock rejects these theories.

Friends staying at the farm reported hearing a sudden wind which stopped abruptly the night before the circles appeared, while a nearby publican saw a flash of light the same night the corn was disturbed.

Although reluctant to jump to conclusions, Mrs Pocock wondered if the bizarre events could be connected.

● Richard Pocock of Manor Farm puzzles over the circles in his cornfield.



Llowarch Leaving it up in the air

Crop-circles? It's painfully obvious that the hoaxers have veiled many of the facts. Yet there were circles formed long before the so-called popular press ran the story. And nobody seems to have seen the marks being formed - odd if they're attributed to small whirlwinds: shouldn't those things occur when there are people around to observe?

Last year in the Black Mountains near the Skirrid, crop-circles were found. Well, not really crop circles - for these were found in heather. Now that plant's darned difficult to bend to shape, let alone to trample into circles. Even if you're a rugby fifteen!

Over the years, there have been some really daft explanations of the flying saucer phenomenon by officialdom. The favourite is the ubiquitous weather balloon. Let me tell you that I was one of two thousand squaddies on an army camp in 1959 who clearly observed a stationary metallic object to the south-east of our company lines. Glyndwr Taylor down in Skewen can confirm this, as will other honest Welshmen.

The thing stayed in place for three days and the two nights between them, reflecting the sunshine in daylight and glowing for itself at night. Jets went up from the nearby airbase - and the RAF isn't easily panicked. Then came the official explanation aimed at calming down the troops.

"It's a weather balloon." All two thousand of us believed that one, naturally...

And what of trained observers who see and report such sightings? Well, the policemen mentioned last week was not believed by his superiors, yet many policemen - out till all hours and always alert - have been puzzled by things in the heavens which conform to no pattern of identification.

RAF pilots, too, have seen silver discs and suchlike whilst on patrol. There is the idea that official bodies "hush up" these incidents for reasons of their own. Don't want to cause mass panic among the proles, do we...?

So - at the risk of being ostracised as peculiar - let me have a go at presenting what I think these things are. The theory isn't my own, but I more or less subscribe to it. I shall have to go beyond the boundaries of Wales to explain, but it's relevant for UFOs are seen so often over our land.

Early this century, an American aviator flew across the ice-cap of the Arctic. It was a hairy experience and somewhere along the way his plane developed mechanical trouble. The only thing to do was to land on the barren, frozen waste.

Fiddling with his instruments, he brought the plane down and looked out of his cockpit. To his very great surprise, he found himself not amid the blinding white of the polar region but in a temperate place.

Here, he encountered a people who seemed technically advanced. They looked after him and made his machine airworthy again. The flyer took off. He looked down, expecting to see the place from whence he had ascended. Astounded, he saw only the ice-cap beneath his wings.

So we might just have a place on the Earth's surface - below it, even - where civilisation has developed without hindrance from wars, for example. Would it not be possible for the good people of that civilisation to come and observe our foolishness from time to time? And I have no doubt that one day - perhaps sooner rather than later - they'll make themselves fully known to us.

Yes, of course Llowarch is an old nutter who ought to be locked up. But wouldn't it be wonderful if it was true...?



Mysterious symbol in Oregon desert

By JEFF BARNARD
The Associated Press

The first people to see the Idaho Air National Guard photos of the huge geometric design plowed into the southeastern Oregon desert couldn't believe it.

But it turns out to be a Hindu meditation symbol, precisely laid out and plowed into a dry lake bed on the Alvord Desert.

"We're talking a major engineering effort here," Capt. Michael Gollaher of the 124th Tactical Reconnaissance Group in Boise, Idaho, said Thursday. "Somebody

really knew what they were doing, and went to a lot of trouble."

The symbol, known as a sriyantra, measures about a one-quarter mile across, is oriented to true north, and is precisely laid out along a normal training run used by Air Guard pilots, said Gollaher.

"Nobody is really saying this is a UFO type thing," Gollaher said. "The word out at this time is that this is some type of manmade object."

"Most of the speculation is this is probably some sort of cult thing," he added. "Nobody can figure out why somebody would go to such effort to do

this out in god-awful nowhere."

The pictograph was first reported Aug. 10 by Lt. Col. Bill Miller, who returned Aug. 24 and photographed it from his RF-4C Phantom jet, said Gollaher. He said it's unlikely the design was built before the middle of July, because pilots would have spotted it.

"The people in the photo interpretation facility process the film and they say, 'What is this, a hoax?'" Gollaher said. "And we say, 'No, it isn't.'"

No one recognized it immediately, but one of the photo interpreters took a copy of the photograph home, where his wife,

Alicia Gloeckle, identified it in her series of Time-Life books on the occult, Gollaher said.

