

# UFO

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## UFOs, odd lights reported over Culver

CULVER (AP) — Reported sightings of unidentified bright lights in the sky have dozens of residents in this small 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, 12 miles southwest of Plymouth in Marshall County.

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. "I've seen them turn off all their lights and appear to have disappeared. And then turn them back on several hundred feet across the sky."

Wagner said she has seen four to five

different light patterns, but that the most common is triangle-shaped. Other people have reported "bow ties" and circular patterns.

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. He said he even saw some strange lights in the sky the evening of Oct. 4, the night of Wagner's first sighting.

"I don't know whether it was a UFO or not, but at the time, I thought it was a meteor," he said. "It descended in the sky above me down toward the horizon."

"I didn't attach any greater significance to it until I started hearing other people had been seeing different things that same night."

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.

Capt. Cathi Kiger of the Indiana National Guard said flares are often used for training exercises and on ranges when firing artillery, "but I can't find anything that we might have done that would have contributed to these lights."

Police Chief Jim Burroughs of nearby Argos said there are lots of "rumors on the streets, but I haven't seen anything yet."

Gary Flagg, a security guard from Argos, said he has seen something — and often.

He said he has been keeping a log since he first spotted the lights March 7. He was driving to work at 9:45 p.m., he says, when he saw a white, triangular-shaped

light pattern.

"I just stopped on 17th Road (in Marshall County) and got out of the car and watched," he said.

"That one was about 500 feet over the top of the car," he said, reading from his log. "It moved real slow, extremely slow. I don't even know how it stayed in the air."

Flagg didn't report the sighting to police, but did confide in his wife.

Then on Oct. 3 and 5, he was driving with his family when the triangle-shaped lights appeared again. His sister, Cindy Flagg, a preschool teacher who describes herself as "a skeptic," also saw them.

"There was a triangular thing going over. It had three or four lights. ... It was going really slowly and there was no sound," she said.

A common place to watch has been the Poplar Grove United Methodist Church and cemetery, located along Indiana 10.

CURRY COASTAL PILOT, Brookings, OR - Nov. 14, 1990

## Saucer-shaped flying machine fascinates Chetco resident

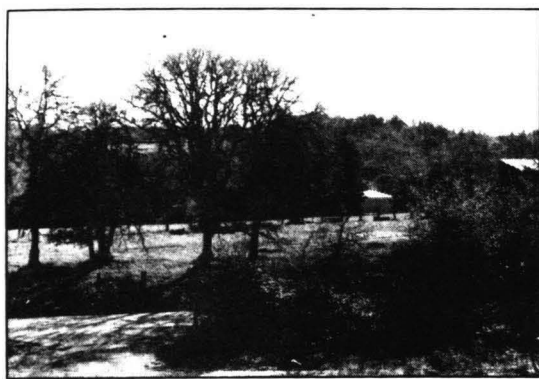
Frank Perkins was on his way back to the house after feeding his pigs Friday morning, Nov. 9, when he saw an unusual flying object.

"I didn't hear anything, but for some reason I just looked in the sky," he says, pointing beyond some utility wires above the driveway. It could have been the object's brightness that caught his eye, he added.

"I didn't hear anything. But I looked and there was something up there. It was so bright," Perkins says, "it was kinda hard on the eyes."

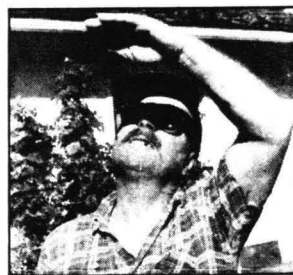
"I could see it good and clear. There were no clouds around," he says.

Perkins and his longtime friend Pat Ranney live about five miles up the North Bank



Chetco River Road. Both of them said they realize some people don't believe in extra-

terrestrial sightings. But Perkins believes what he saw. And Ranney believes



Skyward ho! Frank Perkins, above, says he saw the UFO zip south over the Chetco River, left, "on to California." (Photos by Frann Grossman)

Perkins whom she describes as "no weirdo or crackpot."

"He tried calling to me,"

Ranney said. "But I was putting wood in the stove and didn't hear him until it was too late."

Perkins says the object could not have been a plane or a helicopter. He said it kept turning around and around. It was bright silver with windows in a domed top, "just like the pictures you see ...," Ranney said.

The object was "pretty high," Perkins says. He estimates maybe a mile or two up.

It hovered over the property for a moment and then scooted off over the road, above some trees in the distance and across the river.

"Headed toward California, I guess," Perkins said.

—Frann Grossman

TRIBUNE, New York, NY - Oct. 19, 1990 CR: A. Huneeus [Reprinted with permission]

## Gov't Hush-Hush on UFOs Assailed By Author Seeking Release of Data

BY J. ANTONIO HUNEEUS  
Special to the New York City Tribune

The U.S. government has been withholding secret data on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and should release it to the public, according to a number of scientists and other experts.

"We are calling for President Bush to quickly become informed about UFOs ... and to reveal the truth about them to the American public without delay," said John White, an author of paranormal books and a former aide of astronaut Edgar Mitchell's Institute of Noetic Sciences.

White delivered his comments last week at the Omega Communications UFO Experience Symposium in North Haven, Conn., before an audience of about 250 attendees. White is president of the organization.

A former naval officer who once had top secret clearance in the government, White also called on Bush "to work with the Congress to end government and military abuse of authority in covering up that truth."

White said that he was aware of the possible need for national security in discussing these issues, and said "we are not calling for any action which might endanger that."

Nevertheless, he added, "citizens must be free to pursue legitimate research into the question of what UFOs are, where they come from, and why they are here."

Astronomer Dr. Brian O'Leary, a former NASA astronaut and author, explained that "in the course of gathering information as a scientist, it became very clear to me that the government has been keeping secrets from the public." He added that he was not "an insider," but that the most likely "primary reason for the secrecy was the fact that we were involved with superior technologies, ones that could be used by the military, ones that could have Cold War implications."

This reason was now "evaporating" with the end of the Cold War, continued O'Leary, but "we are left with bureaucratic inertia."

Another reason for the ongoing UFO cover-up, added Dr. O'Leary, "may have to do with the fact that a lot of officials in the government may fear another Watergate or Irangate type of situation." The scientist suggested "a course of action which involves forgiveness and exoneration in a way that doesn't cause prosecution of anybody."

By contrast, Howard Blum, a former New York Times reporter who has just published the book *Out There — The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials*, recommended a quite different tactic. Blum claims in his book that the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) is coordinating a UFO Working Group composed of 17 members of the intelligence community, which was initiated in 1987 and has an annual budget of \$15 million.

This group, he said, "is covertly investigating the possibility of the existence of UFOs as well as the existence of extraterrestrial life."

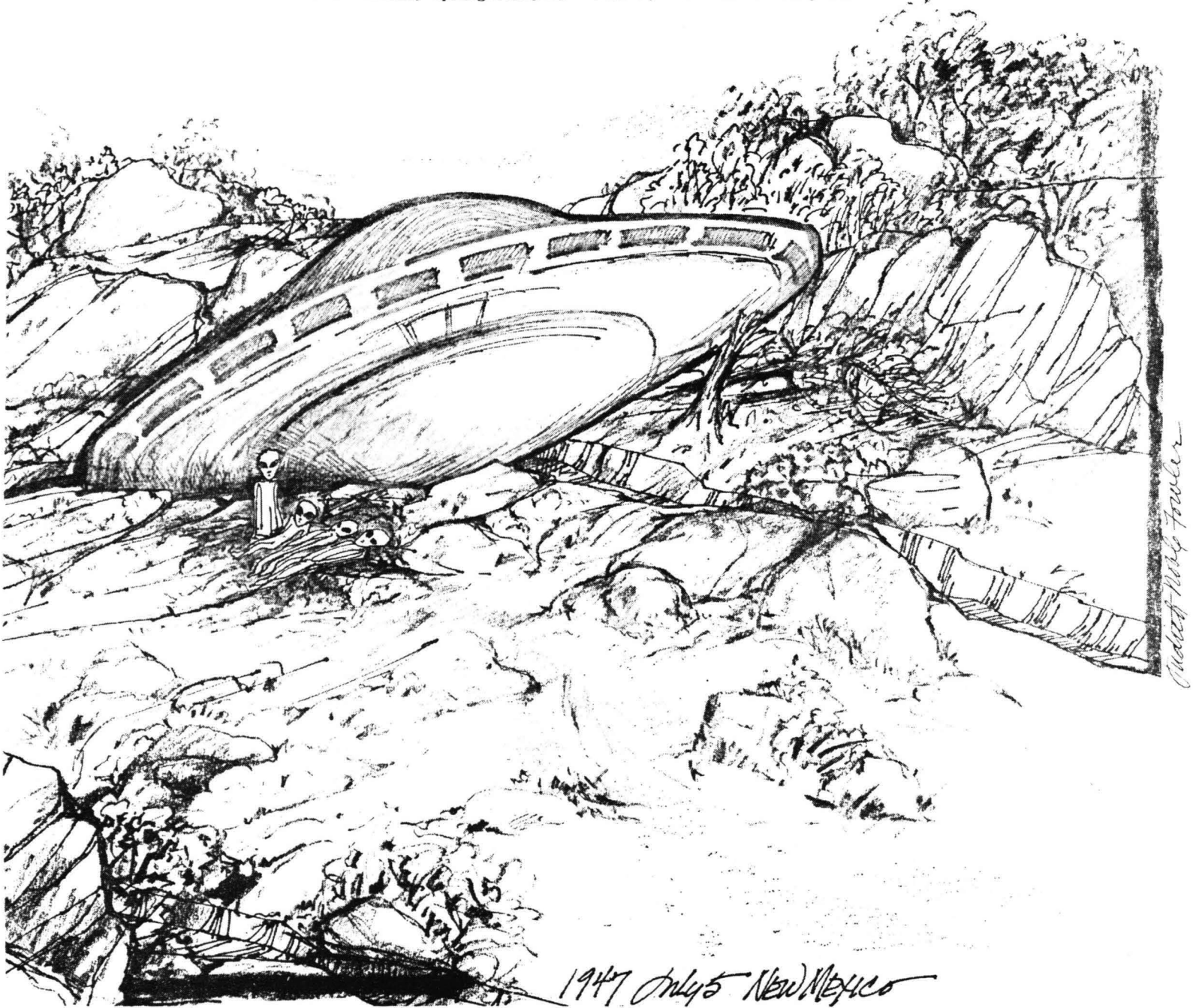
Although Blum has stated that he is not personally convinced in the reality of UFOs, he said that "the time has come for the government to admit its ongoing investigation and to show what it has found."

Further, it's time for the government to acknowledge its participation in an immoral and illegal disinformation campaign designed to harass and misdirect UFO researchers."

Clearly departing from O'Leary's recommendation of exoneration, Blum contended that the officials responsible for this campaign, "which involves domestic spying by members of the military intelligence on U.S. citizens, should be held responsible by the appropriate law enforcement agencies."

Also present at the gathering was Connecticut attorney Robert Blechman, director of Public Relations for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the world's largest organization dedicated to the study of UFOs.

Blechman showed a declassified U.S. Air Force document on UFOs, dated October 20, 1969 and signed by Brig. General C. H. Bolender. The once secret memorandum clearly stated that "reports of UFOs which could affect national security are not part of the Blue Book system" and "would continue to be handled through the standard Air Force procedures." Project Blue Book was the official USAF UFO probe, which was terminated in 1969.



1947 July 5 New Mexico

Illustration by Judith Noble Fowler, enhanced from sketch by Gerald Anderson

# Fact or fantasy?

## Springfieldian seeks validation of UFO encounter 43 years ago

By Mike O'Brien  
For the News-Leader

To a 5-year-old kid from Indianapolis, the mountains and mesas and vast scrubland surrounding Albuquerque seemed an alien world.

"I was in awe," recalls Gerald Anderson of his arrival in New Mexico with his family in July 1947. "I was in the wild frontier. There were real, live Indians out there."

Then, says Anderson, on his second day in the Southwest, he bumped into real, live creatures from a truly alien world.

There were four — two dead, one dying, one apparently uninjured. The creatures were about 4 feet tall, with heads disproportionately large for their bodies by human measure, and almond-shaped, coal-black eyes. They huddled in the shadow of 50-foot-diameter silver disc — a "flying saucer" that had crashed into a low hillside on the rim of what locals call the Plains of San Agustin.

Anderson, a former police chief at Rockaway Beach and Taney County deputy sheriff who now works as a security officer in Springfield, is adamant about events on that hot midsummer day so long ago.

"I saw them. I even touched one of the creatures. I put my hand on their ship. And I

wasn't alone — my dad, my uncle, my brother and my cousin all saw the same things. And so did a lot of other people. But they aren't talking."

Anderson is talking, publicly, after 43 years of silence.

Among those listening most intently are some of the foremost researchers into unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena. These experts say Gerald Anderson appears to be an important link in a frustratingly fragmented chain of evidence concerning the most famous — or infamous — chapter in UFO annals: the so-called "Roswell Incident."

No one denies that *something* happened in July 1947 in central New Mexico, cradle of U.S. nuclear and rocket technology. However, military authorities insist reports of strange craft in the sky and bizarre wreckage on the ground were traced at the time to an errant weather balloon and other manmade or natural circumstance.

Nonetheless, over the years, persistent whispered rumors grew into published articles and books, even movies, which fanned speculation that what actually occurred was a visit by creatures from another planet — an intergalactic

expedition that turned to tragedy on the high desert and then into a massive coverup in the highest circles of the U.S. government.

Anderson says he was unaware of ongoing fascination and controversy over the strange episode from his childhood until one evening this past January when he was flipping through channels on his television set and stumbled across the popular program "Unsolved Mysteries."

"I wasn't looking for any unsolved mysteries — I have enough mysteries in my life that are unsolved, and I don't need any more," Anderson jokes. He is a burly, barrel-chested man, standing 6-4 and carrying a muscular 250-plus pounds, with reddish hair and a ruddy complexion creased from easy laughter.

"But, bingo! On comes this story, and everything was wrong," Anderson recalls of the TV show. On sudden impulse, he dialed an 800 phone number that flashed onto the screen. "I guess I figured that if people were still interested in this thing, they might as well get it straight" is the only explanation he can muster for speaking up after years of keeping mostly mum on the matter.

"These people don't know what they're talking about," Anderson told the operator on the other end of the long-distance line. "The shape of the craft is totally wrong. And how do you know that, sir?" she asked. "I saw it, I was there," I told her. "Whoa!" she said. "There are some people who will want to talk to you ..."

Anderson's phone soon was ringing with calls from UFO researchers around the country. One in particular, Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist and popular lecturer who had advised the "Unsolved Mysteries" producers, was struck by correlations between Anderson's recollections and

(continued on page 3)



Anderson



(continued from page 2 - NEWS-LEADER,

Springfield, MO - Dec. 9, 1990)

obscure details Friedman uncovered while sleuthing for a book to be published next year.

Friedman, who lives in Canada, contacted John Carpenter, a Springfield professional therapist who in his spare time serves as director of investigations for the local chapter of Mutual UFO Network, a nationwide organization of UFO researchers. At Friedman's request, Carpenter conducted extensive in-person interviews of Anderson, including sessions under hypnosis.

The results excited Friedman. "Powerful stuff!" he exclaimed upon hearing interview tapes. Friedman arranged airline tickets for Anderson and Carpenter to join him in New Mexico to pinpoint the crash site.

Anderson says the flight was his first return to New Mexico in more than a quarter-century. After pointing the pilot of a chartered helicopter to a spot in the desert 75 air miles southwest of Albuquerque, Anderson gazed at a hillside, strewn with boulders the size of Volkswagens and dotted with a few gnarled pinon trees, that he says he last saw in the summer of 1947 ...

#### A new home

The Anderson family arrived in Albuquerque from Indiana on July 4, 1947. They took up temporary residence at the home of one of Gerald's uncles, Guy Anderson. Gerald's father, Glen, was about to take a job as a master machinist involved in nuclear weapons design at the super-secret Sandia base on the outskirts of town.

The next day, another uncle, Ted, struck up a conversation with Gerald's older brother Glen Jr., who was on leave from the Marine Corps. Glen Jr. was a rockhound, and his uncle piqued the young Marine's enthusiasm with tales of gorgeous stones just waiting to be collected in the desert.

"Ted told my brother, 'I know where there's plenty of moss agate.' So we all piled into a 1940 Plymouth — Uncle Ted, my cousin Victor (Ted's 8-year-old son), my brother Glen, my dad and myself. We went out into this area where the moss agate was supposed to be — followed two ruts into the desert, bounced along out there for a while, and ended up on top of a ridge line. We parked the car and started to walk down an arroyo (gully) and dry creek bed and out onto the plains.

#### A strange discovery

"But we came around a corner and right there in front of us, stuck into the side of this hill, was a silver disc. There were some remarks like, 'There's a crash up here! Something's crashed up here!' And then someone saying, 'That's a goddam spaceship!'

"We all went up there to it. There were three creatures, three bodies, lying on the ground underneath this thing in the shade. Two weren't moving, and the third one obviously was having trouble breathing, like when you have broken ribs. There was a fourth one next to it, sitting there on the ground. There wasn't a thing wrong with it, and it apparently had been giving first aid to the others."

Anderson animatedly acts out the fourth creature's reaction when the family members approached. "It recoiled in fear, like it thought we were going to attack it," Anderson recounts, covering his face with crossed arms. The adults tried repeatedly to communicate with the frightened creature, Anderson says, but there was no audible response to greetings spoken in English and Spanish.

A few minutes after the Anderson clan happened upon the bizarre scene, six other people arrived — five college students and their teacher. They'd been working on an archeological dig around cliff dwellings a few miles away and had decided to hike over after seeing what they thought was a fiery meteor crashing the night before. The professor, a Dr. Buskirk, tried several foreign languages in unsuccessful attempts to coax a verbal response from the creature, Anderson says.

The sun had climbed to a midday peak by this time and, recalls Anderson, "to a kid from Indiana, it was hot, brother, let me tell you." He'd chugged a chocolate-flavored soft drink an hour earlier, and the sweet soda pop was churning uncomfortably in his stomach. So he sought shelter in the shadow of the spacecraft.

"It was 115 (degrees) out there that day. But around the craft, when you got close to it, it was cold. When you touched the metal, it felt just like it came out of a freezer."

#### Something wasn't right

Anderson also touched one of the creatures lying motionless on the ground — and it, too, was cold. In his child's mind, he had thought the figures looked like dolls. But when he felt the cold skin, "I knew something wasn't quite right. Yuck!"

Anderson says he ran to the crest of a nearby knoll to take stock. A pickup truck arrived on the ridge, and a fellow whom researchers believe was a civil engineer named Barney Barnett joined the curious audience. "I remember thinking he looked like Harry Truman. In 1947, every kid knew what Harry Truman looked like," Anderson says.

After a few minutes, Anderson summoned the courage to again creep close to the strange saucer. It was then, he says, he felt something more chilling than the surface of the craft or the skin of the corpse. The upright creature "turned and looked right at me, and it was like he was inside my head — as if he was doing my thinking, as if his thoughts were in my head."

Anderson remembers a mental sensation of falling and tumbling end-over-end. "I felt that thing's fear, felt its depression, felt its loneliness. I relived the crash. I know the terror it went through. That one look told me everything that quickly," he says with a snap of his fingers.

Other things began happening quickly about this time, Anderson says. A contingent of armed soldiers suddenly appeared. The creature, which had calmed down after its initial fright, "went crazy" at the sight of the soldiers. Thinking back on the creature's plight today brings on "the awful-est, horrible feeling," Anderson says.

"His situation was hopeless. He knew it. He'd just lived through a nightmare that most of us wouldn't be able to psychologically stand. He'd watched two of his crew, his friends or maybe even his family, die. He's watching another one die. He knows there's no chance of rescue, because the military is here and his people aren't going to be able to get to him."

"God only knows how far away from home he was, and he knew he was never going to see — if they have loved ones — his loved ones again. He was totally alone on a hostile planet, and the only people who were showing him kindness were being run off by the military at weapon-point."

"As a kid, I was aware of what being afraid of the dark was like, and the feeling I got from him was that feeling multiplied a million times. It was scary. It was terrifying."

#### Soldiers on the scene

Anderson says he lost sight of the creature as the soldiers swarmed over the site. The civilians were brusquely shoved from the craft. Anderson remembers shouts and threats. His uncle Ted threw a punch at one of the GIs. "Things got very tense, very dangerous," Anderson says. "The soldiers ushered us out of there very unceremoniously. Their attitude, to describe it at best, was uncivilized."

Anderson has an especially vivid memory of a tough-talking red-haired Army captain and an equally gruff black sergeant. "They told my dad and my uncle, who also worked at Sandia, that if they were ever to divulge anything about this — it was a secret military aircraft, they said — then us kids would be taken away and they'd never see us again." It seems an outrageous threat in hindsight, Anderson con-

cedes. But at the time, he reminds, "These people had machine guns and you listened to what they said."

Another recollection strikes Anderson as odd today: The soldiers didn't appear surprised about the otherworldly craft and creatures. They didn't gawk, slack-jawed and awestruck, as the Andersons had done. "The soldiers weren't saying, 'Gee, look at that.' They were very cognizant of what they were looking at. They knew what it was."

And it soon became apparent, Anderson says, that the Army knew what it wanted to do with the find. "There was a battalion of military, a real invasion force, when we got back up on the hilltop. There were trucks, there were airplanes — they had the road blocked off and they were landing on it. They had radio communications gear set up. There were ambulances, and more soldiers with weapons."

In the days that followed, all of New Mexico was abuzz with talk of strange lights in the sky, strange echos on radar, strange doings in the desert. On July 7, news reports told of remnants of an unidentified aircraft found by a rancher near the town of Roswell, N.M., about 150 miles east of the hillside where the Andersons stumbled upon the saucer.

