

UFO

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Flights of fancy?

UFO believers say hypnotism helps jog memories of close encounters

By Michalene Busico

SAN JOSE, Calif.—They're out there. Removing brains. Taking women's eggs. Creating a hybrid race.

Tiny creatures with giant heads. Giant creatures with tiny heads. Creatures with heads like honeydew melons. They've all been here, sneaking through the sky in spacecraft, vacuuming up Earthlings, poking and probing us in unspeakable ways.

They're aliens, extraterrestrials, the little green men. And they've been getting away with it for eons, because we poor humans don't remember the encounters. Either the memories are so horrible we repress them, or the tricky ETs make us forget.

But now UFOlogists such as psychologist Edith Fiore, who works out of Saratoga, Calif., have a way to make us remember: Hypnotize abductees, and they talk.

They talk their heads off, going on for hours, telling of alien ships cruising Cupertino, Calif., ETs taking them onboard around Sacramento. And not all the experiences are bad. San Francisco Bay Area abductees have told Fiore about aliens curing ailments from yeast infections to cancer.

Fiore herself remembered, under hypnosis, being abducted in 1980. The aliens beamed her up from

her bedroom in Los Gatos, Calif., one night and showed her around their spaceship.

"It was just a typical roundish interior, kind of shiny, low lights," she says. "I wasn't frightened at all."

But then, she knew what to expect.

Fiore has compiled 13 case histories of abductees into a book, "Encounters" (Ballantine, \$4.95), in which she also explains how to tell if you have been taken. Chances are you've gone for an interstellar spin if you have (1) gaps of time you can't account for, (2) marks on your body you can't explain, or (3) dreams about UFOs or extraterrestrials.

Those who say they've gone up, and those who study them, say abductions follow a pattern. It's night. They're alone. There's a bright light, then suddenly a pack of aliens. Standard-issue ETs are around 4-feet tall, with big heads, light gray skin, no hair, slender bodies and "a silver jumpsuit or something of the sort," Fiore says.

The abductee is sucked into a spaceship and given a physical exam that requires many probes.

Diane Tai—a Cupertino mother of two, Chinese herb distributor and cosmic frequent flier—says gentle, big-headed aliens took her from her bedroom, examined her and then took her into a round auditorium with 200 other people.

A giant screen flashed picture after picture of scenes from Earth: ocean, sky, smokestacks, people in hospitals. She became inspired to help people take care of themselves, and to become better caretakers of the planet.

Feelings of being on a mission are a common result of interplanetary chats, says James Harder, a civil engineering professor at the University of California at Berkeley. He says alien encounters are his "avocation." He has been collecting data for 30 years and has interviewed more than 300 possible abductees, including Fiore.

Harder says skeptics are threatened by the idea of something smarter than them out there.

"Yeah, right," says J.R. Corey, a psychology professor at Long Island University. He reviewed Fiore's book for Skeptical Inquirer magazine because "I was skeptical. I was extremely skeptical."

"I mean, I like to read science fiction," he says. "It's entertaining. Inventive. It even stretches your horizons a bit. But when you start to live it, that's not too healthy."

He says there is no evidence that hypnosis enhances memory. He cites studies that show memories are less accurate when recalled under hypnosis.

Hypnotized people may also be more open to suggestion, he says. "Fiore's patients were told about



Photo by Cheryl Nuss/San Jose Mercury News
Under hypnosis, psychologist Edith Fiore remembers being abducted by extraterrestrials.

her belief in extraterrestrial abductions and the fact she was writing a book about such incidents before they were hypnotized."

Phillip J. Klass, former editor of Aviation Week magazine and author of books debunking UFO claims, also thinks people who believe they were abducted are responding to hypnotic suggestion.

TRIBUNE, Chicago, IL

March 7, 1991

CR: G. Eberhart

He suspects many abductees are just looking for a little celebrity.

Klass, who has spent 25 years investigating UFO claims, has a standing offer to pay \$10,000 to any abductee, providing the FBI backs up the story. So far, no one has come forward.

UFO believers say that's because the FBI and NASA have been involved in a massive cover-up dating back to the 1940s.

"We know this is a phenomenon. We have reports," says Virgil Staff, local chairman of the international Mutual UFO Network. "It appears the government has one or more vehicles, in addition to bodies. But they've locked people up, brainwashed them, maybe even terminated them, so we can't be expected to produce hard evidence."

In the end, the evidence seems to consist of a bunch of people seeing some really strange stuff—and promptly forgetting about it.

Fiore was trained as a traditional clinical psychologist at the University of Miami and has practiced in Saratoga for 17 years. She has been intrigued with UFOs since she read the book "Flying Saucers Are Real!" when she was about 20.