The design is a square with T-shaped appendages on all four sides. Inside are three concentric circles. Inside those are two concentric circles of lotus leaves. Inside those are nine graduated triangles, four pointing one way and five pointing the opposite, all overlapping. At the very center is another circle.

"It's a focusing device in meditation," said Gollaher. "This particular one symbolizes the continuing of generations. It's a fertility type of thing."

TIMES-HERALD, Burns, OR - Oct. 24, 1990 CR: M. Dobbs

Letters

Questions drawing

To the editor:

I've been doing a little research on that sriyantra pattern that showed up on the Alvord desert, after recently learning of the "confession" by a Bill Witherspoon that he and five others had crafted that pattern. This "confession" doesn't seem to hold water on a number of counts.

In the first place, anyone going to all that effort to etch out a giant Hindu sriyantra symbol would surely want his audience to know something about the spiritual significance of the symbol. That would be paramount, and the letter he quoted in the Sept. 19 *Times-Herald* provided just such an opportunity. However, the composer of the letter instead went out of his way not to mention "Hindu" even once, and to emphasize that the only reason they chose that symbol was because of its great beauty. That doesn't ring true at all.

Second, he never mentioned how they accomplished the most difficult part — etching out such perfect curves involved in the 24 cuspidal segments. With the equipment he mentioned: binoculars, flags, nails, wire string, sticks and a tape measure, there is nothing to have prevented the cusped figures from ending up looking all different and noticeably distorted. Surely any human accomplishes of such artistry would have mentioned how they managed to trace out the most difficult parts.

Third, they never mentioned having first made the same design on a much smaller scale somewhere for practice. That would be a "must;" you just wouldn't start out cold on such a grand project without seeing first how well or poorly you could do it on a much smaller scale. This not having been done, the odds are much greater still that they wouldn't be able to accomplish the pattern without mistakes showing. No mistakes in over 15 miles of curves and congruent lines using untrained people without any modern surveying tools doesn't

make any sense.

Fourth, he made a careful putdown of the architects who had estimated that just surveying the pattern would have cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000. He seemed to be inviting further ridicule of anyone else who would dare suggest that expensive expertise would have had to be involved. (He said the architects were from Portland, while the *Portland Oregonian* said they were from around the Burns area.)

Fifth, he said they had walked to the site instead of driving any heavy vehicles, yet the nearest road to the dry lake bed is, as I understand it, quite a long ways away. They would have had to camp out for the ten days, and this would have meant having camping gear and food, makeshift toilet (no trees around!), etc., for six people, and that in turn would have meant having to haul the equipment in, including the plow and 100 stakes or so. Think how much water would have been required for six people, four of them at a time pulling a plow by hand, for 10 days in the desert in summer. This all would have required some sort of truck, plus another vehicle probably, and could not have been hand carried.

Because of all these improbabilities, I decided to check up on his statement in the *Times-Herald* article that it had rained the night they had finished, which would have been on Aug. 9 or 10 — a rain heavy enough to have washed away all footprints but leaving the pattern quite intact. There was no rain anywhere near there in southeastern Oregon in any of August until Aug. 17 (.01 inch) and more on Aug. 19. I have the Aug. '90 climatological records from quite near there, at Whitehorse Ranch some 20 miles southeast of Steens Mountain, and also from Andrews Weston Mine. And, the satellite photos for Aug. 9 show clear skies over all of Oregon.

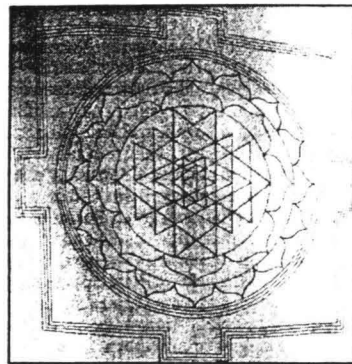
A rancher is said to have reported to Harney County authorities that four vacationing artists made the design;

this rancher is said to have wanted to remain anonymous. This figures, if the whole story is a fabrication.

My own concern in this is that some group in some branch of our government is behind this in doing their best to keep the citizenry from connecting this ground pattern to the patterns in the wheat in southeast England, for example, because of the reported UFO associations of the latter. We know from various independent researchers that certain agencies of our government and most other governments have indeed been engaged in covering up UFO evidence since about 1947, as detailed in books like T. Good's *Above Top Secret* (William Morrow, 1988), Fawcett and Greenwood's *Clear Intent* (Prentice-Hall, 1984), and in Howard Blum's *Out There* (Simon and Schuster, 1990). The first three authors are ufologists, while Blum is a reporter.

If you know of any of your readers who could shed more light on this, I'd appreciate it if you would ask them to contact me.

James W. Deardorff
Research Professor
Emeritus
Department of
Atmospheric Sciences
Oregon State
University



Symbol is a Hindu "sriyantra."