Although several witnesses said it was like nothing they'd ever seen before, military officers insisted the metallic pieces came from an ordinary weather balloon ...

#### A weather balloon?

Forty-three years later, Anderson smiles wryly when reminded of the Army's pronouncement. "A lot of people wondered why, if it was just a weather balloon, the military put the pieces under armed guard and flew them in a B-29 to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio," he observes.

Anderson believes the wreckage scattered near Roswell and the barely damaged saucer on the Plains of San Agustin are connected. "There was a gash in the side of the disc we saw, like it had been crushed in," he says. "The contour of the craft would fit into that gash perfectly — like another one these things had hit it. I think two of these discs had a mid-air collision. One exploded and fell in pieces near Roswell, and the other crash-landed where we found it."

With all evidence confiscated and the military steadfastly sticking by the weather balloon explanation, the story faded from the news by July's end. And Gerald Anderson says he tucked away the memory as he grew into manhood. "I learned you just don't go up to the average person on the street and say, 'Damn, know what I saw?' The guy will go, 'Get away from me, fool! Are you crazy?' That's exactly the first thing they will say to you: 'You are crazy!'" In later life, he didn't mention it even to his wife until a few years after their marriage.

Anderson joined the Navy in the late 1950s and served a dozen years in posts around the globe. He lived for a few years in Colorado, working as a paramedic and working toward a college degree in microbiology. In 1979, he moved to Missouri to better raise his daughter away from what he terms the "druggy" atmosphere of Denver. In addition to his law enforcement posts, Anderson has worked for two southwest Missouri trucking firms as a driver and instructor.

Anderson also has been active in the Episcopal Church. He recently was elected to the vestry at Ascension Episcopal in Springfield and is studying toward becoming a deacon. A gold crucifix — a cross complete with a figure of the martyred Christ affixed to it — suspended

from a chain around Anderson's neck is testimony to his faith.

#### No conflict in beliefs

Although he concedes his account might make some fellow churchgoers uncomfortable, Anderson sees no conflict between what he saw with his eyes and what he believes in his heart: "When you're talking about the concept of God, you have to be talking in the context of a universal situation, a deity that built the whole universe. And why should we assume that this speck of sand in the backwater of space would be the only place that an all-perfect, almighty God could create life?"

In fact, Anderson says he "wouldn't be one bit surprised to find out that, wherever this creature came from, there they have a very strong concept of a supreme being. Because my contact with the creature showed a high degree of civilized sophistication, gentleness, compassion — all of the things we hold as ideals."

Of the five Anderson men who ventured into the desert that day in 1947, only Gerald is still alive. Age, illness and accidents claimed the other four in recent years. But not only Andersons were at the scene, Gerald says, and he hopes his decision to come forth, albeit belated, will encourage others to tell what they know and spur official revelations about the captured craft and creatures.

"I want to see the government stand up and say, 'Look, we're not alone in the universe. Let's make a 'Star Trek' really happen. Let's do go out there and explore the universe. That may be our only salvation. Because with what we're doing to this Earth, we're not going to make it much past the year 2000."

## Noted expert finds account convincing

By Mike O'Brien  
For the News-Leader

What sets Gerald Anderson apart from the thousands of other Americans, including scores of Ozarkers, who say they've seen UFOs or even insist they've been kidnapped by creatures from outer space?

Why are Gerald Anderson's childhood recollections stirring international interest among UFO researchers whose reputations have been built on healthy skepticism and willingness to debunk hoaxes?

Because of little things he has to say and how he says them.

Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist who has lectured on more than 600 college campuses about UFOs, describes Anderson as "a really significant, potentially the most important" witness to what both men believe was the aftermath of one of two spacecraft crashes in New Mexico in mid-summer 1947.

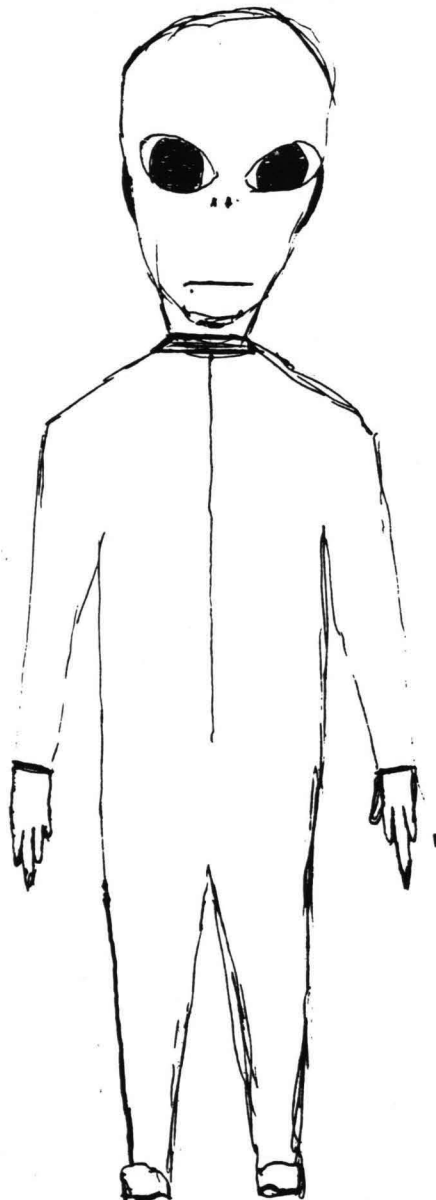
Friedman is co-authoring a book based upon several years of painstaking investigation into the haunting mystery. He was startled, upon meeting Anderson for the first time only a few months ago, to hear the Springfieldian echo details of the yet-to-be-published research.

"There's no way he could know some of these things unless he had been there at the time," Friedman believes.

Example: Only days before first talking with Anderson, Friedman coaxed a heretofore reluctant New Mexico mortician into recounting a run-in he'd had in 1947 with an especially unpleasant red-headed Army captain who was heading up a team recovering bodies from a hush-hush aircraft crash. Anderson, too, spoke of a red-headed captain with a mean disposition. Friedman says the descriptions of the ornery officer provided by the two match precisely, although Anderson and the mortician never have met.

In sketches of the desert crash scene drawn by Anderson in Springfield following hypnosis, a lonely windmill appears in the distance. When Friedman later arranged for Anderson to return to New Mexico to pinpoint the long-ago crash site, no such windmill could be seen on the horizon — until, almost by accident, the windmill was spotted behind trees that had grown up during the 43 years since Anderson was last there.

(continued on page 4)



Forty-three years after he says he saw four of them in the New Mexico desert, Gerald Anderson drew this sketch of a creature he believes was a visitor from another galaxy.

(continued from page 3 - NEWS-LEADER, Springfield, MO - Dec. 9, 1990)

"I got shivers over that one," says John Carpenter, who has extensively debriefed Anderson over the past four months and went along on Anderson's return trip to New Mexico in October.

Carpenter holds degrees in psychology and psychiatric social work from DePauw and Washington universities, and trained in clinical hypnosis at the Menninger Institute. He's in his 12th year of work at a psychiatric hospital facility in Springfield.

"When Gerald tells his story, it's not just a story -- it's his life he's telling you, intermixed with his feelings and his beliefs and all that is Gerald," Carpenter says.

"When someone is spinning a hoax or tale, they only give you enough to raise your curiosity. Not Gerald. He gives you everything, in detail, much more than you ask him for. He'd be setting himself up to be found out if it wasn't true. He's so confident, he goes so much further than a hoaxter

would ever dare."

Carpenter puts great stock in Anderson's recountings under hypnosis. "It's what he didn't say that was significant," Carpenter says, explaining that despite clever prodding, Anderson never committed a hoaxer's mistake of "recalling" something that shouldn't be part of his own memory.

"And when he's under hypnosis, all the bigger, adult words drop out when he describes events from his childhood," Carpenter found. "He relates what he saw in child-like terms."

Carpenter also detected "genuine amazement" when Anderson heard what had been dredged from his subconscious memory under hypnosis. "The look on his face was priceless when he realized he'd produced details he'd forgotten on a conscious level so long ago."

Most subtle but perhaps most telling, in Carpenter's view, was Anderson's reaction to being accepted as a viable witness to an

extraordinary encounter with a **spacecraft** and creatures from beyond Earth.

"He was so grateful at being taken seriously. You could see the relief and release after all those years, and the great hope that other people would take him seriously, too, once and for all."

Ironically, Friedman points to Gallup Poll results indicating that 60 percent of Americans who have college degrees say they believe UFOs are real. With such a receptive constituency, why would government officials persist in what Friedman calls the "Cosmic Watergate" -- the cover-up and denial of the New Mexico crashes? Perhaps, some speculate, because it would be too embarrassing now to admit that some supposedly made-in-USA technologies actually were plagiarized from confiscated spacecraft.

Friedman emphasizes that he's not as interested in uncovering past misdeeds as he is in encouraging future progress.

"I believe we should have an 'Earthling' orientation rather than nationalistic orientation. The easiest way to demonstrate the wisdom of this is to prove that lifeforms from other planets are coming here. If we can do that, then everyone will be forced to look at our world differently, as part of a galactic neighborhood."

Ozarkers wishing to learn more about UFO research may attend meetings of the local chapter of the national Mutual UFO Network. The next MUFON gathering is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, in the private meeting room at Mr. Gatti's Pizza, 1508 E. Battlefield Road.

## UFO faithful make contact at Biloxi gathering

By STEVE DICKERSON  
STAFF WRITER

■ Several hundred UFO enthusiasts gathered at the Broadwater Beach Hotel in Biloxi on Saturday to hear from a number of people who say they have had experiences with aliens or their space craft.

Booths selling books, video tapes, jewelry, t-shirts and posters lined the walls of the hotel's second floor.

One of the Great Gulf Coast UFO Gathering's speakers was Charles Hickson from Gautier. Hickson and Calvin Parker claim to have been taken into an alien spacecraft 17 years ago as they fished along the banks of the Pascagoula River just off U.S. 90 in

Pascagoula.

The incident stirred multiple claims of UFO sightings and visits by reporters from around the country, including the three television networks.

Hickson later wrote a book about the incident and has appeared around the country at UFO gatherings and on numerous television talk shows.

*It's even  
strengthened my  
belief in him . . .*

**Charles Hickson  
of Gautier**

Hickson, who works for a Moss Point industrial maintenance company, said the incident changed his life, but if he had it to do again he would still not hide his experience.

"I don't think there's really any re-



Greg Liss of Pensacola, Fla., mans the souvenir booth at the UFO convention.

## UFO looked like burning, flying boxcar

By Robin Brown,  
PDN&S Editor

LeFlore County residents looked up to the skies Saturday night and saw what is best described as "a flying, burning box car," according to several reports of an apparent UFO sighting.

Authorities in five states reported seeing a moving, burning object heading towards the south around 1 a.m. Sunday. Locally, the UFO was reported in several places around LeFlore County, and in Sequoyah County, Okla., Sebastian County, Ark., and Polk County, Ark.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command, which keeps track of 6,500 objects in space, positively identified the object as a Soviet satellite falling out of orbit.

They said it disintegrated as it came through the Earth's atmosphere.

Tinker Air Force Base sent out a teletype message shortly after the sighting. The message stated that the falling object was believed to

be a satellite that had fallen out of orbit.

Callers in other states described the debris as "a huge cylinder with a tail of fire."

LeFlore County Sheriff Dale Whitecotton and one of his deputies saw the thing from opposite ends of the county. Both described it as "a flying, burning box car."

Whitecotton said he saw the UFO while on patrol near Monroe. He said the object was fast moving and was trailing fire. He said it appeared to be rectangular shaped, and he guessed it to be the size of a railroad box car. It was relatively low flying, it appeared, and moved faster than a plane would move.

Deputy Lester English said when he saw the object, he stopped the car to see if he could hear it making any noise. He said he also unsuccessfully tried to photograph the object with an instant camera.

"My first thought was that I was seeing a big commercial airplane going down," he said. "It wasn't making any noise, though. And if it was a plane, then the nose and

tail must have been clipped off of it."

I went out on the porch to turn off some lights. It was a big fire, with a tail of fire behind it."

Charlie Wilson, of Heavener, observed the object, too. He reported it like this:

"It was spectacular, and it looked like it was over Mount Pleasant. I thought it was a huge passenger plane on fire, with a trail of bright fire behind it. It looked to me like pieces of it coming off of it or

grets," said Hickson. "Sometimes I wish it wouldn't have happened, but I think I have helped open people's eyes and minds about what is going on -- that there are other worlds out there."

Hickson said he never thought about "other worlds" before the incident. "I was reared as a Baptist and we simply believed in Heaven and Hell and didn't think about whether there was another world out there. I just don't think I ever thought about it one way or the other."

While it changed his life, Hickson said the incident didn't change his faith.

"I've always believed in God," he said. "It's even strengthened my belief and gives me a greater belief in him knowing now that He is not only the creator of this world but all those other worlds out there."

Peter Robbins said he and his sister saw alien space ships when he was 14 years old. "We were living on Long Island. It was late morning-early afternoon when five silvery white disk-like objects in a precise military V-shaped formation approached at a high rate of speed and hung over our

neighbor's house at several thousand feet."

Robbins said he repressed the experience for years, but when he was 27 years old it came back to him suddenly and he and his sister, who is two years younger, talked about it for the first time.

He claims to have had yet another experience with alien spacecraft in England in 1988 while visiting with Larry Warren the spot where Warren claims to have experienced a similar sighting in December 1980. Warren was in the U.S. Air Force at the time.

That original sighting was shared with nearly 200 military personnel including then-Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, who reported the incident to the Department of the Air Force in a memo dated Jan. 13, 1981.

Details of both incidents will be reported in a book that Robbins and Warren are now writing.

Robbins has spent the last 15 years of his life researching UFO claims and co-authored reports for the United Nations in 1978 and the English House of Lords in 1980.

Robbins said no one should fear the stories they hear about aliens visiting earth.

"The good news is that if they meant us harm we would already be slaves," he said. "I find that very reassuring."

something, like it was disintegrating. What scared me, I thought it might be people. You might remember that it was approximately 1 a.m. and I had been watching tv."

"I watched it go off into the horizon. It looked like it was down at Petros. It was spectacular. That things was traveling slow is why I thought it was an aircraft. If it hadn't startled me, it would have been pretty. Under the circumstances, it wasn't."

In what may be an unrelated incident, people in Illinois, Kentucky and neighboring states reported the sighting of a similar object Friday night.

Scientists dismissed that sighting as a fire ball, which is similar to a meteorite.





**Thom Marshall**

## Pie in the sky or eye in the sky?

**Y**OU MAY not believe in them. But what if the only reason more of us aren't seeing more flying saucers is because we don't cast our eyes skyward with any appreciable frequency or duration.

Well, of course we don't. Looking up all the time would be a good way to bump into someone or crash the car or get a crick in the neck.

But what if we had some kind of alarm to let us know when a UFO is nearby? When it went off, maybe like a smoke detector, we could immediately run outside and look up. What if we had a UFO detector? Max Washburn, a member of Houston UFO Network (HUFON), said such a detector is in the works, right here in the Bayou City, and the first ones should be available within a few weeks.

Don't, however, rush down to your local gadget shop expecting to make a cash deposit and put your name on a waiting list. Washburn said these things are not being made as a business venture and won't be available in stores. Not yet, anyway. He said they are being made to increase the chances of seeing and studying vehicles from other worlds.

So the first batch of detectors will go to members of HUFON willing to pay the \$100 or \$150 the devices are expected to cost, Washburn said. The way they work, he said, is they register a 5 percent change in the Earth's magnetic field. Which, he said, would indicate a powerful, powerful energy source of some type.

"No man-made piece of machinery will set this off," he said.

### A UFO scholar

The range of one of these new UFO detectors is expected to be 10 to 20 miles, Washburn said. So even if yours went off and you ran outside and looked up, you might not be close enough to see anything. And that is one reason Washburn wants to get a lot of detectors operating throughout the area. If several went off at once and several people looked up at once, the chances of seeing a UFO would be multiplied by several times.

Washburn, 48, said he has been a student of UFOs for 34 years. He has collected much information and knows many people in the area who share his interest.

But he may be underestimating the appeal of a handy little UFO detector. He said it is about six inches wide and four inches high, with a little antenna, and will run off AC or DC current. That's right, you could plug one of the little suckers into your cigarette lighter.

It's hard to get a handle on what the market might be if UFO detectors were readily available at an affordable price. Some of us might buy them on the sly. Not tell our friends and associates we got them. Plug them in and maybe never really expect them to go off but listen, just in case. Sort of hoping. Maybe a little afraid.

The Hearst Corp., which owns this newspaper and a potful of other media properties, did a survey several months ago in which a thousand and one people were asked: "Do you think we will contact intelligent life forms from other planets by the end of the 1990s?"

How many people do you think said yes? It was 20 percent. That is one out of five. Project that out locally, figuring there are 3 million people in the Houston area, and you've got about 600,000 neighbors who expect some contact with beings from outer space within the next nine years and two months.

### High hopes for detector

That isn't the same thing as believing in flying saucers, but it isn't much of a jump from one to the other. And that isn't surprising, is it? Not when you consider what we've seen in recent years. NASA lives here, after all. You think when your mom was a little girl that 20 percent of the people in this nation thought somebody would walk on the moon by the end of the '60s?

Washburn said the original version of the new UFO detector was developed about 10 years ago. "Someone invented it," he said, "but I can't say who."

The person responsible prefers to be anonymous, Washburn said, because publicity about his interest in UFOs and his invention might cause complications at his regular job.

Washburn said he has seen other UFO detectors offered for sale in the pages of UFO publications. He said he doesn't know how they are supposed to work or whether they do. But he is convinced the device developed by the local anonymous inventor does work. He said it was shortly after the prototype was completed that the signal sounded. And it later was discovered that coincidentally, within minutes of that alarm sounding, a woman several miles away on the other side of Clear Lake reported seeing a UFO after she was awakened by a bright light in her window.

In all his years of study and interest, Washburn said, he has not seen a UFO. Oh, a couple of times several years ago he did see unexplained bright lights at night. Nothing he could be sure was a UFO. But soon he'll have a UFO detector. He has high hopes.

## lights mystify Clinton couple

By Elva Lego  
QUAD-CITY TIMES  
Clinton bureau

CLINTON, Iowa — Area residents have been flocking to Stockwell Lane here to watch eerie lights in the sky that no one can explain.

Charles and Mary Shaw began seeing the strange lights last fall.

"The objects appear to be triangular with a spinning motion," he said. "And they generally appear toward evening."

For awhile, the lights disappeared, but reappeared during the first weekend of autumn in late September.

The Shaws live on a hill on Stockwell Lane and have an unrestricted view to the east, where the lights appear.

They said the lights are bright and sometimes turn red and seem to rise from the skyline.

The Shaws have had experts watch the lights, only to tell them they have no idea what they are.

"They have told us that the objects aren't weather balloons, satellites or planes," he said. "But they haven't told us what they are."

The Shaws believe the objects are genuine unidentified flying objects. And a strange encounter last spring convinced them.

"It appeared to be coming up from the bluffs near the river," Shaw said. "It was like the brightest star I had ever seen. It rose about 100 feet above the treetops and then came right at me."

He said the object was oval, bright and silver, had no wings and made no sound.

"It went from zero to faster than anything I've ever seen," he said. "It headed toward town, and I thought at least people in town would see it, but then it came back again and headed north."

Shaw said, "I've chased them for many miles," while trying to find the origin of the objects.

Dr. Grey Woodman, an investigator with the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, has been among the many people trying to find out what the lights are. He even has videotaped them.

"I have no idea what they are," he said. "But I sent a copy of my videotape to the MUFON president."

Woodman said he has done his best to track the objects, but has not succeeded in getting close to them. He believes a large number of people in the area have seen the objects and will not talk about it for fear of being ridiculed.

"But I've seen enough evidence and read enough to know it happens all over the world," he said.

Although the Shaw's neighbors also have seen the strange lights, many do not want to talk about it.

"I have one neighbor who has had a lot of ridicule at work," Shaw said. "They make flying saucers out of paper plates and throw them at him, so he doesn't talk about it anymore."

Betty Woodman, chairman of the Gateway United Way, said she also has seen the lights. "I've spent a lot of evenings watching them, but I don't know what they are."

The objects usually are seen between 7-8 p.m. and normally are seen in groups of two or three. However, there have been as many as 15 seen at once, they said.

Sometimes the lights seem to hover, and move very rapidly at other times. But the lights never seem to descend after they have risen, they added.

Sheryl Lonergan, a teacher in Clinton, and her husband, Tom, a Clinton attorney, also have seen the objects. "It's fascinating," Mrs. Lonergan said. "They were really moving fast. Most people kind of laugh when I tell them about it, but I really did see



**Charles Shaw**



**Mary Shaw**

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Sept. 2, 1990 CR: R. Reid

## UFO Letters to the Editor

Dear Duane:

Recently TV reporter Mark Curtis of Channel 3 demonstrated that he could create a photo that appears to show a UFO hovering over the road at Soundside Drive by using a double exposure technique combined with a paper model. He claimed that his method created a photo that looks convincingly like Ed's "road shot" (photo #19) as depicted in the book *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*. (In that photo one sees what appears to be a UFO hovering over a road and casting a reflection on the pavement.) At first glance Curtis' fake does indeed resemble Ed's photo. Curtis indicates that it is easy to produce such a photo. Hence, he claims his experiment is "casting doubt on the authenticity" of Ed's photos. However, the discriminating viewer will ask "how closely did he duplicate Ed's photo" and "just how easy was it?"