"I have been scouring the skies ever since. I'm always looking," she says. "When I look at the stars I always hope to see a UFO. But to my knowledge I have not seen one, which is frustrating."

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Video, personal recollections hover over UFO conference

By ROBIN GARLAND
Special to The Courier-Tribune

At Sunday's quarterly meeting of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina Inc., the buzz of conversation from the 150 people who jammed a conference room at Asheboro's Days Inn in Asheboro quickly died down as the lights dimmed while a picture from a VCR tape appeared on a screen at the front of the room.

There was virtual silence as a tape-recorded newscast featuring a Farmer resident's 4½ second footage of three mysterious, languid, fiery-looking balls flickered from the screen.

Steve Harrell was out taking video of his 7-year-old son on a new go-cart at sunset Christmas day when he saw the glowing orange spheres fall slowly from the sky into a wooded area not far from his home.

Harrell's dramatic video was replayed several times Sunday, as the tape showed successive newscasts highlighting the Christmas day sighting. When the tape ended and the lights came up, George Fawcett, founder of the North Carolina chapter of the international organization, asked Harrell, the man who caught the fireballs on video, to step up and answer a few questions.

"I didn't know what to expect," Harrell said at the end of the conference, noting that the intensity and seriousness of the battery of queries surprised him. But as those in attendance rapid-fired questions, Harrell remained cool and calm.

Did you hear any sound?
No, there wasn't any sound.
Did you have any subjective feelings like a sense of isolation, deprivation?
No.
What did you do following the sequence?
I went inside.
What was the approximate size of the object?
Was it as large as a car? Did your wife see it?
No.
Did anyone else see it?
My son saw it. A couple of deer hunters saw it.
Are you experienced in video. Was this your first experience with a camcorder?
This was an older camcorder that I've used before.
Did you see the object depart?
No.
Who has the original tape?
I have it.
Did it look more like it was on fire or like a low-level light?
My first thought was, "Something is on fire."
What was the distance between you and the object?
Three hundred yards (from the trees).
Do you have any impressions of what it was?
I don't know what it was. It could be anything.
How fast did it fall?
It didn't come real fast. It was kind of slow, it sort of drifted down.
You said it was near the Uwharrie River. Has anyone tested the water for radiation?
I don't know.
Did you believe in UFOs before?
Everybody says that. No, I've never seen a UFO before.

Was it painful to look directly at it? Was it like looking at the sun?

No.
A number of neighbors, several hunters and a pilot and his wife who were in a small airplane near the area also reported seeing the glowing object. Fawcett said.

Harrell wasn't the only Randolph County resident to stand before the audience and describe seeing a mysterious event.

Nadine Albright of the Happy Hollow community held the group spellbound as she described seeing a luminescent ring of lights, with a larger ring above it, that hovered over an area near West End Church on N.C. 49 nine years ago.

Albright and her cousin had just turned off U.S. 220-Bypass and headed down N.C. 49 when they saw the rings. Afraid to pass it, Albright turned the car into a curbside market and watched for five minutes as lights from the bottom ring swirled. There was no sound from the hovering lights.

"I got real excited. I wanted the people I knew to see this. I told my cousin, 'If it gets us, then it gets us,'" she said.

When she called local authorities, Albright said she was told that she may have seen an advertising airplane that had worked the area. But Albright said she does not believe that what she saw was an airplane. She said that when she checked with Asheboro airport officials, she learned that the advertising airplane had been out on a runway at the time she and her cousin saw the light rings.

The next morning, Albright and her cousin saw a cigar-shaped object as they were traveling on the U.S. 220-Bypass, but since family and friends had made light of their reports, the two decided to keep the memory of what they had seen to themselves.

Fawcett said 19 UFOs had been reported in 1990, 11 in the last quarter of the year, including a fireball sighted Oct. 9 in Asheboro.

COURIER TRIBUNE, Asheboro, NC - Feb. 4, 1991

Alien theory 'down to earth'

Local man explores UFO sightings

By Mark Wallace
Staff Writer

"You're traveling through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound, but of mind; a journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination — Next stop, the Twilight Zone!" — Opening of The Twilight Zone show.

INDIAN TRAIL — An Indian Trail man, who will be called Robert for the sake of anonymity, has entered what could be called the "twilight zone" several times — 13 to be precise. Robert has lost a job before because of his story and now wishes to remain incognito.

His story involves encounters with "aliens" and "spacecraft" here in Union County. However, his explanation of the encounters is probably more "down to earth" than most would think.