TIMES-HERALD, Burns, OR
Oct. 31, 1990 CR: M. Dobbs

To the editor:

There was an error in my letter to you of Oct. 19 that needs correction. I had looked at the satellite photo for the wrong date. Although upon re-examination of the Aug. 9 satellite photos the skies over the sriyantra site and vicinity appeared clear, weak thunderstorm activity on the 10th cannot be ruled out. Thus I corrected one paragraph to say that rain then at the site was unlikely to have occurred.

However, further checking indicates that rainfall anywhere in the area for all of July was very scant, as you must recall. Thus the soil at the site would have been hard-baked and this would have rendered it impossible to hand-plow 13.3 miles of complicated curves with a 6" deep furrow during a ten-day period using a single old-fashioned garden cultivator, even if the supposed perpetrators did not have to worry about spending time surveying.

I could also mention the further inconsistency that the supposed perpetrators were, from the start, concerned about any adverse impact upon the environment, so they said, and so didn't use any motorized vehicle even to get to the site. Yet, they etched out the pattern, so they claim, without having bothered to get permission first from the BLM. How's that for double-speak!

Sincerely yours,
James W. Deardorff
Research Professor
Emeritus
Department of
Atmospheric Sciences
Oregon State Univ.

DAILY MAIL, London, England

May 29, 1990 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

Riddle of sea cave monsters

SYDNEY: Scuba divers have discovered the remains of creatures unknown to scientists.

Experts are baffled by initial examination of photos of the monsters from an underwater cave off the Fijian island of Matagi in the Pacific. "They bear no resemblance to any marine creature I know," said

diver Kevin Deacon, who has videoed the remains of four creatures amid coral and seaweed. The two largest are 30ft overall with yard-long skulls. They look more like a land animal or an amphibian," he said.

Artist says aliens not involved

By PAULINE BRAYMEN
The Times-Herald

The drawing of an ancient diagram of triangles, circles and squares, on the Alvord Desert last summer was not done by a cult or a laser beam from a "Star Wars" space craft, nor is it part of a governmental conspiracy to keep the truth from the public, according to the Iowa artist, Bill Witherspoon, whose idea it was to reproduce the intricate drawing on the ancient dry alkali lake bed east of Steens Mountain.

He is a little awed by the stir the quarter-mile square drawing has caused in the art world — "People have told us 'Thank you for doing it. The BLM should have paid you instead of 'ining you.'" — and he is surprised that an investigation, including demands for documents from BLM files by evoking the Freedom of Information Act has been undertaken by a professor emeritus from Oregon State University James W. Deardorff.

In a letter to the editor published in the *Burns Times-Herald* Oct. 24, Deardorff questioned the artists' explanation of their act — there were six people involved including Witherspoon's 10-year-old son.

Deardorff feels that anyone who would go to the effort "to etch out a giant Hindu sriyantra (sic) symbol would surely want to know something about the spiritual significance of the symbol," doubts that the perfect curves could have been accomplished in the manner the artists described, and that the probability of rain to wash the footprints away was slim on the days in question.

"My concern in this is that some group in some branch of our government is behind this in doing their best to keep the citizenry from connecting the ground pattern to the patterns in the wheat in southeast

England, for example, because of the reported UFO association of the later," Deardorff wrote.

He is a research professor emeritus of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University.

Deardorff based his conclusions on the letter from the artists, which was printed in the *Burns Times-Herald* just one week after the design was publicized nationwide when the Idaho National Guard spotted the drawing on a routine fly-

nature expresses herself. It is a prominent example of something beautiful," he said.

There is no mystery Witherspoon said. "No. It was just some guys . . . not aliens."

Witherspoon said the curves were done by Bob Hoerlien, also an artist, and himself. The men established one perfect curve and by using triangulation — a geometry principal — reproduced all the additional curves by marking them and stepping them off.

undertook to reproduce the ancient Eastern symbol.

The figure consists of nine overlapping triangles encircled by two rows of lotus petals, four closely spaced circles, and four notched squares.

They worked from the set of 30-inch square blueprints to reproduce the figure in a quarter-mile square area. The work began July 31 and concluded about 3 p.m. Aug. 9.

And Witherspoon says, it did rain. He had gone to a nearby ranch to use the telephone to make travel arrangements to home. Looking back across the desert about 5:30 p.m., he saw the clouds gather, lightning flash and a "cloudburst dumped about a half-inch of water in Mickey Basin" where the drawing was done.

"Outside of Mickey Basin, it didn't rain," he said. "But it rained enough at the site to seal the alkali and wash away our tracks."

Witherspoon said he didn't find this unusual as southeastern Oregon is well known for its localized downpours.

"The last thing an artist does after he's finished is to varnish the canvas. Nature sealed it (the desert drawing). Nature varnished the canvas," he said.

"The Sri Yantra is said to be a description of nature, and to make it that way would be pleasing to nature. It doesn't surprise me that it rained," he said.