A more than casual comparison of the Curtis photo with Ed's photo will show that Curtis did not duplicate Ed's photo. The overall shape is not the same, nor are some of the finer details the same, such as the lack of a lower row of "window" markings and a much brighter center part on the Curtis photo. A less casual comparison that the interested reader can carry out himself is described below.

To answer the second question first, Mr. Curtis has claimed that it was "easy" to create his photo. This is true, *once one has all the knowledge, expertise and equipment necessary to carry out the double exposure*. Mr. Curtis relied upon the help of a professional photographer and model builder, as well as upon his own expertise, to know how to correctly carry out the double exposure.

Of more importance is that fact that Curtis' photo has an error or "flaw" which was immediately obvious to a trained analyst carrying out the same sort of detailed analysis of the Curtis photo as was done on Ed's photos. Yet this flaw was not detected and corrected (in another photo) by Curtis and his photographic consultants, despite their photographic skills. This flaw appears to be a consequence of the methods of constructing and illuminating the model, a method which, Curtis suggests duplicates the method used by Ed (according to Tommy Smith).

Ed, on the other hand, has never demonstrated to me any photographic skills with his Polaroid camera, other than "focus, point and shoot." Nor has anyone else produced any evidence that Ed is a sophisticated photographer. How then, are we to explain the fact that Ed's photo does not have this flaw?

Anyone with a stop-frame VCR and a copy of the TV show can study this flaw. Run the video of the newscast until you get to the part which shows Curtis' fake road shot on the left and Ed's picture on the right. Pause the VCR and hold a frame showing the two "UFO" images. Locate the contrast control on the TV (or monitor) and increase it to maximum contrast. Now locate the brightness control and start decreasing the brightness. Eventually in each picture you will not be able to see the main body of the "UFO", but you will still see the light at the bottom and the "reflection" below.

Now concentrate on the left hand image of the Curtis model. As you continue to decrease you will find that the light at the bottom of the "craft" fades out while the supposed reflection is still visible. In other words, you should see that the image of the "reflection" is brighter than the image of the bottom of the "craft". This should cause you to wonder a little, since the "craft" is supposed to be the source of the light and the reflection is supposed to be from a black roadtop. Under these circumstances you would expect to find the source of light to be brighter than the reflection.

Now carry out the same brightness decrease experiment while concentrating on the right hand image of Ed's road shot. You can see that the image of the bottom of the UFO is brighter than the reflection on the road, as one would expect if the UFO were the source of light.

An even more serious flaw is that the "reflection" in Curtis' fake photo is approximately uniformly bright from left to right and has an abrupt edge. The reflection in the actual road shot, on the other hand, has a "hot spot" (greater brightness) near the center of the image and the brightness decreases with increasing distance from the center, giving a diffuse or gradual edge. You can confirm this by repeatedly increasing and decreasing the brightness and watching how the sizes of the images of the Curtis fake and of Ed's road shot reflections change. The brightest part of an image always disappears last as the brightness control is decreased. The failure of the image to shrink as the brightness is decreased indicates an abrupt edge to the image. One would expect the area of reflection of light from some object hovering over the road to have a diffuse edge rather than an abrupt edge.

Why did the Curtis model yield a "reflection" that was brighter than the object itself? Apparently it happened because the model was lit from below and the paper "reflection" scattered more light toward the camera.

Another point of clear divergence between the image in the Curtis photo and in Ed's road shot is that in Mr. Curtis' photo the whole body of the UFO model is clearly visible with the central portion and windows being quite prominent. On the other hand, in Ed's road shot the central part is exceedingly dim (barely detectable on the video).

To summarize, the simple analysis outlined above shows that Curtis did not duplicate the road shot. He failed to detect a flaw (reflection brighter than source) that would be obvious to the trained investigator. Yet he publicized his photo as if it were a perfectly acceptable "road shot". If he, with his photographic expertise (and that of his consultants) failed to detect this flaw, what are the chances that Ed, with no evident photographic expertise, would detect such a flaw and take pains to correct it before he publicized the road shot picture? I think the chances are zero.

As I stated in Ed's book (the last chapter), it is probably possible to fake all of Ed's photographs given enough time, effort, equipment and technical knowledge. For example, now that Mr. Curtis knows about the flaw discussed above he could carry out further experiments and correct it. But whether or not Curtis or some other photographic expert (or team of photographers!) could do it is not the main question. Instead, the main question is whether or not Ed, with his often demonstrated lack of photographic ability, could have created a road shot photo that is "better" (i.e., no brightness defect) than Curtis' photo?

To summarize, Mr. Curtis (who is to be commended on carrying out these experiments at no small expense in time and money to himself and Channel 3) has demonstrated that it is "easy" to create double exposure "UFO" photos if you know how to do it. He has also demonstrated that even the experts can make mistakes without realizing it, mistakes that can be discovered by careful scrutiny of the photos. On the other hand, there is no evidence that Ed has any photographic expertise. Could he have simply "lucked out"? You be the judge.

Incidentally, as of this date, almost three years after Ed's first photo, no photographic expert has been able to claim conclusive proof that any of Ed's photos and his video have been faked. Moreover, the number of witnesses who claim to have seen exactly the same UFO over the last two and a half years is growing.

And the sightings continue.

Yours truly,  
Bruce Maccabee

those things."

Although some people think it's a joke, the Shaws have had so many people in their yard watching the lights, they could not even count them.

"We just want some answers," Mary Shaw said. "We just don't know where to find them."

# U.F.O. Sightings Draw Concern

## Briefing Manual For Suffolk Police Up In The Air

(Last week, The NEWS featured a story about the work of the Long Island U.F.O. Network, a research group which investigates and reports upon the circumstances of U.F.O. sightings. In Part II, we explore some of their major findings as they attempt to uncover the truth about these mysteries.)

By Phyllis Lader

Among the major investigations being conducted by L.I.U.F.O.N. is a look into an alleged crash retrieval by the U.S. Government on September 28, 1989 over Moriches Bay. Despite official denials, L.I.U.F.O.N. believes that the incident was an attempt by our armed forces and elements of our local police to monitor a disabled U.F.O. that had landed in the dune area of Smith's Point beach that night.

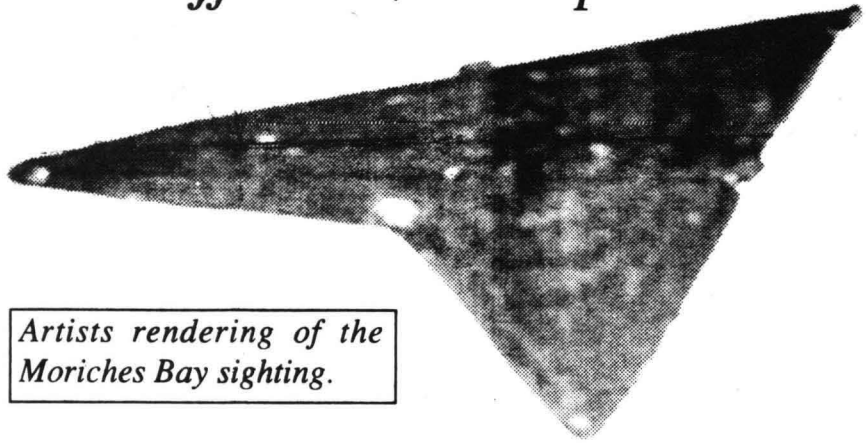
According to the Center Moriches family that reported the incident to L.I.U.F.O.N. and whose 48 photographs of the event are being studied by L.I.U.F.O.N., the first sign that something was amiss came at 8:45 p.m. when they began to hear military helicopters buzzing their backyard at tree top level.

The homeowner noticed some very large amber lights through his glass doors - not reflections, as might be assumed, but actual lights coming from over Moriches Bay, viewed from his deck. Many helicopters were still flying in the vicinity. Although this man and his son tried to videotape the lights, the video camera did not record the lights, only their own backyard. Father and son then drove down Union Avenue to get a closer look at the event over Moriches Bay.

There, they observed a large object, composed of six giant blinking amber lights, that blended into the night sky. They also saw six helicopters flying in a counterclockwise pattern around it - four military choppers, and two from the Suffolk County police.

As they passed over the dune area of Smith Point Beach, they cast searchlights down toward the beach over another object. This second, large blue-white object illuminated the beach, with a pulsating light. They watched these events unfold for two and a half hours, during which time the larger object, whose lights became blinding at one point, left the area and moved off to where the second object was, over by the dunes.

L.I.U.F.O.N.'s continuing investigation thus far has determined that the police and military were actually there that night. As L.I.U.F.O.N. co-founder John Ford reports: "The Coast Guard from Center Moriches, the Air National Guard from Westhampton and the police were supposedly responding to distress calls from a sinking boat in the bay. They admit



Artists rendering of the Moriches Bay sighting.

to having three copters in the area, plus a KC-130 which was dropping parachute flares three miles off Moriches Bay, over the ocean. The distress call was a hoax and there was no sinking boat. This much, they have admitted."

On October 22, 1989, a L.I.U.F.O.N. field team and a serial reconnaissance team searched the dunes, and discovered a 75 foot in diameter area of crushed, dead vegetation in the dunes. A second circle was observed on an island at the mouth of Moriches Inlet.

In addition, the larger object was reportedly seen in ten different locations in Connecticut some 75 minutes before the event over Moriches Bay occurred.

A Brookhaven National Labs scientist who claims to have inside information on this incident told L.I.U.F.O.N. that the U.S. Government shot down and recovered an alien spacecraft that night, and that 18 lives were lost in the confrontation, which is part of an ongoing adversary condition against an extraterrestrial civilization. L.I.U.F.O.N. is calling for a Congressional investigation of the entire Moriches Bay incident.

L.I.U.F.O.N. has investigated several hundred sightings in its almost three years of existence. Many of them are listed in the organization's files as of unknown origin, such as the Miller's Pond, Smithtown sighting of a whining ice-cream cone shaped disk with a circle of white or amber lights around it that was spotted by two unrelated people on the night of April 14, 1990.

Other unexplained phenomena include an incident that took place on September 4, 1988 in

Mineola. A young housewife awoke in the middle of the night and observed a formation of seven small disc-shaped objects composed of multi-colored lights at high altitude flying in various patterns. Later they were joined by an extremely large object, which she estimated as over 500 feet across, which joined together in formation with others moving to the northeast. Her husband witnessed part of this event.

L.I.U.F.O.N. also contends that a government cover-up took place regarding an October, 1988 incident that occurred on Columbia Street, Port Jefferson. The incident, news of which the organization said was leaked to them by several police officers and a Suffolk County government official who wished to remain anonymous, involved a disc shaped object that had buzzed a Postal truck and several responding police cars. It also involved several civilians who witnessed the event. L.I.U.F.O.N. says that, in researching this case, they have been told by reliable sources of the existence of a secret briefing manual for Suffolk County Police on how to handle U.F.O. related incidents.

A special report on the Moriches Bay incident, including a display of the photographs taken by the family which witnessed the event, will be one of the highlights of L.I.U.F.O.N.'s annual U.F.O. Conference. The conference will be held October 27 and 28 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Artist Lake Condominium Community Center in Middle Island. The conference is open to the public and costs \$25 per day or \$40 for both days. For more information about the conference or L.I.U.F.O.N., call their hotline at 286-3212.

PIERCE CO. HERALD, Ellsworth, WI - Oct. 24, 1990

CR: R. Heiden/COUD-I

## UFO furor revived by new book

By Sue Odegard

ELMWOOD—Although sought after by producers from several nationally syndicated television shows, radio stations in New Zealand and Australia and scientists from around the globe, the residents of Elmwood have managed to keep their integrity. While experts grapple with the sitings of extraterrestrial beings floating about in the polluted space surrounding our planet, those in Elmwood who have experienced their influence have maintained an aura of small town honesty and pride.

"We're not trying to create a tourist trap here," Elmwood Mayor Larry Feiler said recently. "We're not trying to promote UFOs and we didn't seek out the attention. It just happened."

While the original sitings in the Elmwood area occurred in 1975-76, the recent publication of a book by former New York Times reporter Howard Blum has stirred up the controversy once again. The expose is billed as a look at the U.S. government's clandestine search for other-world life entitled "Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials".

"Because of the subject matter, Elmwood was an excellent point of interest for Blum," Feiler said. "However, I do feel that parts of his account were exaggerated."

Sparked by an adept public relations department, Blum has left the Elmwood townsfolk rippling in the wake of a whirlwind publicity tour. During September, Feiler and his

fellow neighbors were approached by production crews from both the "Oprah Winfrey Show" and "Hard Copy", a news documentary show.

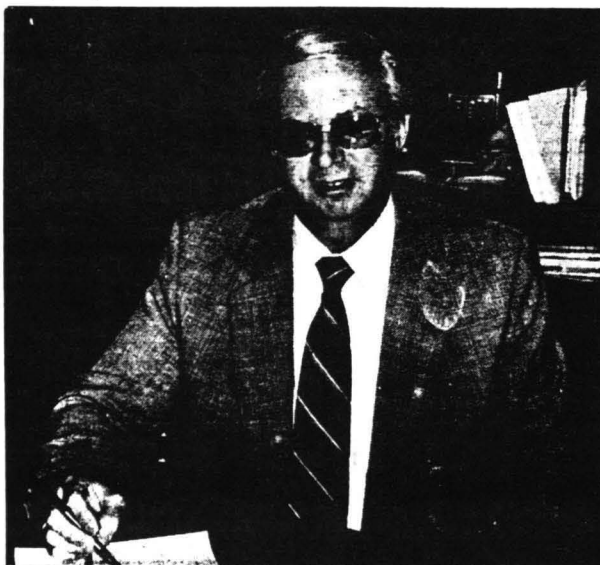


Photo by Sue Odegard

ELMWOOD MAYOR LARRY FEILER discussed recent events concerning UFO sitings in the area.

"The Oprah show aired on Sept. 7," Feiler said. "They sent a producer and camera crew here and interviewed several people. A considerable amount of footage was taken, but it was never shown. Blum did appear as a guest and he mentioned Elmwood, but they ran out of time and couldn't show the film."

Feiler said Blum came to Elmwood about a year ago to talk to him about his book. The interview lasted about 30 minutes.

"The 'Hard Copy' episode was more involved," Feiler said. "Co-host Allan Frio and Producer Joel Tobin were in town all day. That night, they set up a reenactment of the event involving George Wheeler, who spotted a UFO at the quarry on April 22, 1976."

The show, which aired on Sept. 21, featured a local police officer portraying Wheeler, now deceased. As acting chief of police on the evening of the original event, Wheeler had driven his squad car to the Tuttle Hill Quarry on CTH P, after spotting a bright light. Not much is known about what he actually saw there, however a local physician, Dr. Frank Springer, detected a rapid pulse rate on the visibly shaken officer when examining him a short time later.

"It was interesting to see the change in attitude by the television crews from the time they first arrived to the

time they left," Feiler said. "I think they were impressed by the sincerity of the people here as well."

Two years ago, Feiler and several other Elmwood residents were featured on "The Geraldo Show" and "Twin Cities Live". Incoming phone calls and mail requests about extraterrestrials have been streaming into town ever since.

"I just received letters from kids in Marshfield," Feiler said. "They were asking for more information about UFOs. I think it would be wonderful to set up a museum here someday. Not just to sell t-shirts, but a place where truly interested people could come to learn something."

Like Blum, others before him have attempted to learn about UFOs in Pierce County as well. The efforts of Tom Weber, formerly of Chippewa Falls, to build a multi-million dollar landing site near Elmwood failed after he suffered a heart attack. Other individuals who wandered into the area during the annual celebration of Elmwood UFO Days were lured to the town by earlier media reports.

"The people of Elmwood are not looking for publicity," Feiler stressed. "In fact, we've even refused a few offers. There's been a lot of attention focused on one small community. We don't want to destroy the beauty we have here."



# Close encounters being reported in Culver

## Strange lights in the sky puzzle residents

By KAREN MURPHY  
STAR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Culver, Ind. — From a security guard to a newspaper editor, dozens of residents of this small farming community have been seeing things in the sky.

Since early October, talk has centered on strange light patterns hovering over the landscape.

Gary Flagg, a security guard from Argos, has been keeping a log since he first spotted the lights on March 7. He was driving to work at 9:45 p.m. when he saw a white, triangular-shaped light pattern.

"I just stopped on 17th Road (in Marshall County) and got out of the car and watched," he said.

"That one was about 500 feet over the top of the car," he said, reading from his log. "It moved real slow, extremely slow. I don't even know how it stayed in the air."

Flagg didn't report the sighting to police, but did confide in his wife.

Then on Oct. 3 and 5, he was driving with his family when again the triangle-shaped lights appeared. His sister, Cindy Flagg, a preschool teacher who describes herself as "a skeptic," also saw them.

"There was a triangular thing going over. It had three or four lights. ... It was going really slowly and there was no sound," she 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.

Karst said he even saw something on the night of Oct. 4.

"I don't know whether it was a UFO or not, but at the time, I thought it was a meteor. It descended in the sky above me

### MONDAY MORNING

down toward the horizon," he said.

"I didn't attach any greater significance to it until I started hearing other people had been seeing different things that same night."

Melanie Wagner, of Culver, said she has seen the lights an average of three or four times a week, usually around 8:15 p.m. while driving along Ind. 10, a desolate country road with a few scattered farms.

"The first night I saw them was Oct. 4. I've been seeing them every clear night since then. Sometimes on cloudy nights, but it's real hard to tell what you're seeing," Wagner said.

"They're out there constantly," she added.

She used to travel Ind. 10 between her Culver home and her job as produce manager at the Park N Shop grocery store in Argos, 11 miles away.

But Wagner was fired last week after talking to reporters during her lunch hour about the sightings. She said a personality conflict was cited as the reason for her dismissal.

"I've seen probably four to five different light patterns," Wagner said. "I've seen just plain huge balls of light that when you look (at them) with the binoculars, you can tell they are a bunch of small lights."

"I've seen lights suspended in the sky, then go up and down, and go in all directions. I've seen them turn off all their lights and appear to have disappeared. And then turn them back on several hundred feet across the sky," she said, adding it's impossible

to see the object behind the lights.

She said the most common light pattern is triangle-shaped, although some people have reported bow ties and circular patterns.

A common place to watch has been the Poplar Grove United Methodist Church and cemetery, located along Ind. 10.

Jan Johnson, a *Culver Citizen* photographer who went to the cemetery with Wagner one night, shot a picture of the object, which she said resembles "a string of pearls. That's what the light pattern looks like."

"I saw little flashing twinkling lights. ... I don't know (what it was); I'm dying for someone to tell me what I've shot," she said.

While some folks speculate the lights are military aircraft, officials at Grissom Air Force Base, two counties south of here, dismiss the possibility.

"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.

Capt. Cathi Kiger of the Indiana National Guard said flares are often used for training exercises and on ranges when firing artillery.

"But I can't find anything that we might have done that would have contributed to these lights," she said.

A dispatcher for the Marshall County Sheriff's Department said her department has received "a couple phone calls but we never found anything."

Argos Police Chief Jim Burroughs said there are lots of "rumors on the streets but I haven't seen anything yet."



STAR PHOTO/KAREN MURPHY

Melanie Wagner stands by Ind. 10, where she has seen the mysterious lights in the sky.

HERALD, High Springs, FL - Nov. 22, 1990

## Are you ready for this?

Tales of the wondrously strange-

### The big UFO

Perhaps the biggest sighting incident in UFO history began on New Year's Eve 1982, appearing in the Hudson Valley in New York, along with Westchester and Putnam counties.

By the summer of 1987, in excess of 5,000 people had seen, videotaped and photographed this huge, triangular-shaped UFO outlined in lights and moving like a small city in the sky. Motorists along the Taconic Parkway would often pull to the side of the road and stare up at the gigantic and slow-moving silent object above them. It moved across the sky slowly and was larger than an aircraft carrier.

In spite of the many photos taken and reliable witnesses such as pilots, engineers, business executives, the skeptics rashly declared the case solved.

They apparently believed the sightings to be a group of private pilots flying in formation in violation of FAA regulations. They flew their Cessnas in such a tight formation in the darkened sky that they appeared to give the illusion that one large mass was moving slowly overhead.

In spite of photographs taken of the Cessnas being compared with the photos taken of the "UFO" and there being no comparison, the skeptics continued to insist the photos were of the same formation of private planes.

Photography experts refuted their claim and noted that the two photos showed entirely different objects in the sky. One was truly a flight of private planes. The other was a huge space vehicle with no known identity.

Other witnesses verified that they had seen and heard the sounds of the Cessnas but the unknown object seemed to float silently in the sky as though propelled by a silent propulsion system.

An expert witness took photos of the object hovering over a nuclear power plant, an acrobatic achievement that civilian Cessnas, no matter how good their pilots, could never do.

Finally, the skeptics were challenged to solve the case by simply having the Cessna pilots arrested for violation of FAA flying regulations in the area. They never filed formal charges for the photographic evidence would have confirmed that the group of pilots were not in any of the photos or videotapes made by many witnesses.

Some huge space apparatus was shown, but the object was obviously outside the jurisdiction of the FFA!

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The UFO debate will continue for years to come. On the one side a line of skeptics refuses to acknowledge even the remotest possibility of space ships in the skies. On the other countless eyewitnesses continue to report what they see!

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

## OUT-OF-TOWN NEWS MEDIA DISCOVER UFOs

By Fred Karst

Culverites had a close encounter with out-of-town news media this week as word spread about sightings of strange lights in the nighttime sky.

A report carried around the country by the Associated Press was the apparent trigger of most of the interest. Newspapers outside northern Indiana picked up the reports Monday, along with television or radio stations in Indianapolis, Chicago and other cities. Several television crews conducted interviews here.

Sightings of unusual lights, often in a triangular pattern, have continued since they were first reported in the *Culver Citizen* on Oct. 10.