A member of MUFON — Mutual UFO Network Of North Carolina Inc. — and a field investigator for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Robert has heard many explanations from others who have also had close encounters.

"Most people feel UFOs are from another solar system or galaxy, and that they are more advanced and have lived longer than us," Robert said. "What bothers a lot of people about this is the tremendous distance between planets. And UFOs tend to change shape ... or suddenly vanish."

He recalls one farmer who said he shot at a UFO once and heard the bullet ricochet. The next shot went through it, as if it was losing mass. Other reports cited UFOs taking off and, literally, going through trees.

"Some are solid one moment and then seem to lose their solidity," Robert said. "Often UFOs have been seen to disintegrate. This I've personally seen over downtown Charlotte, right over power lines. It appeared to be either a cigar-shaped or discoid ... you could see the lights, then it went to two balls of white. One went down and seemed to shrink in on itself; the other one went down in more of a zigzag and went out much like a meteor."

Robert's explanation? He said maybe "it was dematerialized to go into another dimension."

Alien footprint?
See Page 2

Dimensionalism is a subject Robert has studied since 1974 and given speeches on at MUFON meetings. He has also written articles on this theory. He believes the "aliens" he encountered had that purpose in mind, for him to get the word out about their existence.

"After I wrote this last article, my sightings then stopped," he said. "I feel I had sightings to keep me involved to write this last article."

In that article, Robert reports numerous sightings from others around Indian Trail — sightings that have occurred over the Gold Hill fault line, which stretches from below Weddington, through Indian Trail and on up into Cabarrus, Rowan and Davidson counties.

He said more than 85 percent of the UFO sightings around the world are on or near fault lines, where energy is naturally occurring, or near other energy producing sources, such as power stations and transmission lines.

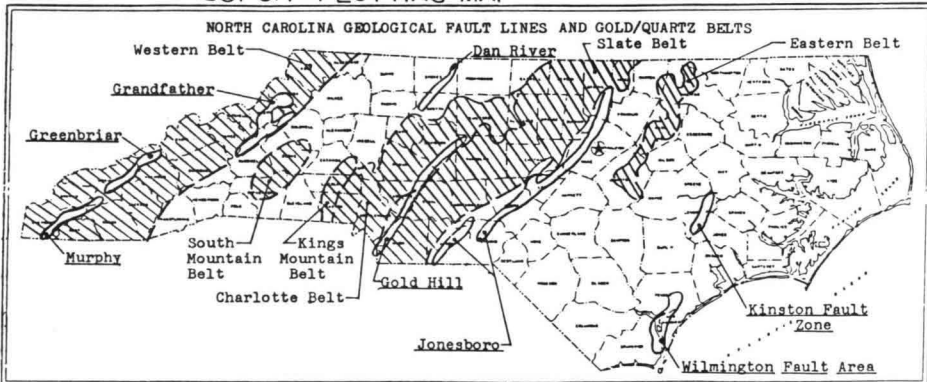
Robert said Dr. John Derr, of the U.S. Geological Survey Office, has said the existence of lights at fault lines is so well established it should no longer be ignored.

Seismologists have said seismic movements of the earth induce stresses on crystalline rock, generating electric fields up to several thousand volts per meter. These fields, theoretically, could create balls of ionized air in the form of lights, under certain atmospheric conditions, Robert said.

However, he doesn't believe the lights are formed naturally from ionized energy. Instead, the ionized energy, he said, is a means for entities in other dimensions on earth to travel to and from our dimension. He suggests the lights and unknown physical craft being sighted are actually those visitors from a higher dimensional level.

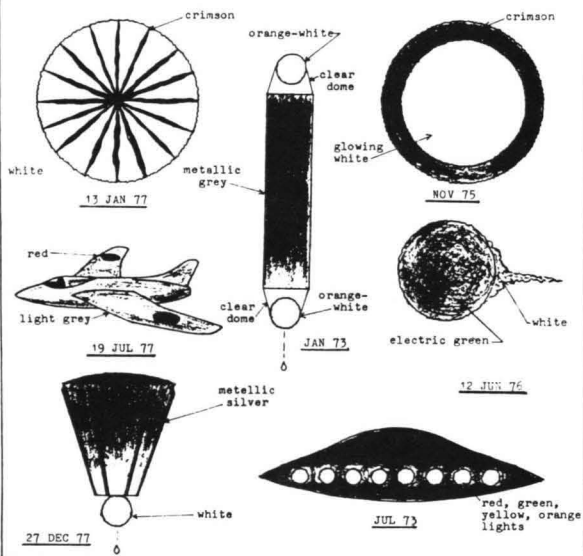
We'll delve more into this theory of multidimensions and how it correlates with local strange sightings in next week's Western Edition.