"It is no surprise that people would attribute the drawing to some level of higher intelligence. The design is a beautiful display of a deep and profound intelligence. And I'd assure him (Deardorff) that humanity as we know it is capable of producing an object of that degree of higher intelligence. He doesn't have to look elsewhere."

"Beauty is truth, truth beauty," —That is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." — John Keats, 1795-1821

over of the remote Alvord Desert.

"There had already been so much in the press about the drawing and so much confusion that we didn't want to add to the confusion," Witherspoon said of their explanation letter to the *Burns Times-Herald* in a telephone interview from his home in Fairfield, Iowa.

"The drawing is not the work of a religious cult," he said.

The idea came from the challenge to do something big and something beautiful, Witherspoon explained.

"Beauty is truth, truth beauty," —That is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know," Witherspoon said, quoting *Ode on a Grecian Urn* by 19th century poet John Keats.

"Beauty is not just something on the wall to this artist. I was interested in experiencing the deepest realm of creation. The Sri Yantra takes beauty to a realm of truth. It's deep meaning and significance describes the way in which

"We're artists. We're supposed to make lines and curves. That's our business. That's no big surprise," he said.

"We didn't want publicity," he said, explaining why they did not contact the BLM before they started.

"We had previously made the design on a smaller scale and prepared blueprints and worked the project through," he said.

"I researched four different methods of producing triangles error free and settled on one. Because internal triangles have an irrational relationship — similar to pi — it was a difficult math problem," he said.

Tony Lawler, an architect, drew a set of blueprints.

"We drove to within three-quarters of a mile of the site where we made camp. Deardorff is right. It took a lot of water. We hauled water every day — among other things."

Using an old John Deere garden cultivator, 12 miles of twine, some sticks, a tape measure, and a pair of binoculars, the party of six

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Sept. 23, 1990
CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Bigfoot? Or just big feet?

The Associated Press

BOTHELL, Wash. — A Sasquatch hunter says footprints found by mushroom pickers near Mount Rainier National Park are the best Bigfoot prints he's seen in 33 years of searching for the legendary ape-like beast.

"It's Bigfoot track as far as I'm concerned," said Cliff Crook, chief investigator for Bigfoot Central, a Sasquatch-watchers' network based at his home in this northeast Seattle suburb.

He proudly displayed two 7-by-14-inch plaster casts — apparently of prints left by an oversized, heavily calloused ape-like foot — that he said he made Sept. 7 on a sandbar in the upper Nisqually River.

"It wasn't a bear or a horse or a barefoot human," Crook said in an interview published Wednesday in The Morning News Tribune of Tacoma.

"It had to be somebody real tall and powerful and who matches the description of a Sasquatch. I link it to Bigfoot," a reclusive, hairy, ape-like creature similar to the yeti of Himalayan myth.

The Pacific Northwest legend has been fueled by hundreds of reported sightings of Bigfoot or its footprints, but there is no scientific evidence the creature exists.

Crook, who mans a Bigfoot-sightings hotline, said he got two reports of encounters during the Labor Day weekend within a three-mile radius in east Pierce County.

No recent sightings have been reported to authorities, according to the Pierce County sheriff's office and park headquarters.

"You think we'd admit it if we did?" Deputy Ken Tucker said. "There was a state trooper up here who reported seeing one himself 10 years ago or so. He still hasn't heard the end of it yet."

"I've heard nothing from anybody here in the park — no rumors, nothing," said park spokesman Cy Hentges at Mount Rainier.

The first report to Crooks was from Karen and Grant Ferguson of Graham, who had been mushroom picking near the park with her father, Joseph Ried of Tacoma.

Crook said the second report came from a Roy man, who has since been unavailable for comment, the newspaper reported.

Neither the Fergusons nor Crook reported the incident to authorities.

"I didn't want to be made out to look like an idiot," Karen Ferguson said.

In the Fergusons' case, "The minute we started picking mushrooms, we smelled something that stunk really bad — worse than a dead skunk," Karen Ferguson told the newspaper Tuesday.

Then her husband, who was off on his own, heard something "crashing through the bushes like crazy," Ferguson said.

"As we started looking we saw footprints. It took two of my longest steps and a half to make one of his strides."

Ying tong tiddle I (Wen Wei) po

In a "believe-it-or-not" story from Peking, STEVE VINES reports on a bizarre discovery that takes some beating.

DID the Chinese discover the great secret of bringing mankind into perfect harmony with music a full 2500 years before the Sony Corporation introduced their Walkman?

According to Professor Han, of Nanking University, there's no doubt about it. He is the spokesman for a team of archaeologists who say they have discovered an ancient skeleton in a wooden coffin adorned by earphones connected to a black box.