Several people with the Federal Aviation Administration observed that new aircraft of unconventional design have stirred interest elsewhere, including the Chicago area. One of these planes was described as having the wing in back and the tail extending to the front.

Dave Kepple, an aviation safety inspector with the FAA at Michiana

Regional Airport at South Bend, noted that all aircraft are required to operate red, green and white lights at night to establish which plane has the right-of-way. The plane on the right is entitled to the right-of-way, he said.

Similar lights are required on lighter-than-air craft like blimps and dirigibles, he said.

Experimental aircraft might also fly in this area as the terrain is relatively flat, and they need not file a specific flight plan if they operate from small local airports.

The northern lights, or aurora borealis, might also be observed at this time of year, Kepple said.

Lt. Bill Harrison of the public affairs office at Grissom Air Force Base said flight crews from Grissom had still not reported observing unusual phenomena, but he noted that most Air Force flights from Grissom take place during daylight rather than at night.

Harrison said one way to check on whether the lights are produced by air-

craft would be to keep a record of when they are observed to compare with flight records kept by civilian and military authorities.

Reports of unusual lights arose over a wider area after the reports of sightings in Culver were learned of. A Tipton man told the *Citizen* he and two hunting companions had observed the characteristic triangular light pattern just outside the city limits of Tipton shortly before dawn Sunday.

The lights were white and were heading south of southeast, he said, before they vanished. Like other observers, he said there was no sound associated with the lights.

County Councilwoman Connie Van Horn said she had observed a powder-blue light high in the sky Sunday night from her front yard northeast of Culver. She said the light was in the southwest at a point that appeared to be high over the town. She described the light as "soaring."

Bonnie Bechinski, who lives on State Road 17, across from the Marshall County Forest, said she first noticed unusual lights last June.

Melanie (Russell) Wagner, whose observations of the lights were among the first reported, said she has continued to observe them,

# Abducted by aliens... local man speaks out

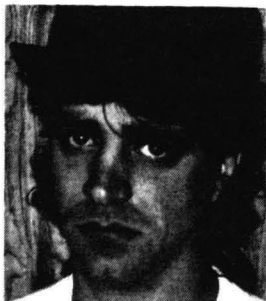
By HARRIET LESSER

Most people go through life wondering if UFOs do indeed exist. Not James Lefante. Lefante knows. The young musician-composer claims that he has had a number of close encounters with alien spacecraft and has even spent time aboard one of them.

The 32-year-old Lefante, a Merrick resident who worked in the Five Towns, believes that he has been abducted by aliens at various times throughout his life. "I know that some people will think I'm crazy, but there are others who know that I'm on the right track."

Those "others" include members of the UFO Network who consider Lefante a find. His story does not sound strange to them. In fact, it is similar to reports they have heard many times before. Lefante recently shared his weird, out-of-this-world experiences with the South Shore Record. He spoke unemotionally, almost stoically...James Lefante really believes.

Feb. 11, 1989...Lefante and his friend Curtis Walton, writer and vocalist for James's band, were recording in Levittown at 9:00 p.m., when they heard strange noises in the apartment. "We felt as though we were in a magnetic field. I went to the window and saw two U.S. government helicopters overhead.



James Lefante

Then I saw two more flying in formation. In the center of them was a tremendous object. I called Curtis and he saw it too. As we watched, the object headed southeast toward the Southern State Parkway. Then it went over to the left, which I estimated to be the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway. The object had lots of different colored lights, but the red were the most outstanding."

James and Curtis jumped into James's car and went up Wantagh Avenue on the Southern State, heading for Seaford-Oyster Bay. Once they hit the Expressway, they saw the government helicopters dispersing and spotted a giant object that turned into a ball of fire before their eyes.

"It was the brightest thing Curtis and I ever saw. It was so

red, that the center was black. You could see air being sucked into it. For a while, it headed straight for my car, then it veered off and turned into a white star. I looked over at the girl in the car next to mine and I could tell from her face that she had seen it too. We both knew it was something from out of this world.

"Suddenly, I heard Curtis calling out to me. I realized that I was heading for the Seaford-Oyster Bay Bridge. I swerved just in time and stopped the car on the entrance ramp. I turned and looked at Curtis. His eyes were like windows, with light running through them. When I looked again, everything seemed to be normal."

Jolted back to reality, James and Curtis surveyed their surroundings to see if there had been an accident or if people were acting strangely. To their surprise, traffic was moving well and nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

Back at the apartment, Lefante called police and asked if anyone had reported seeing a UFO. He was told that there had been a number of calls and yes, there had been government helicopters in the area. James was asked if he wanted to speak with a police officer. He agreed to meet the cop on the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway.

"He didn't take me seriously, although his sergeant did. I

asked the officer to check out the area to see if there were any signs of burning, etc. He wasn't interested and gave me a government telephone number to call. I didn't call."

James says that his life changed drastically in the weeks that followed the UFO sighting. He and Curtis experienced the same physical pain and thoughts. "I became telepathic," Lefante says. "I wanted to talk about the experience, but Curtis didn't. We began to fight. We both knew that something else had happened, but we couldn't recall what it was."

The memories finally returned in a frightening way. James began drawing strange pictures. In some of them, he was in his car and looking out at a UFO. The most frightening to him were of a strange room peopled with odd looking, big-eyed humanoids. "I began to remember in great detail the hieroglyphics around the room and I drew them. I had a feeling of missing time. Both Curtis and I were having the same nightmares."

UFO sightings usually come one to a viewer. Some of the most respected people in the world have reported such experiences -- among them, former President Jimmy Carter. For James Lefante, however, there was to be more than an isolated sighting.

Aug. 24, 1989...Curtis and I left a recording studio in Freeport at around midnight. We saw a flash of white light shoot across the sky. We knew something was about to happen. I got into my car and Curtis got into his and we headed down the Meadowbrook Parkway to the Southern State. Curtis got off at his exit and I waved goodbye. It felt weird, because I knew that I was going to see him again that night.

"I went home, got into bed and found myself paralyzed, unable to move. It was a feel-

ing I'd had many times before. I felt as though I had a tornado inside me and I was being sucked out of my body. Then I saw a million and one different webblings of colors.

"I was lying on a table somewhere surrounded by a high pitched noise. It took a while before I recognized the sound as my own screams. Three aliens were performing some kind of operation on me. One of them had placed a long needle in my navel. Both of my arms had needles in them. I kept on screaming, but I couldn't move.

"I realized where I was and that nobody could help me. One of the aliens touched my head -- and I was at total peace."

Lefante describes the aliens as about 3 1/2 to 4 feet tall and tan in color with thin bodies. "They had tremendous heads, big black eyes and long arms with three fingers on each hand. Some had four. They were totally naked and had no hair. I smelled a foul odor like sulfur. Their skin looked wet, but it wasn't."

"They walked me around and took me to different rooms. I saw Curtis in one of them. He was standing up with his eyes closed. I remember going to another area which they called the Council Room and they talked about what they wanted from me. There were hieroglyphics all over the walls and a table in the center. I could see the earth on a large black screen. It was so big and so beautiful.

"The next thing I knew I was in some kind of control room and I saw the ship traveling toward the sun. I thought we were going to burn up, but we went off to the right and missed it. I saw clusters of stars in all different colors and a red-dish planet which I knew was not from this solar system. It had two suns. The ship flew into the planet and then inside a

hangar."

James can recall in vivid detail the return to earth which he watched on the black screen. The ship passed the moon on the left side. The stars went by so quickly that they formed a border around the window.

"As we got closer to earth, it was like being on an elevator. The next thing I knew, I was in my room, standing at the foot of my bed. My chest felt strange and I couldn't bend forward or move my fingers."

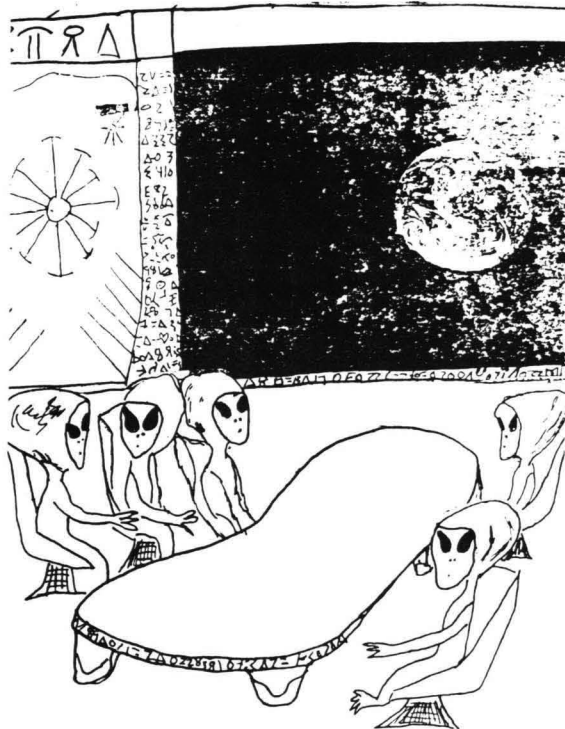
James believes that alien abductions have been part of his life since his early childhood. As a little boy, he would get up at night to see a white light and hazy shapes scurrying around. Sometimes he would awaken in a different room and find strange marks on his body. His parents attributed his fears to a recurrent nightmare.

Lefante believes that the aliens he has encountered are from another planet, another solar system. He's not sure why he has been targeted, but he is certain that there is a plan.

"Weird things have happened to me all my life," he says. The South Shore Record can attest to that. James first came to our attention several years ago, when he walked into our offices with wonderful pictures of Woody Allen, Daryl Strawberry, and other celebrities whom he just happened to "run into" with his new camera. One year later, he crashed the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame dinner and ended up sitting at the Beatles' table with Yoko Ono, wife of the late John Lennon.

Shortly before his UFO interview in Hewlett, he ran into Donny Osmond and had the autograph to prove it.

Lefante has told his strange story to Joel Martin on cable television. Last weekend, he was a special guest at the two-day conference sponsored by the Long Island UFO Network. In the near future, he will be the



James Lefante's drawing of the Council Room aboard a UFO. Note the hooded aliens, hieroglyphics and the planet earth on screen.



Curtis Walton, author Bud Hopkins and James Lefante.

## UFO: Was it or wasn't it

From time to time at the television station, people have called me about something mysterious they have seen in the skies at night...a "UFO." A UFO is an unidentified flying object.

They often start off their conversation a bit timidly, and say something like, "well, I wasn't drinking but I saw the most unusual thing in the sky..."

I have no qualms with ideas that there is other life around and I have a very open mind about the possible existence of UFOs. There is a vast and unknown sea of things we don't know about and anytime you learn something, it sets up an endless spiral of more things to learn.

I recently had a phone conversation with a Rockford businessman, Mr. John Quinn of the Gold and Diamond Exchange. He told me in a serious voice of the strange sights he saw while on a business trip to Australia.

He was driving his vehicle in the

**SUE  
MROZ**



countryside during the day. Suddenly, he became aware of some motion underneath one of the large clouds. He spotted two lense-shaped, luminous crafts that flew and hovered under the cloud. He was close enough to see that they were not planes of any sort. They began to play what looked like "hide and seek" with the cloud, darting rapidly in and out of it. He said their acceleration was about 1 1/2 seconds and produced a spurt or short tail. They finally darted off to the west and disappeared.

He told this to a Sidney business acquaintance who also had seen similar UFOs and said there were many sightings in Australia. Have you seen one? Let me know...

WIFR-TV's Sue Mroz's column on science and nature appears here weekdays.

subject of a two hour documentary scheduled to appear on Queens County Cable Channel 35. He also will be a guest on Joel Martin's radio show on WNYG-AM within the next two weeks. On Dec. 1 and Dec. 2, he will appear at a confer-

ence on the scientific studies of UFOs in Trenton, N.J.

Unidentified Flying Objects are a reality of James Lefante's life right now, but where they will take him is anybody's guess. Stay tuned.



## Lincoln man recounts abductions by aliens

by Patricia C. Ressler  
Omaha Metro Update

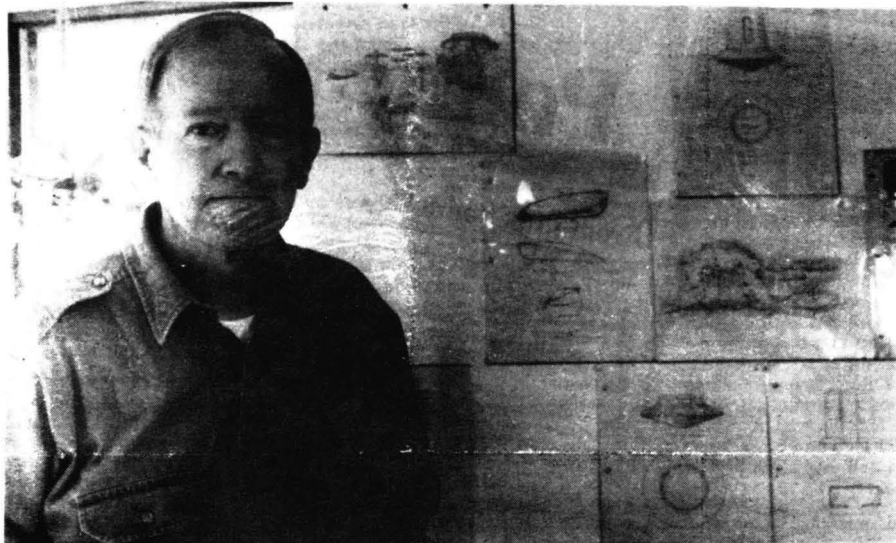
People have been talking about flying saucers for about 45 years now — longer if you count the reports of the so-called "foo-fighters" seen by

peared, he said.

On another occasion in March 1986, he saw a light out behind the trees as he sat on his patio, he said, and the sight triggered a distant memory of something that had happened to him when he was in grade

In June 1987 Foster and his daughter met with several other contactees and he had the feeling that he had known them all his life, he said.

They helped him recall experiences from coast to coast and from Canada to Mexico, he said.



Foster with drawings of aliens and spacecraft he said he has encountered.

pilots on both sides during World War II. But within the past 20 years we've been hearing more about a more frightening side to these visitations — abduction by aliens.

The most famous case was that of Barney and Betty Hill, two New Englanders returning home from vacation and unable to account for a large block of missing time. Under hypnosis, a very frightening and detailed account of alien abduction emerged. Later there was Betty Andreasson, who told of aliens who took her through walls and closed doors.

Then came Budd Hopkins, who made a study of such abductions and chronicled one case in "Intruders — The Incredible Visitation at Copely Woods." Next came the "Gulf Breeze Sightings" in Florida, and most recently author Whitley Strieber's accounts of his own abductions in his books "Communion" and "Transformation."

While most of these abductions took place in the East, some say that visiting aliens have been just as busy in the Midwest — even in Nebraska. A Lincoln man recently recounted his experiences during a talk at the Oakcrest Institute in Elkhorn.

John Foster has been an engineer in Lincoln for a number of years. Lincoln, in fact, is his home town and the place where his abduction experiences began back in 1950. A soft-spoken down-home type man, Foster reminds people of a young Joel McCrea.

"Alien abduction is a terrifying and traumatic experience," Foster told the audience. "Psychiatric counselors don't know how to deal with this — even if you can get them to believe you."

Foster has gotten help and understanding from people like Dr. Leo Sprinkle of the University of Wyoming, who has dealt with numerous alien abduction cases. He also has been the subject of ridicule and rejection by both family and friends.

"Often in a UFO abduction experience, things happen that are absolutely unbelievable. I have been told that it is not uncommon for families to break up after such an experience. I finally reached the point where I no longer care what people think of me," Foster said.

He said he wasn't fully aware of what had happened to him over the years until the 1980s. In 1981 he was sitting outside his home in Lincoln with a friend and on a lark, they both said a prayer that they would see a flying saucer and soon after, one ap-

peared, he said.

He said 40 or 50 people were outdoors watching a movie when swirling lights suddenly appeared, along with a craft that initially looked like a helicopter.

Foster recalled being incapacitated and feeling strange. He said he saw a craft appear with three little men who appeared to be fixing it. He felt an overwhelming desire to get inside the craft, but once he did, he discovered it was in a different form. "We got a lesson about history, mankind and something about Indians and buffalo," he said.

When he looked around him, Foster said, he noticed that everyone else seemed to be frozen in time. "They all looked like statues," he said. Once inside the craft, he said, he saw a woman who told him she had fixed herself up so he wouldn't be traumatized.

He said he was taken to an examining room by creatures that looked "like frogs or lizards." The woman told him they were the educators and would supervise his learning experience, he said. Among other strange things, Foster recalled that the lizard men encouraged him to join the Masonic Lodge.

After he was examined, Foster said, he was sent back out of the craft to the crowd below. The woman spoke to him in almost a scolding tone, saying that from then on he would be a good boy and mind his parents, he said. The woman seemed to know a lot about him, including the fact that he and some friends had stolen some pop and candy from a store across the street, he said.

In October 1986 Foster went camping with his wife and children at Niobrara Park and he had a short visitation which awakened more memories of previous abductions, he said.

By mid-December he recalled 50 abduction experiences, he said, and by January that number had grown to 2,000 and by January 1987, he had recalled 3,000 abductions.

Foster has recorded memories of 50 of the abductions in detail, another 450 in short notations and many others by locations only, he said.

"There are roughly two areas of the so-called close encounters," Foster said. "These may mesh together, but there are the abductees who seem to be taken aboard a craft to be examined and the contactees who appear to be contacted throughout life and seem to have an assignment."

"I believe that UFO experiences are directed at you personally," Foster said, "but there are times when they can seem to address the population in general."

"This is what seems to be the case with the mysterious 'corn circles' that first appeared in England and can now be seen in Canada and the U.S. and other places."

Foster said profound things happened to him during his abductions and the world should know about them. He was shown how the "visitors" can manipulate atomic structure and change things directly at will, he said, and was told things about scientific matters over the years, only to see them discovered afterward.

While the entities he initially encountered looked reptilian, he said, the spiritual "guides" were more human in appearance and were able to "phase in and out at the deeper levels."

On the initial level of the abduction experience there is a kind of excitement, Foster said, while on the deeper level, life plans emerge and there is interaction with people who have had similar experiences. Foster said there are four witnesses who can recall parts of at least three of his encounters.

Foster said that to document his experiences, he has made several drawings and paintings. He believes he has encountered at least 13 different kinds of crafts.

Foster said he remembers abductions that involved his friends when they were teenagers. A large floating phone booth would descend from a dark fog, he said, and a voice seemingly from a loudspeaker would urge them to "gather around for eternal wisdom and knowledge — and something else about Indians and buffalo," he said.

The voice over the loudspeaker would call them by name and could at times sound sarcastic. On one occasion, his friends shot at the booth with rifles and threw beer cans at it.

When he was at Mahoney Lake in 1987, Foster said, he again saw both the booth and a saucer. He asked the entities to quit bothering him because he was disturbed when he couldn't recall his abductions, he said, and they told him if he remembered the experiences, it would negate their purpose.

They also told him that if he didn't want to have any more abduction experiences, he would meet some people who would "help him become more metaphysical," he said,

and later on he met such people.

He said he recalls being pulled up into a kind of floating bus and being taken into the future. He declined to say what he saw.

Foster said he was given experiments to do as an engineer. "They worked, but they shouldn't have, according to what we know," he said.

He said the "guides" told him they were preparing people for a time when the chosen would be taken away.

The aliens told Foster they were a "guardian brotherhood" who had watched over mankind since antiquity, and that people had to learn to rely more on themselves to save themselves, he said.

"I was told to awaken people to

other dimensions and to participate in these realms," he said.

Foster said he sought to uncover the connection the aliens had with the Indians. He and his wife went to the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, where he was told by a medicine man that the Indians want "to make peace with the white man and have him understand our own spirituality," he said.

The medicine man told Foster, "You are supposed to tell me something. I don't know what it is, but I will know when you tell me," Foster said.

When he showed the Indians the drawings he had made of the various aliens and crafts, Foster said, they told him: "We see those things all the time."

REGISTER-STAR, Rockford, IL - Oct. 25, 1990

JUDY  
EMERSON



## The petty, the odd and the foolish

ANOTHER STRANGE-BUT-TRUE story comes from a local woman who wouldn't give her name for fear of becoming a target for ridicule.

She was among a dozen or so people who called to talk about the ring in a Milan cornfield that some people believe was made by extraterrestrials.

She described what she believes was a UFO sitting at about 9:15 last Friday night.

She, her husband and two children were driving in the country near the Aberdeen subdivision between Rockford and Belvidere when she saw five or six strange lights in the sky.

The woman described them as glowing objects, not twinkling like distant stars or blinking like airplanes. Plus, they were bigger than stars and much closer to the ground. They were just above the tree line. She swears she knows what airplanes look like at night, and it isn't like this.

The lights appeared at first to be standing still. After the family had observed the objects for a few minutes, the lights began to move away, fast.

She's wondering whether anyone else saw the light show? Or is she nuts after all? Write to me at 99 E. State Street, Rockford, 61104.

Several people have called for directions to the cornfield circle in Milan, a western Illinois town south of the Quad Cities. The ring is located west of Milan on James Lawson's farm, at the intersection of Hwy 92 and Turkey Hollow Road.

SENATORIAL STRANGENESS has been one claim to fame for U.S. Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-Rhode Island. He believes in extra-sensory perception and once sponsored a bill to promote its study.

Now comes one of his staffers who claims there has been a secret "code word" in President Bush's speeches on Iraq. After listening to the speeches backward, the Pell aide concluded that the word or name "Simone" keeps popping up. The aide wrote Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney warning him that it might not be in the national interest for this code word to get out.

Beam this guy up, Scotty.

Maybe firing federal employees who have nothing better to do than sit around listening to tapes and records backward (How does one do that, anyway?) would be a good place to start cutting the budget.

Judy Emerson's column appears on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

# The saucers were flying down home in 1990

By EMILY SMITH  
Herald staff writer

For most people, unidentified flying objects are the stuff of science fiction. But for the North Carolinians who got a glimpse of one this year, they are for real.

There were UFO sightings in seven North Carolina cities in 1990, according to George Fawcett of Lincolnton, state director of the Mutual UFO Network Inc. of North Carolina (MUFON). The network has 100 members, who, among other things, gather information on UFO sightings throughout the state.

"We've had a pretty steady flow of sightings all over this year," Fawcett said in a recent phone interview. "There is an average of 150 reports a day worldwide."

Some of the reports are sketchy, he conceded, and witnesses frequently request to remain anonymous.

"Sometimes you can take a year before you get all the facts on a sighting," said 61-year-old Fawcett, who works at Mohican Mills Inc. in Lincolnton and has investigated more than 1,200 UFO sightings in the past four decades.

Fawcett's interest in UFOs began in 1951 when he saw what looked like a 30-foot orange cut in half hovering above the administration building at Lynchburg College in Virginia, where he was a psychology student.

Fawcett said he saw the object about 10:15 a.m. while walking across campus after visiting a friend in



**EYES ON THE SKIES:** North Carolina MUFON director George Fawcett with sketch of an alien.

the college infirmary. Everyone else was in class so there were no other witnesses, he said.

"It was brilliant orange against a dark blue sky and it moved up and down like a yo-yo on a string and then took off at a 45-degree angle," Fawcett said. "It was incredible. I had always wanted to see one."

The North Carolina MUFON is a chapter of a 21-year-old international organization based in Sequin, Texas. The non-profit association has more than 1,500 members and uses a 161-page handbook to train UFO

investigators. An international convention is held each year.

Fawcett said one of this year's UFOs was seen in Durham.

"In mid-March in Durham, a businessman, who wishes to remain anonymous, saw a large dish-shaped UFO that was 45 to 60 feet wide," Fawcett said.

The man saw the object around 2:30 a.m. and said it was "about the size of a small house" and that it flew at tree-top level and had "pulsating portholes" on its side.

Other 1990 North Carolina sightings took place in Mount Airy, Morganton, Lincolnton, Charlotte, Boone and Garland. Here are the details, as reported to MUFON:

• At 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 30, Irena E. Stafford said she saw a dome-topped UFO that was "bigger than a plane or even a zeppelin" hovering near her Mount Airy home.

The 72-year-old woman said she was preparing to walk her dogs when the object appeared and that the animals whined, shook, rubbed their ears with their paws and refused to leave the house.

The object had red and green lighted portholes that rotated along its bottom edge, she reported. It had beams of light that sprayed across the sky and it made a high-pitched whining sound, she said.

paws and refused to leave the house.

The object had red and green lighted portholes that rotated along its bottom edge, she reported. It had beams of light that sprayed across the sky and it made a high-pitched whining sound, she said.

"This was the experience of a lifetime for her," Fawcett said.

• In Morganton at 10:19 a.m. on Oct. 29, Robin Church reported, she saw two oval-shaped objects in the sky that were drawn together by a bar-like device.

She said, "The entire object was about the length of a small car" and it hovered about 300 feet off the ground for three

to four minutes before disappearing.

• On the evening of Oct. 1 in Lincolnton, a textile worker, who asked to remain anonymous, saw an amber-colored, football-shaped UFO that dropped from the sky and disappeared in a group of trees.

• About 4 one afternoon in May, Andrew Sullivan and his 14-year-old son were cutting grass in the backyard of their Charlotte home when they saw a silver football-shaped UFO moving about 100 feet off the ground. They reported that the object moved from north to south in the direction of Douglas Inter-

national Airport and was "about the size of a standard car."

• At 5:40 a.m. on Feb. 15 in Garland, a pilot named Ralph Markham or Ralph Matthew (Fawcett could not read his handwriting) and two of his friends saw a brilliant white UFO that shone like a fluorescent bulb. It hovered about 1,500 feet above the ground and had three red lights.

• On Feb. 20 around 9:30 a.m., a large number of people reported to the Watauga County sheriff's department that they had sighted a UFO, according to a Watauga Democrat newspaper story

mailed to Fawcett. The article gave no other details.

In addition to these sightings, Fawcett said, there were two reports this year in North Carolina of circular rings stamped into the ground by unseen forces.

In September, three 3-foot circles were found etched into the ground in Vale, and, on the afternoon of Oct. 11 in Ashboro, Hilda Lilly discovered a foot-wide circular track, 30 feet in diameter, stamped into the ground near her home. Fawcett said other observers at the site said it looked as if an object had been set down there.

Similar circles have been reported in England over the years, according to the December issue of *Omni* magazine. Last summer there were more than 400 reports of circles sculpted into the cornfields of southern England. Theories about how they got there are conflicting and include everything from UFO landings and tornados to space-age weaponry testing and good old trickery.

## John Fuller, 76, Writer on the Unexplained, Dies

By EDWIN McDOWELL

John Fuller, a playwright, documentary film producer and author of many books about the unexplained, died Wednesday at the Norwalk (Conn.) Hospital. He was 76 years old and lived in Weston, Conn.

His wife, Elizabeth, said he died of lung cancer.

For all his versatility, Mr. 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 spaceship and interviewed by its humanoid occupants, became a television movie starring James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons.

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

John Grant Fuller was born in Philadelphia on Nov. 30, 1913, and graduated from Lafayette College in 1936. For the next 25 years he worked in radio and television and was at various times a writer, director or producer of such shows as "20th Century," "Du Pont Show of the Week," "The Garry Moore Show," "Candid Camera" and "The Great American Dream Machine."

Mr. Fuller wrote two Broadway plays: "The Pink Elephant" (1953), a two-act comedy with Steve Allen in the role of a rebellious ghost writer for a politician, and "Love Me Little" (1958), a comedy adapted by Mr. Fuller from a novel by Amanda Vail, the pen name of Warren Miller.

Mr. Fuller wrote a column for The Saturday Review of Literature from

1957 to 1967, during which time he wrote several books, including "Incident At Exeter" (1966), an account of stories told by people in Exeter, N.H., about flying saucers.

That experience started Mr. Fuller on a long line of books on similar or related subjects: "Arigo: The Surgeon With the Rusty Knife" (1974), "The Airman Who Would Not Die" (1979) (1968), "We Almost Lost Detroit" (1975) and "The Poison That Fell From the Sky" (1978), about the after-effects of a chemical plant explosion in 1976 near the Italian town of Seveso.

Mr. Fuller was sometimes criticized by reviewers for not using footnotes in his books and for what they judged was the implausibility of his topics. But as Jeff Greenfield wrote in The New York Times Book Review in reviewing "The Poison That Fell From the Sky," Mr. Fuller "keeps raising the most unset-

ling of questions." Moreover, even before passage of the Freedom of Information Act, he had a facility for somehow obtaining Government documents, which he incorporated in some of his books.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Fuller is survived by their son, Christopher, also of Weston; three sons from a previous marriage, John G., of Toronto; Geoffrey, of New Haven, and Judd, of New York, and a sister, Carol Chambers.

A memorial service will be held at 4 P.M. Monday at the Unitarian Church in Westport, Conn.

## 'Ball Of Fire' In Sky A Mystery

'Looks Good,' Says UFO Tracker; Randolph Man Doubtful

By RICKI MORELL

Staff Writer

It fell from the sky over Randolph County "like a ball of fire," Steve Harrell's 7-year-old son saw it and cried "Jet crash! Jet crash!"

Harrell turned his video camera toward it and began shooting.

"It was a bright light falling from the sky," said Harrell. "I didn't know what to think. It looked like a big ball of fire. It started floating down and then it was gone."

Steve Harrell heard no crash and found no jet.

He was left with the suspicion he had witnessed something strange about 5:30 p.m. that Christmas Day as he videotaped son Nathan on his new go-kart.

"I don't think it came from outer space," said the 25-year-old Randolph County printer, who lives about 10 miles southwest of Asheboro. "There's an explanation. Got to be."

The Asheboro Municipal Air-

"I don't think it came from outer space. There's an explanation. Got to be."

Steve Harrell

port didn't have one.

Neither did the Randolph County Sheriff's Department.

Neither did the local television crew who took Harrell out in a helicopter to search the area.

But George Fawcett, director of the N.C. Mutual UFO Network, was pretty sure what it was.

"Off the top of my head, without having really investigated, it looks good," he said. "It fits the pattern of a large number of UFO sightings in North Carolina — large objects seen at low altitude ... multiple lights."

Fawcett, who has investigated UFO sightings for 46 years, says the number of sightings in North Carolina has increased in 1990. In some cases, Fawcett said, people have seen "creatures, 3½ to 4 feet tall that come out of the UFOs."

Fawcett is sending four investigators to Harrell's house to analyze the tape and look for landing marks.

Meanwhile, Harrell still plans to search the area when the weather improves. And the sheriff's department is investigating.

Another eyewitness, who didn't want to be identified, also saw the light, said Lt. Don Andrews.

"In his opinion, it looked like several flares tied together and they all dropped," Andrews said. "But as far as it being a UFO, I would say a UFO is something with little green men in it. I don't think this was like that."

"Something happened out there, but I'm not exactly sure what it is at this time."



Steve Harrell used his video camera to record this bright light that fell across the sky near his Randolph County home on Christmas Day. "It looked like a big ball of fire. It started floating down and then it was gone," Harrell said.





## FOREIGN NEWS

TARGET, Lincoln, England - Aug. 2, 1990 CR: N. Oliver



• Creatures from outer space, magnetic fields or hoaxers — Mr Needham and his family are baffled as to the cause of the strange circles

## Mystery of the barley field circles...

**HAVE** creatures from outer space been visiting the county or have hoaxers been out on the prowl.

This is the question puzzling farmer, Peter Needham, following the appearance of four mysterious flattened circles in the middle of one of his barley fields.

The circles, one about 20 yards and diameter and the others about four, have

appeared in Mr Needham's field at Manor Farm, Coleby.

"I've no idea what's caused them," said Mr Needham. "I've never seen anything like them in 60 years of going into harvest fields."

In each of the circles, the crop is pressed flat against the ground in an anticlockwise circle, forming a perfect pattern. Other villagers have been called

in to view the phenomenon but nobody has yet solved the mystery.

The three small circles are each about 10 yards to the north, east and west of the large circle.

"We've had whirlwinds before but they leave marks where they enter and leave fields and there's no indication where whatever's caused this has entered or left, except either upwards or downwards."

## Gobbled up by UFOs?

By LES WILSON

WORLD UFO watchers have warned that Bass Strait is gulping up boats just like the dreaded Bermuda Triangle.

Latest victim is a sleek sloop, with a crew of six returning from an ocean race.

"It vanished without trace, plucked from the water by UFOs. That's the only explanation left," says veteran skipper Tom Courtney.

"It's just like a black hole," adds Courtney of the treacherous triangle between Tasmania and Victoria.

"Ships and planes vanish into thin air, just like Bermuda. The only answer in both cases is that they fell foul of flying saucers. Scores have disappeared, defying any other logical explanation."

The missing sloop didn't have time to put out a radio call. No distress signal was seen.

According to UFO expert Colin Norris, the sailing boat was a victim of aliens operating from a secret base under Bass Strait.

Norris, director of the Australian International Research Organisation, claims the Aussie Government is covering up weird happenings in the Bass Triangle.

"The Government knows more about UFO kidnappings than it's letting on."

"And I think they are powerless to stop them."

"The very deep ocean, like Bermuda, seems to suit UFOs as a hiding place and perhaps a source of fuel."

One UFO was even photographed minutes before the disappearance of the Strait's most famous victim, Frederick Valentich.

Just 12 years ago he radioed that an enormous silvery craft studded with bright lights was circling his Cessna.

Suddenly his transmission was cut off.

A massive sea and air search was launched, but no trace was found of the hapless aviator.

An amateur photographer snapped a picture of the alien craft minutes before Valentich disappeared.

As far back as 1912 a positive UFO identification was made by an RAAF bomber crew over the oil-rich Strait.

They claimed a shiny globe chased their plane for five minutes.

It disabled their direction finder and sped away.

And in July 1920 Army Captains W. Stutt and A.G. Dalziel flew in search of two lost schooners.

Neither their plane nor the boats returned.

The experts said then they had been taken by "mysterious forces."

NORTH WEST STAR, Mt. Isa, Queensland, Australia - Aug. 8, 1990 CR: P. Norman

UFO sightings remain an unsettled issue between investigators and believers of the phenomenon and sceptics.

But according to a Victorian researcher who was in Mount Isa this week, about 10 per cent of reported sightings in the world remain unexplained.

Mr Paul Norman, a member of the International Committee for UFO Research, spends many months of the year travelling Australia to interview people who have reported unidentified flying objects.

He said the unexplained objects seen often had common features.

They were usually small objects, only a few feet in height, predominantly disc-shaped, and a silver or aluminium colour.

"We're talking here about the object itself," Mr Norman said. "Not lights that may be seen in the sky."

Mr Norman has been involved with UFO investigations for more than 30 years.

"I saw my first UFO when one flew over with-out a sound when I was superintendent of a power station in Tennessee. That was in 1953," he said.

He also saw two UFOs after sitting up for 15 nights in northern Victoria, where he was conducting interviews.

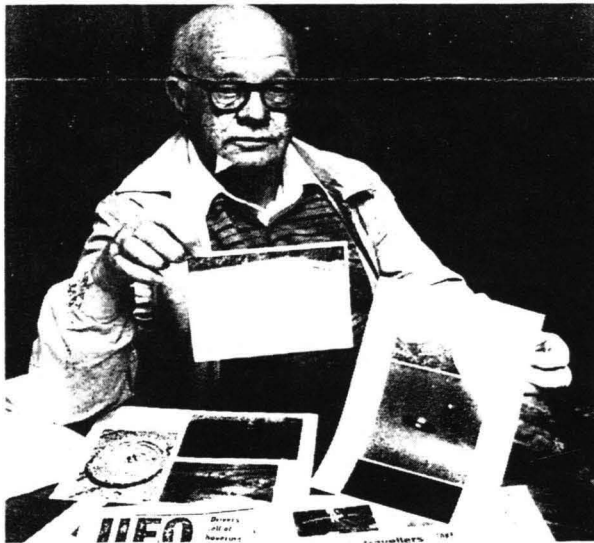
Mr Norman admitted most sightings could be rationally explained and said the organisation only investigated those of the 10 per cent which had tangible evidence.

"Most of the good daylight sightings come from airline pilots, because, of course, they're up there a lot of the time," he said.

Circular evidence in

## UFOs remain mystery of our skies

By Susan Woodward



UFO researcher Mr Paul Norman visits Mount Isa on his current travels, interviewing people who have reported sightings. He believes a recent sighting reported in *The North West Star* is a genuine case that cannot be rationally explained.

the wheat fields of southern England was not a new phenomenon, but evidence was increas-

ing near Stonehenge and patterns were changing. Rectangular patterns, like the circles, had geo-

metrical perfectness and it was simple to tell the hoax from the real thing. "Our problem is not

hoaxers because we usually dispell them quickly," he said.

"Our main problem is people seeing things, but nothing's left behind."

"But we still pay attention to these, although they offer no evidence, because they could be pointing to something starting up."

While the world's attention had focused mainly on cases such as those in England, Mr Norman said there was much evidence of circular activity in Australia.

In the Mallee area of north-west Victoria, a photograph of a 50 square kilometre region showed some 200 unexplained circle patterns.

Some were up to 32 metres in diameter.

"I investigated 12 circles found in the soil near Mallee."

"The soil was as hard as wood to knock on and then a couple of weeks later, it returned to normal," he said.

There also were many reports from the Nullarbor, especially from truck drivers.

A well-publicised report of a UFO sighting there by the Knowles family in 1987 was the 14th known case of its type in the world, Mr Norman said.

And what of the Min Min Lights?

"Well, the Min Min Lights are only in certain areas. People see them, and then if they move, even a few feet, they disappear."

"They could be caused by temperature inversions or something else atmospheric."

"Aboriginal groups in the Northern Territory call them spirit lights, and so do some natives in Africa."

"I'd like to ask them just what these spirit lights are," he said.

JOURNAL, Bristol, England - Oct. 26, 1990

## Experts investigate youngsters' UFO encounter with yellow peril

# Bubble trouble

Exclusive by Morag Massey

EXPERTS are to investigate astonishing claims by two ten-year-olds that their game of flying saucers turned into a close encounter with a real UFO.

Youngster Kelly Broom told this week how she threw a frisbee towards her friend Rachel Stewart... and it hit a "force field" and zoomed back at her.

The scared youngsters tried to run home but were caught inside a mystery yellow bubble. They were hurled to the

ground by a "shock" and lay there shaking with fear.

"We were really, really scared," said Kelly from her home in Walker Close, Downend.

"It was like an enormous bubble. We couldn't get out," she said. "It felt like we were suffocating and we thought we would die."

Kelly and Rachel were playing last Thursday afternoon in a field near Downend sports centre. The friends

held hands until they managed to break through and run home.

"It was difficult explaining it to people afterwards because it sounds so unreal," said Kelly.

Kelly's mum Tanya was convinced her daughter was telling the truth. She visited the field to try and work out what had happened.

"Kelly swore on her family's life she was telling the truth. I believe her," said Tanya.

"It must have been a UFO force-field. I'm relieved they managed to escape," she said.

CR: T. Good

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 29, 1990

## It's circle number 3

Canadian Press

PETERSFIELD, Man. — A third mysterious circle of flattened grain has been found in a farmer's field in Manitoba.

The latest circle was found by farmer Joe Janisch while he was swathing his crop north of Winnipeg, says UFO researcher Chris Rutkowski.

Janisch said this one appeared to have trails leading into it, unlike the other two, also found in fields near Winnipeg.

Rutkowski and others suggest the circles are created by pranksters, rather than prospective grain buyers from outer space.

CR: G. CONWAY



Could be aliens: Reg inspects the corn circle on his farm — the third in the area

# UFO or UTHO? Riddle of the missing spuds



Could be earthlings: Reg and his empty potato patch

ONE puzzle has farmer Reg Ellis running round in circles

Did some little green men pinch his spuds?

UFO theorists who believe visitors from outer space are seeking a taste of life on earth have had their beliefs strengthened after half-a-ton of King Edwards mysteriously disappeared from the field next door to Rotherham's latest corn circle.

And the mysteries have left Rawmarsh farmer Reg puzzled.

He noticed about a quarter-of-an-acre of potatoes had been pulled up by their tops within hours of Keith Merriott discovering the perfect corn circle as he walked his dog at Upper Haugh.

The 15-20 yard formation is the third to occur in the Rotherham area and the second in Rawmarsh. A formation at Brecks was declared by Tornado and Storm Research Organisations

By Allan Tuningley

ation expert Bruce Mason to be "definitely not a hoax".

But though Reg is not sure of the origin of the circle in his cornfield, he is more inclined to believe in the UTHO theory when it comes to his spuds — Unidentified Thieving Objects!

He has suffered potato losses in the past but this year says he is more of a target as his seven-acre crop is the only one for miles.

Hedges

"The potatoes have not been pinched from one part of the field but from various areas as if the thieves thought that way I wouldn't notice," he said.

And while he believes there is no evidence of human contact with the corn circle the fact that two sections of hedge to his potato field have been taken down strengthens his UTHO theory.

But if the spuds were taken by little green Mr Spocks, Reg reckons they've got taste — they only took the biggest and best from the crop!

## Llowarch UFOs still being seen

HAVING whetted your appetites last week by mentioning such unexplained things as the Egryn Lights and faeries with illuminated bobble-hats, I'll continue the theme. And, of course, lights in the sky over Wales are being seen all the time, so I'll bring us a little more up to date.

Since the advent of this column, I've frequently heard the stories of people who believe they've seen "flying saucers". That term has become almost synonymous with unidentified flying objects since the late 1940s, though it defines a certain kind of UFO.

You may remember that I reported an interesting observation made in the early 1950s. A reliable witness saw the now-familiar shaped saucer perched on Cors Caron, the great Tregaron Bog. Outside the craft were two human—or humanoid-figures clad in silver suits. Now I know that it was argued by one reader that, if those silver clad figures had all this amazing technology, why did they end up there? Good point. But not knowing the nature of their visit, who can answer such a question? In any case, Cors Caron still has its share of odd lights.

About that time, my friend Jess was living in what she calls "a remote farmhouse". One day when her husband was out, through her window she saw a flying saucer hovering near the ground. She could see people inside the craft and has gone on record many times—on radio and television—describing her experience despite neighbours' ridicule.

Both she and her small children observed the hovering ship. Afterwards, she suffered from strange symptoms and likens them to mild radiation sickness.

And, as you will know, right up until the present time I've been passing on reports of UFO sightings in this column. Now then, two questions are being asked currently. The old one: what could they be? And, in the light of all this recent hype by less sober newspapers: are they associated with crop-circles?

Fortunately, that excellent journal *Flying Saucer Review* has kept going. It's become a respected source of information, so redresses the balance of the hoaxes and the terminally daft. However, I do not think anyone has yet explained the origin of the saucers—though you can bet I have a theory which I'll pass on next-week (lucky you) along with some thoughts on those crop-circles. See you then.

## Circles baffle boffins

BOFFINS are baffled by the appearance of a circle of flattened corn in a field near Barnt Green.

The circle appeared over a weekend on farmer Alan McKinnon's land near Blackwell Road and the M42.

Mr McKinnon how-

ever, is convinced it is a hoax, and his wife agrees: "It's definitely not real" she said.

"The circle has appeared on the tenth of the field that you can see from the road and it is right by the motorway," Mr McKinnon explained. "It seems too much of

a coincidence."