A report in Hong Kong's Wen Wei Po newspaper, which faithfully reproduces Peking's news, quotes Han, giving the following explanation for the discovery: "The earphones were connected to a black box containing silver plates with functions similar to a magnetic

tape and a piece of violet crystal which seems to be the source of the earphones' power."

Being a man of science, the professor apparently seized upon the discovery with some relish, donning the earphones which failed to reveal the top ten sounds of 2500 years ago, but play "a strange song believed to be a dirge summoning the dead to the underworld."

Wen Wei Po claims that this discovery has excited experts around the world who were, among other things, impressed by the fact that the coffins were found in a cave in remote Jianghe, part of the South Eastern Jiangxi province.

Chinese archaeologists and scientists have a strong track record of amazing and exciting overseas experts.



In the past, they have unearthed a piece of equipment which was definitively proclaimed to be an early form of what some jumped-up Western inventors were later to describe as the internal combustion engine.

Alongside rather better authenticated claims to the discovery of such staples as gunpowder, paper and ink, some Chinese also lay claim to discovering electricity.

Allegedly, the ancient Chinese harnessed a form of electrical power which still seems to be absent from great swathes of modern-day China.

In the sphere of food, considerable damage has been done to the harmony of the Sino-Italian relations by the Chinese insistence that the Venetian traveller Marco Polo brought back the idea of pasta from his sojourn in China.

Similar controversies surround the Chinese claim to have beaten everyone else in the world to the discovery of ice cream.

More recently Chinese scientists have been busy proclaiming a breakthrough in producing a treatment for Aids. Like many other Chinese claims, it remains to be seen.

LOCAL

UFO investigator pursues county's animal mutilations

By DAVID CUILLIER
The Columbian

Carlo Sposito's makeshift office is cluttered with business cards from television news reporters, manila folders filled with photos and copies of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network newsletter.

Investigating UFOs isn't so much a hobby anymore for Sposito as it is a cause.

Sposito, a 48-year-old northwest Portland property manager, and other members of the Portland UFO Group have had a keen interest in Clark County since May.

In particular, Sposito has investigated seven cattle mutilations that he says could have been done by aliens.

"Until you actually ... have an interview with the perpetrators, you don't know for sure," Sposito said. "We accept other hypotheses, but the information points in the direction of UFOs."

Sposito is part of a nationwide network that believes some cattle mutilations are being performed with advanced technology, either from aliens or perhaps the U.S. military.

The local group has scanned newspaper police blotters, confided with Clark County Sheriff's Office investigators and sent samples from mutilated cows to labs.

"We're not working in a vacuum," Sposito said. "I talk with professionals across the country about what is going on."

Much of the group's information comes from books and reports collected by Linda Moulton Howe, an Atlanta writer and former television journalist who published the 1989 book "An Alien Harvest."

Howe's periodic newsletter, Animal Mutilation Update, tells of cows discovered dead with laser-like cuts in southern Idaho, Red Cloud, Neb., and rural areas south-east of Seattle.

When a calf was found dead in the Sifton area of Clark County last May, Sposito investigated, noticing that very little blood was found. Howe says that's an indication aliens did the deed.

He investigated six more Clark County mutilations, interviewing neighbors and taking samples. Five of those mutilated cows were found in the Vancouver Lake lowlands area.

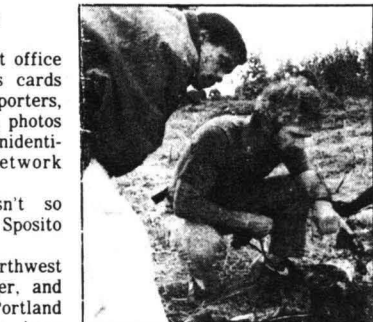
Cuts appeared to be made by a sharp instrument, he said. Also the edges of skin appeared cauterized, as if done by lasers.

Sposito sent samples of the skin to John Altshuler, a Denver pathologist, for examination. Altshuler, who travels the country in his spare time to lecture about cattle mutilations, said this week that the skin was cut using high temperatures because of the way the cells were intact.

In July, Sposito invited Altshuler to Vancouver for a meeting with local law enforcement officers and veterinarians.

"We do not have the laser technology to cut through 8 to 10 inches of tissue," Altshuler said at the meeting. "I have never said that aliens come down, beam up cows and do laser surgery. I only know what I've seen."

The cow deaths were strange,



DAVID CUILLIER/The Columbian

Carlo Sposito points out cuts on a mutilated Clark County cow to Anton Coleman, a medical student from Portland.

said Brush Prairie veterinarian Randy Lee, who examined the mutilated cows. No cause of death was found and the area around the cows had less blood than he would expect to see.

"All in all, they do seem odd," Lee said. "I feel comfortable it wasn't done by predators and it's possible it's being done by something else."

"But I have no conclusive evidence for UFOs."

To make sure alien-mutilated cows aren't confused with those killed by wild dogs, Sposito conducted an experiment last month.

The Vancouver farmer who had five cows mutilated through the summer helped. A cow died of disease in October so he left it in the field where the first mutilated cow was found.

After six days, Sposito discovered that predators ate away at the soft, sensitive parts, making it look like the eyes, lips, and sexual organs were cut away. So, animals that die of natural causes could be mistaken as victims of mutilations.

However, Sposito said, the difference with animals allegedly mutilated by aliens is in the cuts. Predatory animals don't leave serrated edges and intact cell structure, he said.

The Vancouver farmer, who asked not to be identified, cooperated with Sposito throughout the summer, but said he suspects people, not aliens, killed five of his cows.

"I almost think it's got to be people," the farmer said. "Everybody has their own theories and Carlo is welcome to his."

Although mutilations occur in Oregon, Sposito has spent most of his own time and money following mutilations in Clark County.

Chief criminal deputy Garry Lucas discussed the alien theory with Sposito, but believes that cults or malicious trespassers were the culprits in the county's mutilations.

"Aliens haven't been the thrust of our investigations," Lucas said. "All I know is that the experts say they are ritualistic acts."

Sposito said he doesn't know why aliens would be mutilating cattle, but he said he and his group will continue to seek information.

MORE INFORMATION: The Portland UFO Group can be reached for information or to listen to people's experiences. Call (503) 538-0836. The Oregon chapter of the national Mutual UFO Network is available at (503) 981-2344.

CR: M. Dobbs



— Staff Photos by David McDaniel

Joe Johnson is among those living near Peoria, OK, who say the ghostly lights, such as the green glow above the tree line, don't scare him. This time-lapse photo was taken with strobe lights along the road.

Legends Illuminate Eerie Spook Lights

Locals Not Losing Heads Over Tales

By Jim Etter
Staff Writer

PEORIA, OK — Many folks here will tell you about seeing the "spook light" on a dark country road — If not point it out to you — even if they feel more haunted by the real-life sightseers.

The locals say the ghostly glow — whether a marsh gas will-o'-the-wisp or something less scientific — has been floating around this northeastern corner of Oklahoma for longer than they remember, attracting viewers ranging from cuddling couples to spectators in chartered buses to beer-drinking rowdies.

And its legends might equal the stars on a clear Halloween night.

A popular one says the light is the spirit of a young Indian couple who, many years ago while banned from marriage by some taboo, jumped to their deaths into the nearby Spring River from a rock now known as Lovers' Leap.

A less romantic story says the ghost of an Indian man, the victim

of an ax-swinging wife, is carrying the light searching for his head.

Another story says the light is a lantern-carrying miner who was decapitated in an accident, and still another says it's a Civil War soldier left headless when struck between the eyes by a cannon ball.

Most area residents smile at such stories, but don't offer an explanation for the light. They say the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which probed the phenomenon in the 1940s, didn't either.

The illumination is typically reported about five miles northeast of this tiny Ottawa County community and seen from a distance within a three-mile stretch of road running westward from the Missouri state line. But reports of the sightings vary.

"I saw it close enough to make a believer out of me," said Harold Allen, 65, a retired mining company worker of nearby Commerce, who recalled that several years ago "we'd sit there and that light would go right over the top of your

The bright light in the center of the road ahead is not an approaching automobile. There are several stories about the "spook light" and its origin, adding to the mystery.

head — you could probably read a newspaper by it.

"And if you'd turn on your headlights and honk your horn, it'd disappear."

Joe Johnson, 63, a longtime resident of the area, says he's watched the light floating through the woods, causing the dogs to bark. "I'm not scared — I don't believe in spooks," he said. But he added: "There's nothing impossible."

Bob Whitebird, 77, of nearby Quapaw, a former chief of the Quapaw tribe, said he's heard of an actual case of domestic discord in this vicinity that left a husband headless.

"The woman was married to a Seneca Indian, and I guess he treated her bad, and she took their ax and cut his head off — but whether it had anything to do with that (the spook light), I don't know."

Whitebird's wife, Polly, said she has seen the light — plus a big white dog in the same area. "You see it (the dog), then you can shine a light on it — and

"I saw it close enough to make a believer out of me. We'd sit there and that light would go right over the top of your head — you could probably read a newspaper by it."

— Harold Allen

there's nothing there."

Peoria resident Thelma Sullivan has heard the light spooked local miners who were involved with spirits of a different nature. After hauling ore to Joplin, Mo., the miners would return with illegal whiskey, she said, "and when they'd see that light they'd think somebody was spyin' on 'em and they'd hide their liquor, and the next day come back to find it — and then find out somebody had stole it."

General Cousatte, 75, also of Peoria, believes the light is frightening only because of the living beings sometimes encountered there — although residents say sheriff's officers in recent years keep the spook light road mostly free of troublemakers.