Doctor Peter Jarvis from the School of Geography at Birmingham University said there were several theories regarding the circles. "One idea is that agricultural machines cause them, but it is a bit unlikely. The second theory, that the use of

machinery over the years caused the soil to weaken underneath them, was also implausible," he said.

What was far more likely, said Dr Jarvis, was that the circles are caused by the atmosphere cooling at dusk after a hot day and forming small whirlpools of air which flatten the corn. "With the hot weather it seems the temperature drops more quickly and so the circles occur", he added.

Corn circles have been in the news since scientists started examining them in Wiltshire. Some claim the circles, which are too perfect to be fakes, are caused by UFOs or running deer.



● Pictured in the corn circle is Ruairaidh McKinnon, aged 9, with his dog Corrie.



# Strange occurrences have Marcotts wondering

Strange occurrences only happen to other people, right?

By RAE WATTIE  
Tribune Staff Writer

Well, Marian and Rolland Marcott thought the same thing until last Saturday evening when a "perfect circle" appeared in the gravel on their driveway.

Marian says she looked out at the driveway at around 5 p.m. and there was no sign of the huge concentric circles that she discovered two hours later. She was startled.

"We didn't hear anything. The circle just appeared. We measured it and the inside track is 38 feet in diameter."

The "perfect circle" was, and

still is, an inch-deep imprint in the gravel about four inches wide and 42 feet in diameter.

The Marcotts have no explanation for how the circle appeared in their yard.

"I know I didn't make it that's for sure," Rolland says. "I just don't know what to think of it."

The first thing Rolland thought of when he saw the circle, was the impressions found in the fields in Saskatchewan. "I've never really thought about UFOs before. I've thought about them in passing, but never thought it would happen to us."

A few rocks inside the impression appear to be crushed and scratched, and the Marcotts say they don't think a motor-

cycle's tire could do that.

"It makes you wonder if some little people are trying to come and visit you," Marian says.

The Marcott's dog behaved strangely around the time of the circle's appearance. "The dog covered away. She hid in the backyard and wouldn't come when we called her for about an hour."

There are no tracks leading to the circle and no evidence of how the circle was made.

At around 4:30 the following morning, Rolland noticed a beam of light shining down over his son's yard, just up the bank behind the Marcott home. Rolland alerted his wife who came to look. "His whole yard

was covered with a circle of light beaming down over the trees," Marian says.

Rolland says the porch light was on and the beam could have been reflecting through the fog. "It just makes you wonder after the circle appearing. If we had seen it at another time we probably wouldn't have thought about it."

The Marcotts say the circle is a phenomenon that has left them wondering about the possibility of UFOs. "It's kind of eerie. It would make you feel better if someone else said the same thing happened in their yard."

No unusual occurrences or sightings were reported to the RCMP or Williams Lake airport staff.



Marian Marcott



Rolland Marcott

# We know the aliens are out there

Patricia Mee knew from an early age that she was different. She was sent to earth by extra-terrestrials. Jim White met her among ufologists

"OH YES, we know who they are. We can tell you exactly who they are. They come from a distant universe of four planets. They're using Patricia to make people aware of what we are doing to our own planet, and what that means for the whole solar system."

This was not the usual pub conversation. Malcolm Jacobs (Pepsi) and Patricia Mee (small glass of sweet white wine) were sitting soberly in a Leeds lounge bar. They had just seen an advance performance of *Communication*, the film version of Whitley Strieber's book about being abducted by aliens and were comparing the screen experiences with their own.

The film features Christopher Walken (who has the casting advantage of looking half-Venusian without the benefit of make-up) as the American writer who communes with small blue men who have escaped from a *Dr Who* props cupboard. The screening had been arranged by Bufora (the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association) for an invited audience of UFOlogists (UFO researchers), abductees (folk who have been whipped aboard flying saucers against their will) and contactees (people who maintain a long-term dialogue with aliens). This is not a world without its jargon. In the pub there was a mix of experiences and sceptics: "I've got about as much chance of getting a drink in this pub as I have of being abducted," said a sceptic at the bar.

Malcolm, a taxi driver, and Patricia, a personnel assistant, come from Stretford near Manchester and are not sceptics. "I'm sure UFOs exist," said Malcolm. "I know they exist. The

questions we should be asking are what can we learn from them and what can we offer them."

Patricia, who knew there was something different about her from the age of three, now believes she was placed here by aliens. "As a kid I was always looking up at the sky," she remembered. "I couldn't go to bed without saying goodnight to the stars. I thought I had someone with me all the time. I wouldn't look in a mirror in case I saw them."

*'As a kid I was always looking up at the sky. I thought I had someone with me. I wouldn't look in a mirror in case I saw them'*

Throughout her teens she lived in an uneasy state, feeling isolated and confused, seeing unexplained lights, communing with her invisible friend. Then, in her early twenties, she had her first writing experience. Her cousin, who happens to be clairvoyant, rang her up out of the blue and told her to expect a message. "I'd been tearing my hair out in confusion. I felt I was constantly turning the corner and yet not getting anywhere. Then I was in the office and suddenly, everybody got up and left. I was all alone, shut my eyes, and when I opened them again, written on a piece of paper in front of me, not in my handwriting, were the words: 'Hello. I'm here to help you.'"

"This Lillian, her cousin," added Malcolm. "She's now one of the top healers in the Manchester area."

At first, Patricia sought solace in the spiritualist world, looking for explanations. At a psychic meeting she met Malcolm. "I knew when I met Pa-

tricia," said Malcolm. "You understand me? I knew." Spiritualism did not help Patricia articulate what was happening, however.

Then somebody suggested the couple should meet Philip Mantle, a Bufora researcher. After talking to him, Malcolm and Patricia began to see things more clearly. "I think I've grown a lot in knowledge and purpose over the past eight years," said Patricia. "I'm here to help. If we keep disrupting our planet, the bad vibes will send the whole universe off kilter. Ultimately the planet is crying out for help, that cry is being heard by people who know what harmony is, who've learnt."

"They're not like those midgets on the film," said Malcolm. "They're about seven feet tall, like basketball players."

Philip Mantle has been talking to experiences for 11 years now, devoting his time away from a job in the printing industry to research. He met his wife on a UFO watch on the moors: the top tier of their wedding cake was an icing flying saucer. "There are more UFO sightings in the Pennine area than anywhere else in Britain," he said. "It's called a 'window area' in UFOlogical parlance. There was a recent 'flap' in South Yorkshire, hundreds of sightings of a triangular shape, slow-moving. If it was a nationwide sighting it would be a 'wave'."

He has investigated virtually every flap and wave in the country. He has interviewed all the great cases: PC Godfrey in Todmorden who was abducted for 15 minutes in 1980; a lad in South Wales who has unexplained scars on his wrists after an encounter

with a bright light in a field. He remains, much to Malcolm's astonishment, completely unconvinced. "I can't buy it at all. I haven't got a conclusion, I'm a fence sitter. I believe nothing and I question everything."

This puts him at odds with American researchers who have spent years bending experiences to fit their prejudices. There is a chap in Essex, for instance, who Philip has spoken to on many occasions. He claims to have been abducted by ugly creatures with hairy faces. The Americans dismissed him as a loony because this did not fit into their parameters: aliens wear long, smooth, expressionless face masks.

Some Americans, too, are keen on the conspiracy theory. The UFO conspiracy has taken over from Kennedy as the conspiracy theorist's conspiracy theory. Indeed, someone has just published a book positing that Kennedy was assassinated because he was about to spill the beans on UFOs.

Malcolm believes the conspiracy theory ("of course governments know"). Philip Mantle does not. Governments know less than amateur investigators like him. He reckons that 95 per cent of UFO sightings are easily explained: aircraft, stars, planets, even the moon are misinterpreted in the night sky. The other 5 per cent are not unexplainable, just more interesting. "We like to think of it as chronicling modern folklore," explained fellow researcher Andy Roberts.

He and Philip prefer not to offer explanations, but to listen and collate. Over the years they have spoken to many people like Patricia and Malcolm, and recognise the similarities, the philosophising, the methods and manner of communication. Philip knows certain key words and phrases that, like IRA call signs, differentiate genuine experiences from the plain hoaxer.

His patience as an interviewer means that he has won extraordinary confidences — a woman in Liverpool, for instance, told him of an experience she had in the Fifties; he was the first person she had told in more than 30 years. An odd partnership has grown up between the experiences, who fervently believe, and the academics, researching folklore and mass delusion.

"Nobody believes people like Malcolm," said Philip. "Everybody laughs at them. Doctors, neighbours, friends, family. In a sense, we're their last port of call."

"These guys do a fantastic job," said Malcolm. "There may be lots of people with experiences who don't know where to turn, tearing themselves inside out. They should talk to these guys."

And, like all true marriages, the two sides could not agree over the film they had just seen. The academics loved its psychological nuances and its lack of flashy compromises ("the best UFO film ever," said Philip Mantle). Malcolm thought it was desperately slow. "Not like *Close Encounters*. Now that's a brilliant film."

Bufora can be contacted by conventional means on 0924-444049.

*'They're not like those midgets on the film. They're about seven feet tall, like basketball players', says Malcolm*

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England - Sept. 14, 1990

# Cash reward is on offer for a genuine UFO pic

by Steve Hart

THE gauntlet has been thrown down to find hard evidence of UFOs.

Following years of alleged sightings of strange lights in the sky and rumours of alien beings with big eyes abducting humans for experiments — the ultimate proof is now being sought.

A cash reward has been offered for a picture of an extra-terrestrial craft. Peter Oliver, chairman of the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association said his committee had not yet decided the amount of the cash award.

Mr Oliver was speaking last week amid claims of further UFO activity in Southend, Great Wakering and Rochford. He said: "The picture of a UFO will have to be one-hundred-per cent true. All pictures will be thoroughly checked and faked pictures won't stand a chance. "If we receive a picture that interests us we will want to see the negative."

He added: "People should not be worried about telling us of sightings or contacts with alien beings. All reports are treated in strict confidence — names and addresses of people who report sightings to us are never revealed."

On Thursday, August 23, two young brothers reported seeing a bright light from their bedroom in St Edmunds Close, Southend, at about 12.45am. Mr Oliver said: "The boys shouted down to their dad and rushed outside to get a better look at

the craft, but it had disappeared."

He said the boys described the UFO as a large orange coloured light with a smaller white light travelling down the object. It was moving northwards.

If you have a picture of an extra-terrestrial space craft, send it to Skywatch, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Basilston, Essex, SS14 1AH, with your name and address and, if possible, daytime telephone number.

We will forward your pictures to Mr Oliver.

BUCKS EXAMINER, Chesham, England - Aug. 3, 1990 CR: T. Good

# Did UFOs invade the local villages?

by Richard Franks

SHOCKED villagers around Chesham are convinced they have encountered alien life in the form of UFOs

Several people around Bellingdon, South Heath, and The Lee, are baffled about the appearance of fast-moving bright lights, flying saucers and mother space-ships, just after midnight on Sunday.

Both farmers, businessmen, students, and housewives, who experienced the phenomena can offer no explanation as to what caused the extra-terrestrial extravaganza.

A Bellingdon couple saw bright lights whizzing around in the sky making small formations of three and four at incredible speeds, and a huge metallic coloured cigar shaped cylinder that rose into the sky in the direction of Berkhamsted.

The "ship" turned on its side revealing three huge circles of light and disappeared. Virginia Morgan, her parents, and friend, saw hundreds of lights playing all over the sky around a central point, and a series of lights in a line that whizzed over their heads that split up into other lights.

She said: "It was hypnotic, I couldn't tear myself away. I've been sceptical in the past, but now I'm not so sure."

Farmer Colin Passmore, of The Lee, and his wife Pauline saw 30 or more strange lights circling the sky.

Pauline described: "At first we thought they were lights from a fair ground but when we looked closer they were saucer shaped. I thought they came from space."

All of the witnesses agree that the experience suddenly stopped after 20 minutes at around 12.25am.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said that the lights were caused by lasers at the Tina Turner concert in Woburn Abbey.

But a member of the lighting crew at the concert said their effects were not produced by lasers, but by searchlights and it was very unlikely that they would be seen from so far away.

And the lighting effects do not seem to tally with the phenomena described by the local residents, who are convinced that what they saw were flying saucers.

Thames Valley Police chief inspector Jim Stephenson said: "If anyone sees anything strange then they should telephone the police and we will investigate."

# Couple spooked by close encounter on the planet Thanet



Stars in their eyes — Tracey Render and Paul Cowell

TT2140/23

## Exclusive report by Alison Terry

**FLYING saucers may be spying over Thanet! It's not a Hallowe'en joke, but a real possibility if a weird sighting by a Thanet couple has an extra-terrestrial explanation.**

Strange goings-on were seen in the sky over Kingsgate by a number of spooked locals in the early hours of Wednesday — which just happened to be Hallowe'en morning.

Several people say they saw lightning coming out of clouds, but Paul Cowell is sure he saw seven separate UFOs.

Puzzled Paul said: "I saw seven separate bundles of flashing lights go into a black shape in a cloud over the Captain Digby pub.

"If I have cracked, then I've cracked, but I have never seen anything like it before. It sounds absurd, but I know what I saw."

And Paul is sure the Government knows there is something going on in the skies, but has covered it up with warnings of freak weather conditions that did not happen.

"If I had only seen one of these things, I would have thought it was a helicopter. But there were seven of them. It was a very exciting experience, but shocking," he said.

A spokesman for RAF Manston said: "We cannot shed any light on the matter, so to speak. We did have a helicopter flying that night, but much earlier on. It is nothing to do with us."

Paul and his girlfriend Tracey Render were watching the lightning from their house in Kingsgate, when they saw the spooky spaceships.

Paul said he saw the strange lightning, lighting up the clouds, making them

gold in colour. Then he spotted a little mass of lights, similar to a star, travel forward and go into the black shape. This was followed by six others.

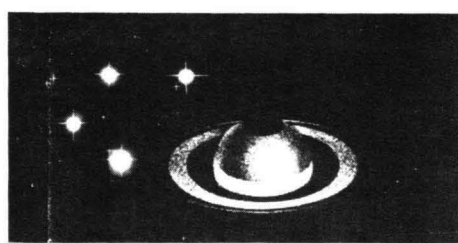
"The lightning was coming out of the clouds. It was like a signal and then these things came in. I was shocked," he said.

"There was no way that black shape was a cloud," said Tracey. "I know what I saw, but I expect some people will think I'm mad."

The next morning Paul called Invicta Radio to see if anyone else had seen the weird spectacle. Several people called to say they had seen the lightning coming out of the cloud, but no one had seen the curious clusters that went into it.

"I still can't believe it," Paul said. "I wanted to call someone to tell us we were not hallucinating. I have a strange feeling it is going to happen again tonight. I just wish I had a video camera."

# ARE ALIENS SPYING ON US?



## MYSTERY DEEPENS

CR: T. Good  
LICHFIELD & RUGELEY POST, Chase, England - Aug. 23, 1990

By LYNETTE  
LLOYD

The mystery of the Chorley corn 'circle' is deepening.

As reported exclusively by the Post, the crop circle in Chorley has had the experts in a tangle - but there could be a space-age answer to the mystery.

One avid Post reader claims that the corn circle in Chorley was caused by a UFO.

The reader, who lives in Burntwood, explained: "We were out walking about a month ago in Leomansley Road and Christchurch Lane, looking across a field in the direction of Chorley, when we saw, suspended in the air, a cigar shape with lights all around it."

"I was with somebody at the time, so I know I wasn't seeing things because they saw it too," said the reader.

They stood watching the shape in the air for

quite a while, before witnessing it take off.

"I couldn't believe my eyes when this thing lifted off into space. I am not a crackpot and don't make things up - I actually saw this with my own two eyes," added the reader.

Post readers will remember the deluge of calls we reported just two years ago, when local people saw dozens of UFOs in the Chase area. More sightings were recorded in a period of two months than was normal to get in two years.

The Chorley crop circle is currently being investigated by the Midlands Psychic Eye, who say categorically they don't believe it was caused by a UFO.

They said they thought the circle was probably genuine but the arms made

it appear as if it was perhaps a hoax.

Last week we revealed that some readers were concerned that witches' coven activities may have been the cause.

Rugeley lady Carol Arnell is continuing to try and help us identify the shape of the crop 'circle'. The story caught her attention as she is researching 'supernatural happenings' for a book. It is because of this that Carol is interested in the subject of witchcraft, but she has asked us to point out that she is in no way involved in any sort of witchcraft herself.

Thanks to Mrs. Mabel Smith, of Fallow Field, Lichfield, for sending us a report of a similar 'corn shape' found around the same time in Devon. The shape is remarkably similar to the Chorley one, having a small semi-circle at one end and a small rectangle at the other.

ESSEX CHRONICLE, Chelmsford, England - Aug. 31, 1990 CR: T. Good

## Tank shape UFO

ESSEX Unidentified Flying Object researchers are investigating reports that a tank shaped craft, about 150ft diameter has been spotted on three separate occasions over the county.

One of the sightings was reported by two police officers in the south of the county.

The hovering object had five square red lights.

Two other sightings in different areas of the county also reported a tank shaped craft.

Essex UFO Research Group is holding a meeting on September 7 at the Quaker Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester. All are welcome. If anyone wishes to report sighting they can contact Les Stacey on 0206-211442.

It seems rural Manitoba has almost as many rings as the telephone company this summer.

Another crop circle landed in the province last weekend — the sixth since the middle of August — and police say this one isn't any easier to explain than the others.

"We're caught in a very difficult situation ... how many hours do you devote to something that could be a practical joke?"

said RCMP Cpl. Wyman Sangster.

The latest circle was found 1.5 kilometres south of Niverville off Highway 318, on the northwest corner of a field belonging to Jake L. Friesen.

The circle was about 19 metres across, Sangster said.

The RCMP have two options when investigating the circles — they can attempt to lay charges for the willful damage to the crop or if there are any UFO sightings in

connection with the circle, they must make a report to the National Research Council.

This latest occurrence "was believed to be associated with a UFO sighting," Sangster said.

The other circles, which have been found in various locations around the city, have been blamed on everything from natural wind cyclones to pranksters with hockey sticks.

## Crop circle linked with UFO sighting

SUN, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada - Sept. 5, 1990



# Strange circles appearing in Canadian fields

By David Roberts  
Toronto Globe and Mail

ALVENA, Saskatchewan — Like a whirling dervish from nowhere, something poked four large holes in a wheat field near Tweedsmuir, Saskatchewan.

The largest ring is 21 yards across. The wheat stalks within it are unbroken, the heads intact. They are simply bent, flattened into a swirl. The ground is undisturbed.

Three days after the finding in late August near Tweedsmuir, north of Prince Albert, a smaller ring was found in a field near Alvena, 45 miles northeast of Saskatoon.

At about the same time, six similar rings were reported in fields across southern Manitoba, one each in St. Francis-Xavier, Rosser, Niverville and Lockport, and two in Petersfield.

The same crop circles are appearing almost weekly now across the prairies as farmers complete their harvest. A new series of rings appeared last week in Meath Park, Saskatchewan.

Such phenomena are well-documented in England's Wiltshire Downs, where they are appearing at the rate of five or 10 a day — more than 1,000 so far this year. They've also popped up in the United States, Australia, France, Brazil, New Zealand, Switzerland and the Soviet Union.

Mike Shawaga, a farmer near Alvena, was swathing his bumper wheat crop early on the morning of Aug. 31 when he discovered his own enigma.

"It has to be a spaceship. The prank theory has been totally ruled out here. We're pretty arrogant if we think we're the only intelligent life form in the universe."

Darrell Roth  
publisher of Lakescapes Weekly

"My son — he's 15 — he says it's the aliens," Shawaga, 57, said with a chuckle. "Me? I don't know. Our family's been farming here since 1907. My father — he's 80 — he's never seen anything like it."

Darrell Roth, publisher of the local Lakescapes Weekly, said, "After seeing this, I believe in UFOs."

The four Tweedsmuir circles range from 16 to 21 yards in diameter, within 165 yards of each other, and show no trace of human mischief.

"The circles are so symmetric, they're done so neatly and with nothing broken, it's like it was so gentle," Roth says, adding that the largest ring has four spokes emanating in a pattern from the center.

"It has to be a spaceship," he said. "The prank theory has been totally ruled out here. We're pretty arrogant if we think we're the only intelligent life form in the universe."

Christopher Rutkowski, coordinator of the UFOlogy Research

Centre of Manitoba in Winnipeg, has investigated this summer's sudden outburst of rings in the province with his four colleagues.

Rutkowski also investigated one of the first reported circles when it appeared near Langenberg, Saskatchewan, in 1974. Another was discovered near Odessa, southeast of Regina, in 1977. Others showed up in the 1970s at Spalding and Spy Hill near the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border.

Skeptics will attribute all of the prairie rings — about a dozen this summer and 20 since 1974 — to pranksters.

"In Manitoba we have three active theories," Rutkowski said. "They're either a hoax, a UFO or some unknown meteorological or weather phenomenon."

Rutkowski says he cannot rule out the possibility of weather or an electromagnetic phenomenon.

All the rings have appeared in wheat fields, not in barley, flax or hay, Rutkowski said.

Most of the Saskatchewan rings run clockwise, while Manitoba's run counterclockwise. But some rings, such as those in Shawaga's field and those at Tweedsmuir, are made up of concentric swirls that are alternately clockwise and counterclockwise.

If some kind of weather disturbance is causing the circles, it is a strange one. Meteorologists believe an explanation for the phenomena can be found in the behavior of what are commonly known as "dust devils."

A transient weather system — such as a wind blowing around a hill — can set spinning a column of cold air trapped under a layer of warm air. When these whirlwinds start to break down, a ring-shaped, horizontal bulge appears.