"It wasn't a safe place to go at night. There's been a lot of skulduggery up there," Cousatte said, citing reports in past years of violence and even cults in the area.

Chester McMinn, who lives near the spook light area, recalls when "cuttin' up" by visitors was dangerous to local residents. "We used to milk by lantern light, and my wife didn't want me to go down in the pasture at night, afraid someone would shoot the lantern."

But he also recalled doing some scaring of his own. "I used to have a '48 Chevrolet with a spotlight on it. I'd come coastin' along and I'd get right up to 'em (parked cars), then turn on that spotlight. You talk about hollerin' and screamin'."

By Jeff Alan Hewitt
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Is it possible that demonic spirits or fallen angels are behind the Persian Gulf crisis? Could intricate designs formed in crop fields be omens of war in the Middle East?

Well, don't discard the data because they don't make any sense.

That's the philosophy of the International Fortean Organization, which threw its Fortfest '90 conference on strange phenomena over the weekend. Fallen angels and crop circles may not be uppermost in the minds of leading political analysts, but it's this sort of open thinking on which self-described researchers held forth for the Tysons Corner gathering of about 150.

"I'm horrified by what's happening in the Middle East," Washington writer Sophy Burnham told conferees. "There is, it seems to me, a demonic force and it cannot be ignored."

UFOs, archeoastronomy, ghosts, religion, parapsychology and cryptozoology also were on the agenda at the event held by the 1,000-member INFO. The non-profit, Arlington-based organization is devoted to the legacy of curiosity left by Charles Fort, a turn-of-the-century New York newsman obsessed by weird data.

In 1919, he wrote "The Book of the Damned," examining all the "damned data" ignored by the scientific community. Today, INFO collects such irregular data and keeps archives on bizarre phenomena.

Although Miss Burnham fears such a demonic force also could be causing drug and alcohol abuse in this country, her lecture Saturday focused on positive experiences people have had with angels — the subject of her recent "A Book of Angels."

"When I was 28, I was saved by an angel," Miss Burnham, who is in her

Fortean followers are keeping spirit of the weird alive



Charles Fort

40s, told the audience.

It seems she was on a ski trip in France when she veered off the main track, tumbled toward a cliff and stopped only when she plowed into a man standing not far from the edge of a cliff.

"There I was, tearing head-first down this track," she said. "Suddenly I didn't care. My attention was captured by the sky ... it was utterly magnificent. At that moment I was stopped."

"He didn't move. We did not fall in a jumble of four skis. I didn't even have a stiff neck from falling [at] 30 mph into this man's legs," Miss Burnham said.

The man did not speak, she said, and soon disappeared.

After the lecture INFO members lined up for more than an hour to get

autographs and share experiences. Washington artist Carol Pursell Baliles was particularly affected.

"I saw an aura around her body while she was speaking," Miss Baliles said. "I could combine my spirit with her spirit and feel a oneness with what she was saying."

The emotion sparked Miss Burnham and Miss Baliles to a long, empathetic embrace.

Meanwhile, Andrew Rothovius, a founder of the New England Antiquities Research Association, gave a speech on the highly publicized "crop circle" mystery — puzzling patterns appearing on crop fields all over the world. Mr. Rothovius said he recently studied the circles in England, site of most occurrences.

Patterns range from small, simple circles about one foot in diameter to complex patterns and circles as large as 50 feet wide, some resembling ancient writing or pictograms.

Sightings have increased dramatically from 75 two years ago to "well over 400 this year," Mr. Rothovius said.

"We are dealing with new and peculiar shapes," he said. "I don't mind telling you that it was an unnerving experience to be standing in that circle and realizing that I was standing in something that is not even supposed to exist. But there it was."

Some "higher power," he speculated, may be trying to communicate something.



Reuters

In September, circles appeared in a rice paddy in southern Japan.

"It may be that this is some kind of warning ... [maybe] something related to the Middle East crisis. I don't know," he said.

Researchers are certain a spinning mechanism creates the circles, Mr. Rothovius said.

"What generates that spinning — what motivates it — we have no idea. This power is like an unseen wind that presses down the wheat. It doesn't kill the vegetation. The grain is still perfectly harvestable."

For theories, conferees, who range from young to old, might have looked no further than the sensational Weekly World News tabloid, which nestled in an organizer's sup-

ply box under the registration table.

Some participants dressed a bit out of style or wore gemstone jewelry. But this conference was about the mind, ideas that are improbable, but not impossible.

The group's namesake, journalist Charles Fort, kept coming across "lots of hard-science literature references to tangible anomalies," explained industrial engineer and INFO member Richard Leshuk of Manassas.

A good Fortean mind knows not to be judgmental about such abnormalities, Mr. Leshuk said. "A good Fortean mind would say, 'Tell me a story!'"