This eventually moves downward and smacks into the ground. When it does, the flow of wind may divide in two and produce a new vortex spinning in the opposite direction. The interplay of the two opposing whirls of air produces the freakish patterns seen in the mysterious circles.

But Shawaga doesn't think wind made the circle in his field.

"Sure, we get the odd twister around here," he said. "But it would have to stick around for a long time to make a thing like that."

## Black day for UFO spotter

UNEXPLAINED gremlins have left UFO spotter Steve Balon with a negative result on his latest phenomena find.

The flying saucer investigator for the past 27 years tried to capture a unique crop circle in Leigh on film before sightseers moved in.

However, Steve, of Woodlands Avenue, Leigh, was horrified when his snapshots came back totally black.

He said: "For some unexplained reason the pictures have just not come out. On the film were some family snapshots followed by those at the crop circle but the film just failed to develop."

"I wonder whether or not some kind of electromagnetic interference is responsible."

"I know of other researchers who have had a similar problem trying to take pictures so it is not as though this was some kind of freak," he said.

CR: T. Good  
Aug. 20, 1990  
England - Aug. 20, 1990  
EVENING NEWS, Manchester, England

GAZETTE, Montreal, Quebec, Canada - Nov. 20, 1990 CR: J-P Plouffe

# When the going gets tough, people tend to go strange

AGE, Melbourne, Australia - Aug. 15, 1990

## UFOs responsible for circles, say Tully men

By GREG ROBERTS,  
Brisbane

While mysterious circles of flattened crops in southern England have attracted international attention, farmers near the north Queensland town of Tully have their own spooky tales to tell.

Dozens of neatly compacted circles, not unlike those in England, have been found on sugar and banana farms around the township of Euramo, 15 kilometres south of Tully.

The locals are in no doubt that the circles are landing "nests" for visiting spacecraft.

Like UFO enthusiasts around the world, they have no proof. The circles could well turn out to be the result of some natural occurrence.

But try telling that to the folk in Euramo.

"If they weren't caused by something out there, then I'd like to know what's been doing it," said Mr Albert Pennisi, a sugar-cane farmer.

Tully was in the national spotlight in January 1966, when the first of the "nests" was found by one of Mr Pennisi's neighbors, banana farmer Mr George Pedley.

On his way to work, Mr Pedley found the neatly formed circle shortly after he saw "a spaceship".

The object was blue-grey, about eight metres wide, and "spun at a terrific rate" as it rose from a swamp and disappeared into the distance.

Today, Mr Pedley is just as adamant about his sighting as he was 24 years ago. "I wasn't the sort of person who believed in things like that. I'm convinced it was a UFO. I saw it so clearly and I can tell you I didn't make it up."

He found the circle when he investigated the swamp. It was about nine metres wide, "perfectly round", and the dead reeds were compacted in a clockwise direction.

At the time, botanists said the reeds appeared to have died from submersion after recent floods.

But Mr Pennisi said that since then, he has found between 40 and 50 similar circles on his property, although many were smaller than the original.

"Sometimes all the vegetation has been ripped off the bottom of the swamp and there are dead frogs and things," he said.

Other farmers have similar stories.

Mr Peter Dore has found between 20 and 30 circles in a swamp on his property.

"I think it's something from space. After all it was only a few years ago we had men on the moon and who thought that was possible? Nothing would surprise me these days."

Mr John Marsillio has located three circles up to eight metres in diameter on grassy flats along a watercourse on his farm. The most recent finding was about 18 months ago.

"It's something from somewhere else. That's the only logical explanation as far as I'm concerned," Mr Marsillio said.

CR: G. Earley

Diane Martel was standing by the Bonaventure Hilton's rooftop swimming pool at about 7:15 p.m. on Nov. 7 when she saw it above her in the night sky.

"There were lights — eight or 10 — in a circle and there were rays coming from those lights," the Quebec City native told La Presse. "They're extraterrestrials. I wouldn't have believed it before today."

Marcel LaRoche, a La Presse police reporter who arrived about 45 minutes later, saw it, too.

"There were lights very high up. It was very big. What I saw was the size of a moon in the sky. I don't know what it was. It wasn't an unidentified flying object because it wasn't flying."

Two police officers arrived from Station 25 in a patrol car. They stood by the pool, stared at the lights, interviewed some of the many witnesses, then filed a long report complete with sketches.

The same day, several city newspapers had published a startling story from Agence France-Presse.

"Unidentified flying objects in the form of mysterious bright lights moving in the night sky have intrigued pilots and air-traffic controllers in Britain, Italy and France."

Was it all a coincidence? Or perhaps another Montreal mystery? We may never know.

As we pass into another era of weirdness, a '70s-like time of high gasoline prices, social instability and economic crisis, huge light rays in the sky don't help.

When the going gets tough, people tend to go strange.

If the bizarre Los Angeles-based UFO magazine is any indication, things will likely get stranger.

UFO magazine reports a sharp increase in space alien sightings throughout North America and Europe since the summer (roughly the same time the recession and the Gulf crisis touched down).

"There's been a wave in Europe and we heard about the ones in Canada," said Don Ecker, writer-researcher for UFO.

Some in Canada?

In August, Manitobans discovered apparent spaceship circles in wheat fields outside Winnipeg (shortly before similar circles were discovered in England and reported worldwide).

Pro-UFO groups, cults, clubs and magazines, many of which emerged in the '70s, are set to capitalize on a new rash of sightings.

For example, there's the Cosmic Awareness organization in Olympia, Wash.; the *Mundo UFO Report*, published by "Pre-Atomic Energy Being" Laura Mundo; and, of course, Unarius, led by well-known alien "Uriel," also known as Ruth Norman of El Cajon, Calif.

Montreal has contributed more than its share of alien encounters in the form of the Canadian Raelian Movement, which met Sunday at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza.

The Raelians are led by the mysterious Rael, the man (being?) behind the book *Space Aliens Took Me to*



ALBERT NERENBERG  
THE PAGE TWO COLUMN

*Their Planet.* The Raelians grabbed the attention of Montrealers last year with a huge billboard by the Jacques Cartier Bridge that depicted a line of incoming flying saucers next to the huge slogan "Are You Ready?"

The Raelians certainly are. They're now raising funds to build an embassy to greet the aliens when they arrive.

Micheal Kropveld, spokesman for Info-Cult, a Montreal-based group that monitors cult activity, says that in the modern era, economic recession and social instability seem to breed flying saucers.

"You're going to get more of this in tough times," he said. "(It's) the 'we're being watched, somebody will come down from the stars and fix everything for us' idea. For all the (reports of) crashed spaceships and aliens being held secretly by the U.S. government, the fact of the matter is that the proof still does not exist."

As far as the lights above the Bonaventure pool are concerned, we may never know the truth. The rays, which shone for hours, eventually dwindled and disappeared behind a cloud. Station 25 police turned the investigation over to the RCMP.

The Mounties, as they apparently always do in matters of unidentified flying objects, have turned the investigation over to the Solar-Terrestrial Physics Department of the National Research Council in Ottawa.

The head of that department, Ronald Burrows, said yesterday: "We actually don't investigate these reported sightings. We take them from the RCMP and put them on file."

Another Montreal mystery.



— S-P Photo by Peter Blashill

Mike Shawaga stands in front of the circle in his field

## Another mysterious circle appears in Sask. wheatfield

By Betty Ann Adam  
of the Star-Phoenix

ALVENA — A wheatfield 65 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon is the latest site of mysterious circles that have appeared recently in Saskatchewan.

Farmer Mike Shawaga discovered a three-metre-wide ring of rain-muddled, flattened wheat last Friday.

"It looks not man-made nor animal-made," he said.

"I haven't seen anything like it in my life."

Based on the wheat's stage of maturation, Shawaga estimates the circle was created around the first week of July.

The disarray of crushed wheat differs from the tidy, clockwise direction of bent but unbroken stalks discovered in a wheatfield northeast of Prince Albert last week. There, one pattern of three concentric circles had a meander-

ing path leading to two smaller circles. About 120 metres away was another totally flattened circular area with one concentric ring.

At least six circles similar to the one near here have been discovered in Manitoba since mid-August.

An eyewitness saw a whirlwind or "dust devil" cause one of the Manitoba rings, said Guy Westcott, a civilian UFO researcher in Winnipeg.

Strong winds since the Alvena ring appeared may have disturbed the orderly direction of the broken wheat, he said.

"We've had crop circles in Manitoba dating way, way back as long as we've had crops and weather," he said.

"The weather has been ideal (for whirlwinds) this year because we've had a really hot summer with a lot of cold fronts com-

ing in the evening. And this is when you get the hot air spiralling up from the fields."

The doughnut-shaped circles here and in Manitoba may not be of the same ilk as the more than 1,000 crop circles found in England this summer.

In 95 per cent of cases studied there, the wheat pressed to the ground is undamaged and there are no holes in the centre, according to Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews in a recent book.

The Prince Albert circles apparently resemble those found in Great Britain, where researchers have ruled out whirlwinds, motorcycle pranksters, wildlife or helicopters as possible causes.

Other theories, as yet unsupported by any scientific evidence, suggest the circles may be caused by unusual and unknown weather phenomena or electromagnetic fields related to seismic activity.

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - July 14, 1990 CR: T. Good

## 'Unique' corn circle appears

Cornfield circle experts are scratching their heads over a revolutionary discovery at a Wiltshire farm.

Circles Phenomenon Research Group representative Colin Andrews says a group of circles found at Alton Barnes, near Marlborough, are of a type never found before.

Five circles joined by lines appeared overnight in a cornfield at Stratton's Farm.

Polly Carson, wife of farm manager Tim Carson, said: "It is very exciting. I think they are amazing things."

"Apparently it is quite a revolutionary pattern. It is the first of its kind. Some of the circles are going clockwise and some anti-clockwise."

"Obviously the more research they can do on these things, the more information they can get and the more they might find out about them."

"My personal opinion is that it is possibly to do with changes in climate."

It is the first time circles have appeared at Stratton's Farm.

Mr Andrews, who was preparing to survey the area by plane

with an American film crew today, said: "It's very dramatic."

"It's unique in that it's the largest we've found anywhere in the world."

"There are boxes and squares — just about everything we have ever seen wrapped together."

Mr Andrews said there had been a dramatic escalation in the phenomena during the last 48 hours — particularly in Hampshire and Wiltshire.

Eighty circles had appeared in two square miles between Calne and Devizes.

GAZETTE, Montreal, Quebec, Canada - Dec. 4, 1990 CR: J-P Plouffe



ALBERT NERENBERG  
THE PAGE TWO COLUMN

### More on the Hotel Bonaventure UFO:

Several readers, including Anne Gervais of Chomedey, fired off angry letters about the alleged UFO sighting reported in this column in November. Gervais, who says she also saw the object herself over Chomedey the night of Nov. 7, says she was shocked when she read the investigation had gone to Ottawa and will likely die there inside a file folder.

"I don't think it was aliens," she said. "I just want some kind of explanation of what I saw."

Last week, I got hold of a copy of the RCMP's report on the sighting made by the Federal Investigation Section in Montreal. I don't think it will give

Gervais her explanation, but it is a very strange read: "Observation of a UFO"

"In response to a request for assistance from the MUC police an investigator collected the following details."

"Two witnesses observed a yellow luminous form which projected seven light beams. According to a witness, the object looked like the flying object which appears in the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*."

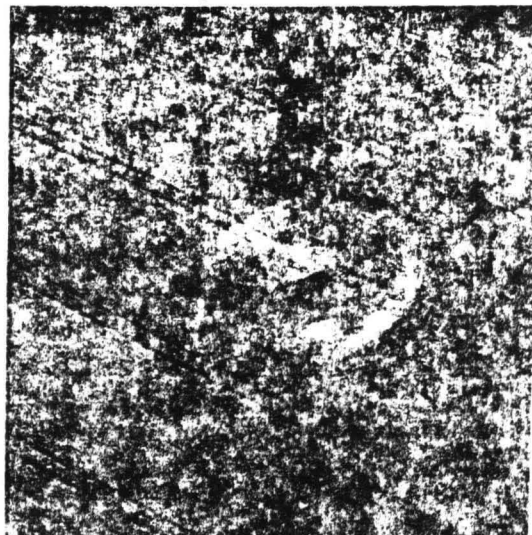
"The object was observed 90-11-07, between 19:30 and 22:00, above the quadrilateral of Mansfield, University, la Gauchetière and St. Antoine streets, and specifically above the Hotel Bonaventure pool."

"An MUC policeman observed a luminous form projecting three light beams. The author of this document observed a luminous form projecting two light beams. . . . Around 21:00, Major Thompson, responsible for military operations at the base in St. Hubert, informed the author that there was no military activity taking place in that sector. Around 21:40, an Air Canada pilot who was at the site suggested that the source of the light was not a helicopter and that in his opinion it was between 8,000 and 10,000 feet high. . . ."

"Our investigation ends at this point."

Constable Luc Morin  
Federal Investigation Section, RCMP

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, England  
Oct. 30, 1990 CR: K. Turner



One of the 'hoops' that appeared at Frockhampton, Wiltshire

# Mystery goes round in circles

**A**LIENS from space, witches, fertiliser and pop stars have all been blamed.

Suspicion has also been cast on high-energy plants, whirlwinds, Satan, magnetic fields and frenzied badgers.

We must not forget the creeping fungus theory either.

These are just a few of the answers suggested to the recurring question of who or what caused the spectacular and beautiful corn circles of Wiltshire.

### Sightings

The breathtaking symmetry and scale of the circles has obsessed scientists and aroused the interest of millions.

Two recognised experts are Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews, whose book *Circular Evidence* hit best-seller lists around the world last year and brought a letter of congratulation from the Queen.

It compiled corn circle sightings in the style of a reference book. Mr Delgado said orthodox science had no answer and he suggested the shapes were caused by an "unknown intelligence."

Another expert, Dr Terence Meaden of Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire described the book as rubbish. He insists that science will explain all — eventually.

During the summer Delgado and Andrews masterminded Operation Blackbird at an Iron Age hill fortress near Westbury in west Wiltshire.

A million pounds worth of cameras and detection equipment were set up in the hope of recording circles being formed. BBC and Japanese TV took part.

Unfortunately the study deteriorated into a media circus and is most remembered for a hoax circle thought to have been perpetrated by a pop group called the Time Lords.

Just after the hoax was exposed, an orange light was filmed over nearby Silbury Hill by BBC and army film

crews — but never broadcast — says Mr Andrews.

"Operation Blackbird knocked research back years," said Mr Andrews. The media will not be invited to next summer's investigations.

Now Delgado and Andrews have written a follow-up book — *Crop Circles: The Latest Evidence* (Bloomsbury, £5.99). It details circles found in the last year, all illustrated with stunning colour photos.

Circles are on the increase says Mr Delgado, a retired electro-mechanical engineer. "Wiltshire and Hampshire was the nursery. Now it is spreading around the world."

Mr Andrews, chief electrical engineer with Test Valley council in Hampshire, has received 200 reports of sightings in the last ten weeks from the United States alone, where interest was sparked by a TV programme he helped to make. Australia is another hotspot for sightings.

And it's not just circles. Rectangles, hieroglyphs and even a triangle have been reported.

### Energy

"The escalation of interest is beyond our wildest dreams," says Mr Delgado.

He believes the intelligence responsible is creating more sophisticated attention-getters because we are taking them more seriously. "We don't know if they are messages."

Many people have told Mr Delgado about getting head or muscle aches when standing in corn circles.

Others write him desperate letters in their obsessional search for an answer to the phenomenon.

He says: "Some people just can't stop thinking about corn circles."

Mr Delgado has acres of evidence but no solid answers: "We have gained an enormous amount of credibility."

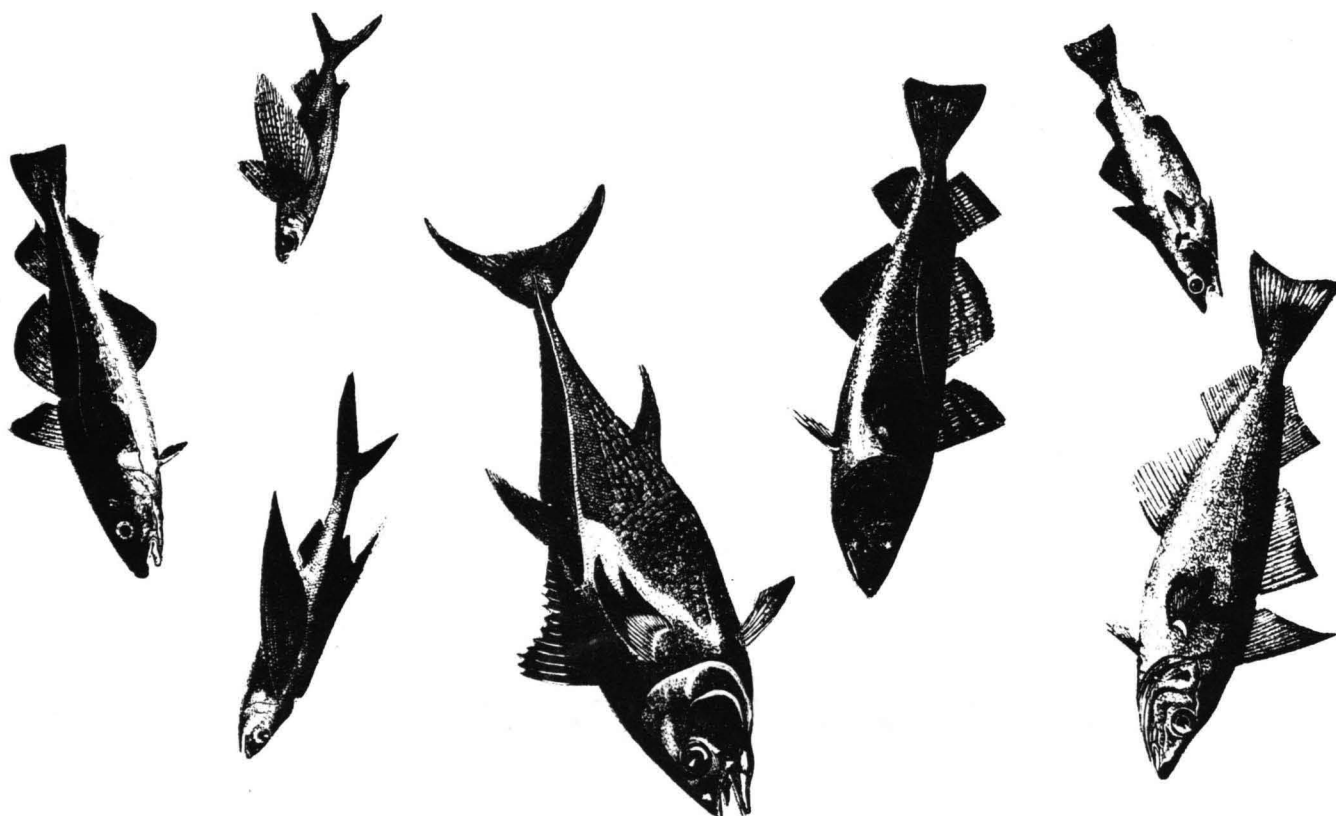
"But we don't know what the energy is and we don't know the intelligence behind it." The search goes on.

PHILIP  
WELCH





## FALLING FISH AND OTHER REALLY WEIRD STUFF



By **BUZZ MCCLAIN**  
Journal staff writer

**E**ach year the Rockville, Md.-based magazine *Strange* (that's its name as well as its mandate) presents its "10 Strangest List."

The list is a year-end collection of the most anomalous activities around the world, as reported by mainstream publications.

The magazine's editor, Mark Chorvinsky, chooses the list — and the content of the magazine for that matter — with a skeptical eye.

"I don't believe anything," he says flatly. "My job is to be objective about it. When you start to believe things, then you set out to prove them; when you don't believe things, you try to disprove them. I have a completely open mind."

The new edition of *Strange*, on newsstands now, is 64 pages of more than 100, well, strange things, as well as four in-depth feature articles by experts who study such occurrences.

"I don't have any scientific pretension at all," Chorvinsky says. "I look at this as modern folklore."

Here are this year's 10 strangest news items, as reported in *Strange* magazine:

1. **Cropfield Circles.** England's Hampshire and Wiltshire regions have had their share of these mysterious, perfectly circular depressions found in crop fields, some of them up to 100 feet in diameter. They've been spotted in other parts of the world, but

there have been more than 1,000 of them in Britain since 1980.

Even Margaret Thatcher has studied them. Explanations have linked the phenomenon to whirlwinds, strange vortices, UFOs and electrically charged spinning balls of air, but nothing has been proven.

2. **Chinese Wildman.** A legendary "wildman" standing 6-feet-7 and weighing 500 to 600 pounds, with a reddish pelt and possessing human-like features, made the mainstream press last year with stories in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times* and a widely seen PBS segment in August. Wildman hairs have ostensibly been found — they weren't human or known ape, but definitely primate.

3. **Snake Shoots Man.** An Iranian hunter was shot in the head on April 23 when the snake he held under the butt of his shotgun pulled the trigger with its tail. The hunter fell dead. A second hunter tried to get the shotgun, but the snake coiled around it and fired the other barrel.

4. **Exploding Cactus.** The owner of a Saguaro cactus in Arizona called the plant store to complain the arms of the cactus she had bought were drooping. The plant store employee warned, "Get your kids and get out of the house immediately. We'll be over right away."

She did, but before the store employees arrived, the cactus exploded, showering the living room with

hundreds of deadly scorpions. Scorpions can reproduce inside the cactus, building up pressure until it explodes.

5. **Australian Fish Fall.** On Jan. 2, it rained fish in Jerilderie. A woman heard thudding outside and found 30 little fish on her roof and front lawn.

Naturalists in Sydney explained that small fish and tadpoles can be swept up by wind and transported some distance. Chorvinsky asks, if the fish are scooped out of the water, why does no debris fall with the fish?

6. **Thai Widow Ghost Scare.** The men in a rural area of northeastern Thailand fear that a group of ghostly widows are out to catch husbands for life in the spirit world by killing them while they sleep. During the last two years, many Thai workers have died in their sleep all over the world. Men in Thailand have taken to painting their fingernails red in hopes of warding off the widow ghosts.

7. **"Thing in the Window" Video.** On Halloween 1989, Gina Jones and her husband viewed orange lights in a "W" formation outside their Greenville, S.C., home. Mrs. Jones videotaped the lights. When they played back the tape, they found that the camera recorded a small alien-like figure scurrying past the lit bathroom window at the southwest corner of her house.

It was a biped about 2 feet tall, with its arms held up as if to cover its face. "It's not a cat, it's not a squirrel, it's not a bird..." Everybody laughs at me until they see the tape," she says.

8. **Saved by a Stingray.** Pacific Island Radio Vanuatu reported that on Feb. 7, Lottie Stevens washed up in New Caledonia. The 18-year-old's boat reportedly overturned on Jan. 15 during a fishing trip. Stevens claimed a stingray came and carried him on its back for almost two weeks, keeping him safe from menacing sharks.

9. **Japanese Anti-gravity Device.** Scientists

Hideo Hayasaka and Sakae Takeuchi of Tohoku University have claimed that their special gyroscope, when spun between 3,000 and 13,000 rpm, lost between 20 and 60 millionths of its 11.3-ounce weight, violating the laws of physics. Senior scientists cannot prove them wrong and have asked for a repeat of the experiment: If it's true, the discovery could lead to invention of an anti-gravity device.

10. **"Hard to Believe" Award: Claims that parts of a crashed UFO were used to build the Stealth bomber.** Former NASA mission specialist Robert Oechsler said this year, "The Stealth bomber you see flying around actually had its primary propulsion system removed from a recov-

ered flying saucer." He said his sources are highly placed intelligence officers and also claimed to have received information from a physicist who does government work at a secret Nevada lab. This physicist says he has seen the crashed UFOs and states that some have been put back together and successfully flown.

*Strange* magazine comes out twice a year. It can be found at *Book and Card in Falls Church, Va.*; *King Street News in Alexandria, Va.*; and *Central Periodicals, American International News and News World in Washington.* Cost: \$4.95 per issue, \$17.95 for a two-year subscription.

# Believing the unbelievable

■ Fortean tales of UFOs and ghosts with an open mind.

By Butch Mabin  
of The Lincoln Star

Haunted houses, cattle mutilations linked to UFOs, people who claim they were abducted by aliens, human blood falling from the sky, Bigfoot. Probably sounds to many like the cover page of a hokey tabloid.

But to those who say such allegedly supernatural phenomena deserve about as much serious attention as the latest Elvis sighting, Scott Colborn of the Fortean Research Center issues a challenge.

"I personally believe that anyone who approaches it with an open mind has got to believe that something is going on," he said.

"It's more than an aberration of the human mind or hoaxes."

COLBORN WAS speaking about UFOs and their skeptics, but he doubtlessly would be just as confident about a whole range of unusual happenings. "I think of the universe as a wonderfully wild place with infinite possibilities," he said.

Colborn criticized scientists today. "They're not interested in breaking new ground. They're close-minded, which is unscientific."

Enter the Fortean. Founded in 1982, the Lincoln-based Fortean Research Center investigates, studies and collects information on logic-defying occurrences. The center gets its name from Charles Fort, who in the 1920s and '30s wrote extensively about phenomena dismissed by most scientists.

"AS FORTEANS, we typically ask more questions than we give answers," said Colborn, who has headed the center since 1988. "We're looking at things that science can't answer or won't come to terms with."

Among the many phenomena studied by the center, UFOs are the most intriguing to Colborn personally. He is di-

rector of the Nebraska chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, an international organization of people who gather and disseminate to the public, information about UFOs. He has also written articles for publication and delivered lectures on the topic.

The bookish-looking, 38-year-old Colborn, owner of The Way Home Records and Books, 4203 S. 48th St., discusses the phenomenon with the detachment and seriousness of a scholar.

"What is the nature of the UFO phenomena? How does it interact with us? What does it mean in terms of our theology and philosophy — these are the questions I'm interested in," Colborn said.

HE ALSO IS involved on another more startling level.

Once a month he meets with 10 or so Lincoln-area residents who believe they have been abducted by aliens.

One of the women in the group claims she's been taken aboard spacecraft at least a dozen times since her childhood, Colborn said. She told Colborn that her first abduction occurred one night in Columbus, her hometown. She said her parents found mysterious burn marks on the ground outside her bedroom window the next morning.



Her abductors, whom she described as barely 4 feet high with spindly arms and legs, usually treat her like an object of scientific inquiry, although she has never been harmed, she said. The abduc-

tions have continued since she moved to Lincoln.

ALTHOUGH SOME might find this an unsettling story, Colborn said, people

should not think of the abductee experience as bad or good.

"Our ideas of good, bad and evil shouldn't be applied" to the abductors, he said. "We must be careful that we don't project our own belief system onto the phenomena."

Colborn said most abductees describe their captors as emotionless and clinical. Perhaps humans might be more advanced than these aliens "spiritually, emotionally and morally," Colborn hypothesized.

"Maybe they need us. Perhaps we're a key to their emotions."

Colborn further speculated that these visitors might come from another dimension, or possibly from our own future. "Maybe they come back to get things they can't get in their world," like certain bio-chemicals, he said.

RIDICULE, UNBELIEF, indifference — the typical reactions of many to reports about the supernatural — might actually be attempts to escape some tough questions, Colborn said.

Unexplained phenomena "require us to look fully at the phenomena, at ourselves and our place in the world," he said.

"Many people avoid the evidence because they don't want to confront these larger questions. Many of us walk around in a sleep state."

Dale Bacon, a fellow Fortean and co-host with Colborn of the KZUM-FM pro-

gram, "Exploring Unexplained Phenomena," said the general public is more likely to admit belief in UFOs than it is in other phenomena.

POPULAR MOVIES like "E.T." and "Close Encounters" have helped make the idea of UFOs easier to digest, Bacon said.

Ghosts are a slightly different matter. "A lot of people think UFOs are here," he said. Belief in "ghosts is probably not as strong."

"But," he added, "when you get a lot of people off in a corner, they say otherwise."

Two years ago Bacon traveled to the East Coast to visit a house on which, he said, blood would fall from the sky. The

**"We're looking at things that science can't or won't come to terms with."**

—Scott Colborn

blood was tested and found to be human, Bacon said. No logical explanations were found.

Closer to home, he has talked to many Lincoln residents who say they've had close encounters with the paranormal.

ONE MAN TOLD Bacon he saw what appeared to be Indian braves charging him in Wilderness Park. Another man visiting the park told Bacon he had "a very strong feeling" that someone was behind him. "He felt very threatened," Bacon said.

Bacon himself said he saw the apparition of an elderly woman in the kitchen of an Iowa farmhouse in 1973. "I froze," he recalled.

"I saw what appeared to be a woman in her late 60s or early 70s, her hair in a bun and wearing an old-style dress with fluffy sleeves."

He described the sight to a friend, whose family owned the house. The friend told Bacon he had just given a perfect description of his deceased grandmother.

Paranormal or psychic "explanations don't explain everything," Bacon acknowledged. "But neither do the prosaic explanations."

## Firefighter reports another lake 'thing' sighting

By DON LEE  
Staff Writer

HURON — Jim Johnson didn't think he ought to tell anyone about seeing "something" in Lake Erie last week, off-shore in the 4300 block of Cleveland Road West.

"What do you tell people?" he asked Wednesday.

All he knows is, he saw something in the lake that shouldn't have been there, and he doesn't know what it is.

It wasn't until the newspaper stories appeared about a snake-like "thing" seen Sept. 4 off Cedar Point that he decided to call someone.

Johnson and Steve Dirks, both Huron

firefighters, were inspecting a condominium construction project on Cleveland Road West Sept. 11. The firefighters and the construction foreman were standing on a third-floor balcony overlooking the lake when Johnson saw something in the water, some distance offshore.

"At first I thought it was a breakwater," Johnson said. "I said to Steve, 'I didn't think there was a breakwater out there,' Steve said, 'There isn't one.'"

Johnson remembers seeing the object at about 3:40 p.m.

Dirks was on vacation today and could not be reached for comment.

'At first I thought it was a breakwater ... In 23 years at sea I've never seen anything like that.'

—Firefighter Jim Johnson

east-to-west in the water in three visible segments, being slightly smaller on the western end.

There were no details like a head or tail, but "whatever it was, it's big. I don't think it was a school of carp," he said, referring to a recent wire story in

which a lake expert said people were seeing the backs of a large group of carp running near the surface.

Besides the last sighting Sept. 4, made by a vacationing family returning to East Harbor State Park in their boat about two miles off Cedar Point, park rangers and the U.S. Coast Guard station at Marblehead reported "four or five" sightings of something similar over the summer.

"In 23 years at sea I've never seen anything like that," said Johnson, who sailed with the coast guard in the Great Lakes, the Caribbean, South China Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

## Lincoln family has been living with a mystery

Chris and Rhonda Krivda began to think something out of the ordinary was going on in their home when the door leading to the laundry room began to open and close on its own.

The house would be securely closed — all windows and doors to the outside shut — and yet the laundry door would still swing open and shut, sometimes 50 times a day, as if pushed by a wind.

"That started about a month after we moved in," Rhonda said. "And things have gotten stranger and stranger since."

The Krivdas moved into the house in south central Lincoln a little more than a year ago. The couple has two small children; the oldest, a girl, is about 2-years-old.

French doors on the second floor also seem to move with the help of some unseen force.

Chris or Rhonda would shut the doors before going to bed. Come next morning, the doors would be open. This happened repeatedly, Rhonda said.

Finally, the couple started to lock the doors with bolts that shut so tight that Rhonda sometimes needs a tool to unlock.

Still, the doors would be open come morning. And there's more.

She had to move a couch because people sitting on it would sometimes be hit by gusts of wind "strong enough to make their hair move," she said.

Some of the Krivda's friends have become reluctant to visit.

Rhonda reports strong musty smells or sometimes the smell of roses that settle between the living and dining rooms. "Our basement is not even musty."

She remembers playing word games with her

daughter in which Rhonda would name an object, like the girl's nose, and ask her daughter to point to it.

"She used to wear a ghostbuster T-shirt and I'd ask her to point to the ghost," Rhonda said. But instead of pointing to her shirt, the girl would point to the dining room, Rhonda said.

On another occasion, Rhonda said, she saw a puffy white cloud that appeared to resemble "the upper half of a person" hovering above a buffet in the dining room.

"I was speechless." She said the cloud moved and disappeared through a wall.

"Most weird things happen in the dining room," Rhonda said.

"But I don't think it's something to be afraid of. It has to be alright, or else I wouldn't stay here."

[Paper & City Unknown], OH - Sept. ?, 1990





# Bigfoot reportedly making tracks through Oscoda County boonies

By News Michigan Service

Every year at this time, deer hunters emerge from the woods with more than their prey.

They also come out of Michigan's rich forests with stories about encounters with a legendary creature — Bigfoot.

This hunting season is no different; stories about the creature are seeping out of Foley Swamp near Luzerne in Oscoda County.

Bow hunters began stalking deer Oct. 1, and several have told owners of an Oscoda County hunting supply shop about their contact with Bigfoot.

The reports, however, started even before then.

Shortly before the bow hunting season opened, two hikers told a Bigfoot investigator who lives in the Tuscola County village of Mayville that they saw an 8-foot tall, dark, hairy beast.

And the Oscoda County Sheriff's Department received a call Sept. 28 from two people who said they sighted the creature in Foley Swamp, within Huron National Forest.

An Oscoda County deputy said no one else has reported viewing the creature near Luzerne.

But other hunters have told Jim and Jane Stone, owners of the Bear Paw Cabins and The Little Sport Shop in Luzerne, about seeing the creature in Foley Swamp.

"Once all this stuff started coming up, you started hearing about it," Jim Stone said.

A group of hunters told him that almost every year they see a large, hairy creature that looks like Bigfoot in Foley Swamp.

Two hunters last year said that after they shot a deer, something dragged it through the woods and bit a large piece of its head before they got to the carcass.

Stone said the men told him the creature dragged the deer faster

than they could run.

His wife said she doesn't like that story because it makes Bigfoot sound vicious. Jane Stone said she thinks the creature is a vegetarian — if he exists.

"I've never had any experiences with it, but it's obvious that something is going on up here," she said. "I just don't know what it is. I have an open mind to it."

The couple also said the Bigfoot sighting has made Luzerne life more interesting than usual.

**"I am going to solve it if I have to crawl out of my casket and crawl my way up through the dirt."**

Art Kapa, Bigfoot hunter

"Heck, who knows, maybe a flying saucer will land in town next," she said.

Not everyone is as intrigued by the story, though.

Dave Clover and Kit Garsler, who work at the Luzerne Hardware, said they don't think people saw Bigfoot.

Despite their doubts, the area seems prone to Bigfoot sightings, said Mayville's Art Kapa, who began tracking the beast from his home in the Thumb 21 years ago when he was 37.

Kapa gets annual reports of sightings near Mio, Lewiston and Luzerne.

"I don't really know why, but there is some attraction in that vicinity. He's in the area to stay," Kapa said of Bigfoot.

The Sept. 28 sighting report came from a 19-year-old man and a 15-year-old boy who were hiking on a cross-country skiing trail in Foley Swamp.

They claim they saw an upright,

dark, hairy creature, Kapa said. He would not reveal the hikers' names.

The tall beast walked away and disappeared in the thick forest, but the witnesses said they heard a loud sound similar to a baby's cry, Kapa said.

Kapa went to the scene, but said 6 inches of pine needles covered the ground and there were no footprints or other evidence in the area.

Kapa said he will return after deer hunting season and look for signs of the creature in the snow.

He has collected more than a dozen casts of footprints from Michigan and Indiana forests that he cannot explain. He also has a clump of hair and several tape recordings of the loud cry.

The footprints range from 13 inches to nearly 23 inches long, averaging 16 inches. The average width is 13 inches at the ball of the foot and about 5 inches at the heel.

Kapa's interest in the legend began when he followed news reports of footprints that appeared each morning near heavy equipment used to build a road through mountains in northern California.

Kapa said he won't end his search until he has proven whether the creature exists.

The hunter of legends said his 21-year odyssey is "an awful long time."

"People laugh at me, but it's a mystery that I want to solve," Kapa said. "I am determined that I am going to solve it if I have to crawl out of my casket and crawl my way up through the dirt."

If Kapa ever finds the creature, he wants to take pictures that will prove its existence.

Kapa carries three 35mm cameras at all times. He also carries a pocket-size, voice activated tape recorder.

He asks people to report Bigfoot sightings to him at 843-6302, and said he will keep the names of eyewitnesses confidential.

## Bigfoot Spotted In Michigan....Again!

It's hunting season again and with thousands of hunters going into the woods in search of their trophy buck, comes tales of the big one that got away and stories of another kind.

Last week several hikers and hunters reported seeing a Bigfoot in the Luzerne area of Oscoda County. Reported sightings like these are not uncommon in that area, according to local residents and Bigfoot investigator Art Kapa of Mayville.

Kapa says he gets several reports each year from the area surrounding Luzerne, Mio and Lewiston.

Kapa has never seen a Bigfoot but believes there is such a creature. He has collected more than a dozen casts of footprints up to 13 inches long from Michigan forests. He also has a clump of hair and recordings of loud cries which he says come from a Bigfoot.

"People laugh at me, but it's a mystery that I want to solve," says

Kapa. "People are seeing something. They all can't be lying or hallucinating."

Bigfoot, called Sasquatch by Canadian Indians, is believed by some to exist in wooded areas of the U.S. and Canada. The first reported sightings of the creature were in 1840.

It is generally described as a primate resembling a man or ape, 6 to 8 ft. tall, stands erect, with massive shoulders and covered with black, brown or gray hair.

Some scientists believe it is a descendant of an extinct ape-like creature Gigantopithecus.

Even the Yale area has had some reported sightings of Bigfoot.

In 1981 the Barone and Shephard families, who lived on Jordan Road, reported two separate incidents involving a Bigfoot. The Barone encounter even made it to the pages of the National Enquirer.

--James Brown

TRIBUNE, San Diego, CA - Nov. 27, 1990 CR: C. Jines

## Giant footprints baffle sleepy village in Brunei

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (Reuters)** — Giant footprints that appeared mysteriously in a sleepy village in the oil-rich sultanate of Brunei in Southeast Asia have villagers and government officials baffled.

Museum officials said they have made a plaster cast of one of the prints — measuring 24 inches long and 8 inches wide — in Kampong Menunggol in Temburong district in eastern Brunei.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - Oct. 26, 1990 CR: M. Dobbs

## Satanic link to mutilations often questionable

By JOHN BRANTON

The Columbian

Last June, sheriff's deputies were called to a pasture on Lower River Road where a black Angus steer lay dead.

What looked like a large circular incision, 24 inches across in one area, had been made around the animal's groin area. The cut appeared to have been made by a sharp instrument. The animal's genitals had been removed.

The case, like other animal mutilations in Clark County, is unsolved. The question of who or what is mutilating animals is unanswered, with theories ranging from satanists to other animals to outer-space creatures in UFOs. At least five suspicious animal mutilations have been reported in Clark County so far this year.

Such cases, fueled by deputies' observations that they are "consistent" with ritual mutilations, have spawned fears of satanic cults operating in Clark County. Some sheriff's officers lean toward a ritualistic motive. The Columbian occasionally hears from readers who speak vaguely of satanic cults that they believe exist somewhere in the county. The most recent report was last week.

"I think it's somebody who's involved in the occult," said sheriff's Detective Rick Buckner, the officer who monitors such cases. "It's somebody very experienced at what they're doing."

Buckner said his theory is based in part on what appear to be clean knife cuts and missing body parts such as genitalia.

"In the majority of the cases there's never any blood found

either at the scene or in the body itself," Buckner said. "In the occult, the blood is considered to be a life force and they use it."

Buckner said he suspects that people who mutilate farm animals lure them with a bucket of grain and use a chemical such as ether to immobilize the animals.

Police experts who have studied Clark County mutilations "are telling us that we have one or two loosely organized groups who are engaged in ritualistic criminal activity," said Garry Lucas, the sheriff's chief criminal deputy.

Last month and in August, there were sightings by two different people in the Hockinson area of dark-clad men standing along roads with their faces painted white and their eyes painted black, said Sharron Turner, the sheriff's community services officer. The men were not connected with any crime. Early this month in the same area a mare was found with puncture wounds in the genital area, Turner said.

But although animal mutilations have been occurring here for many years, sheriff's investigators in Clark County have not proved occult motives.

Lucas, a 22-year veteran of the department, said he could recall no case where occult practitioners were actually linked to animal mutilations. Nor could former sheriff Gene Cotton, now executive director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

In an informal poll by The Columbian of officials in several Washington counties, some said mentally disturbed or disgruntled people with no occult motives have been responsible for animal mutilations — and that mutilations by coyotes, birds and raccoons have appeared at first to be man-caused.

In Lewis County, sheriff Bill Logan said officers have not linked satanists to animal mutilations. Several years ago, Logan said, officers solved the mutilation of exotic birds in the Mineral area north of Morton. "It was a disgruntled ex-employee," Logan said. "There was nothing satanic involved at all."

"We've never really found a cult here that was doing any of that," said Skamania County Sheriff Ray Blaisdell. But about 10 years ago, deputies solved the mutilation of a goat. The suspect had simply cut off the animal's horn to make a knife handle, Blaisdell said. Deputies found no occult motive.

Pierce County sheriff's Deputy Ed Troyer, who studies the occult and teaches college classes on the subject, said investigators believe they learned who was mutilating horses there several years ago. The suspect simply enjoyed hurting animals, Troyer said. "It was an individual with a problem. The crime itself was the thrill factor. It had nothing to do with devil worship."

Troyer recently told a conference of corrections officials that most so-called satanic crimes are committed by mentally ill adults or troubled teen-agers rather than true devil worshippers. Some of these are "dabblers" in the occult, with only rudimentary knowledge of it, and some are not involved in the occult at all, Troyer said.

But he added of the dabblers: "It's like your wanna-be gang member. He's not a real gang member from L.A., but he still has a gun and knows how to pull the trigger."

Troyer knew of no animal mutilation cases in Pierce County that had been linked to satanists.

"I'm not ruling out the satanic thing," said Spokane County sheriff's Lt. Dick Lovejoy. "But we have not been able to prove any of that in the Spokane area." Lovejoy said other animals may be responsible for some cases.

George Coburn, a state wildlife agent in Spokane, said he studied the case of a cow found with its tongue and cheek missing. "It looked like it had been surgically removed. In doing some research, raccoons will do this. They'll just take the tongue right out." He said a study of tracks around the mutilated animal showed those of raccoons.

"Eyes, of course, birds will do this almost every time," Coburn said. He said birds will remove eye tissue cleanly so it appears to have been cut away.

Coburn said coyotes and other animals will eat sexual organs and other parts.

In Thurston County, Detective Jim Cowell said no animal mutilations have been linked to satanists.

About 1½ years ago, Cowell said, officers investigated a cow found dead with its genital area missing.

"It actually looked like somebody had cut it out, it was so clean," he said. But an autopsy by a veterinarian showed the cow died of a digestive obstruction caused by swallowing a plastic bread bag. A detailed study of the wounds showed coyote teeth marks, Cowell said.