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 14, 1990 CR: G. Conway

Ogopogo makes surprise appearance

By MOIRA FARROW

An Alberta couple thinks they have Ogopogo amongst their holiday snaps.

They dropped the baby but managed to grab a camera when a creature they're convinced is the legendary monster of Lake Okanagan surfaced beside their boat.

"It looked like a humungous snake with a body that was all smooth and shiny," Tina Pascal said in a telephone interview Monday from her Kelowna motel.

"It came up like a submarine with water pouring off its body — you could tell it was big by the powerful swooshing noise it made in the water."

Pascal, 21, said she was so shocked she screamed and dropped her five-month-old son, Jamie.

She and her husband, Mike, 25, who live in Fort McMurray, were on vacation in the Okanagan when they saw what they are sure is Ogopogo on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

"We were out in the lake in our ski boat heading toward Vernon when the baby started fussing," she said. "So we decided to stop and try to find a quiet place so that I could feed him."

She said she'd just finished feeding the baby and happened to glance over her shoulder and saw what at first seemed to be a couple of waves heading toward the boat.

"Then this thing surfaced right out of the water and I screamed to Mike 'that's it,'" said Pascal, explaining that she meant Ogopogo.

Mike Pascal said that while he watched the creature, about 10 metres of its back came about a metre high out of the water, but its head and tail were never visible.

Arlene Gaal, Kelowna's resident Ogopogo researcher, said there have been four alleged sightings of the creature in the last two weeks. She said that number does not include two apparent sightings made last month by a Japanese television crew.



OGOPOGO: couple's photograph of legendary monster

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland

June 15, 1990 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

A large black object

Sir,—I have been reading your assessment of the Loch Ness monster in the weekend "Courier" and think you may be interested in my personal experience in the matter.

I have known Loch Ness intimately for many years, and of course am aware of all statements and stories. For many years I had kept an open mind on the matter until one warm and sunny July day my mind was suddenly changed.

My late wife and I were cycling from Inverness to Foyers when suddenly our attention was drawn to the loch. I saw a disturbance on the water and realised that some large creature was swimming just under the surface. It was causing quite a bow wave.

This was not a flock of ducks or other birds, nor was it an eddy caused by something floating on the water, nor was it a large fish cruising, as large fish

sometimes do. I have fished too long to be deceived by anything like that.

I said nothing at first and then realised that my wife was looking at the same thing and likewise was saying nothing. We got off our bicycles and watched for some time.

At last my wife said "Do you see what I see?" and I said, "Yes." Thereupon we both came to the independent opinion that here was a phenomenon which we had never seen before.

Then on yet another occasion we were travelling, this time by car, when opposite Urquhart Castle we became aware of a large object right out in the middle of the loch.

It was large and black, but it was too far away for us to see any distinctive features, but there is no doubt that there was some large and strange creature which neither of us knew.

(Rev) Harry Cumming.

Dunmuir,
Western Road,
Auchterarder.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Dec. 12, 1990

Spotted monster, Oklahoman says

BY ANDY GOTTLIEB
Democrat State Desk

FOUKE — A Miller County encounter has made a believer in legend out of Jim Walls of Clinton, Okla.

Walls, 49, said he sighted the "Fouke Monster" recently and heard its scream another time. He described the monster as being 8 feet tall or more, covered with long, coarse black hair and weighing at least 350 pounds. It emits a stench and a piercing scream, he said.

"Whatever it is, those people down there should be a little more cautious than they are," Walls said in an interview last week.

Although area sightings date to the 1940s and 1950s, Fouke received international publicity in May 1971 when Bobby Ford, 25, reported being attacked by a "large, hairy

Miller County

creature." A film about the monster, "Legend of Boggy Creek," was made a year later.

Since then, a few monster sightings occur annually, said Miller County Sheriff H.L. Phillips. He said sightings have increased of late, with about four reports in the last three months.

Phillips said his office no longer investigates the reports like it once did, but he does not believe all sightings come from crackpots or are part of a hoax.

"They're seeing something," he said, speculating that the monster could be a bear or a panther. "I don't know what they're seeing."

Walls said he first saw the monster near the Sulphur

River Bridge at 8:15 a.m. Oct. 22 as he and a friend, Charles Humbert of Oklahoma City, were heading north along U.S. 71. It was Walls' first time in the area.

The two watched the monster run upright from a clearing to the river bank. It jumped down the 30-foot bank into the river below and disappeared, Walls said.

His curiosity aroused, Walls, his 17-year-old son and Humbert returned to the area Nov. 21 in search of the beast. The trio camped by the Sulphur River near Arkansas 237.

Later that evening, the threesome heard in the distance a monstrous scream and gunshots, but saw nothing. Walls said he believes at least two hunters were shooting at the creature. The hunters have never come forward.