CUFON PLOTTING MAP



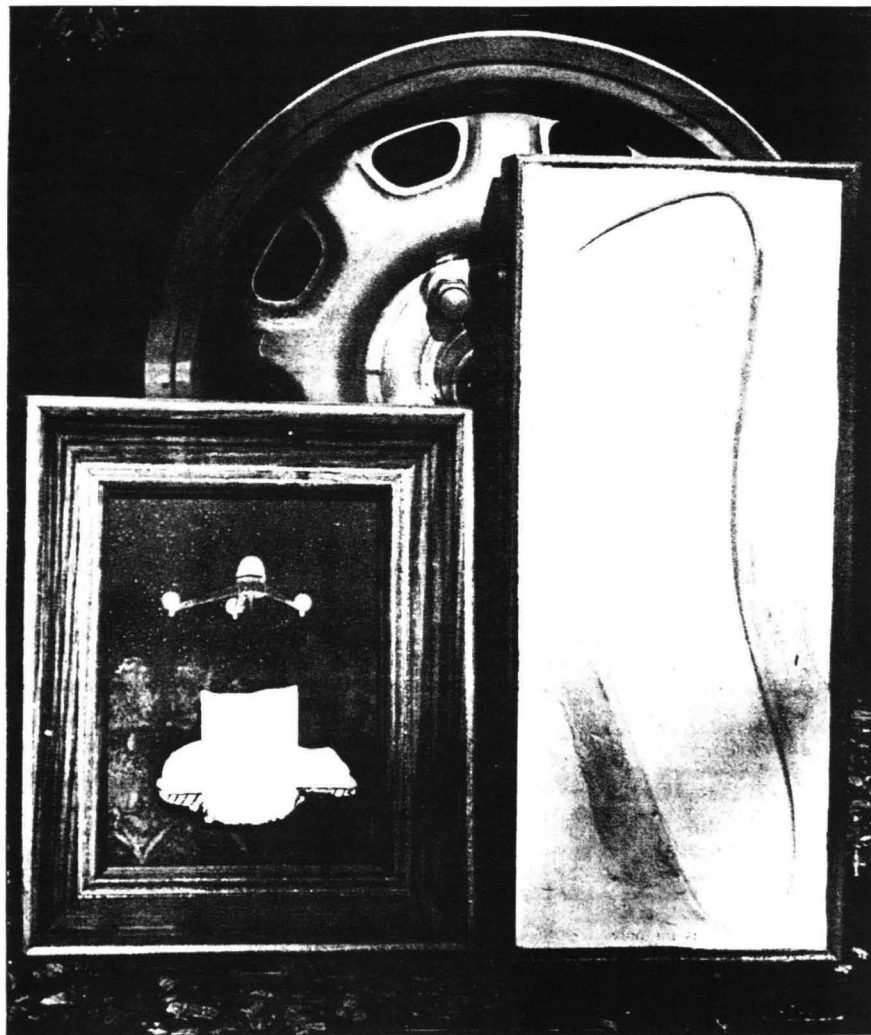
The above map shows the location of both the major geological fault lines and gold/quartz belts in North Carolina.

Gold Hill Fault Line UFOs



Local UFO sightings and encounters have been prevalent over the years, especially in Indian Trail around the Gold Hill fault line. One Indian Trail resident believes entities from other dimensions on earth are using naturally occurring energy at the fault lines for inter-dimensional travel. The North Carolina fault lines are shown above. At left are sketches of some of the entities local people have encountered since the 1970s. At right, are two plaster castings of what are believed to be alien landings. The left casting is of one of several "mystery marks" found in a Charlotte field after sightings of a six- to eight-foot ship were reported. Ufologists speculate the marks are from a landing or some kind of energy field. Radiation was detected in the marks, and within a few days, grass had died around them. The right casting is of a footprint found in the snow under power lines in Stanly County. There were no other footprints around.

How do you explain UFOs?



TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Greensburg, PA - Feb. 17, 1991

Reporter grabs national award

The Fund for UFO Research in Washington D.C., announced this week that *Tribune-Review* staff writer Sharon Santus has won top honors in the Donald Keyhoe Journalism Award competition.

Santus won the \$1,000 award with the article "Kecksburg UFO seen at AF bases" which appeared in the *Sunday Tribune-Review* on Dec. 9.

Contest officials said Santus' article was "well investigated, as well as professionally reported."

The article chronicled a UFO that allegedly landed in Kecksburg, Westmoreland County, on Dec. 9, 1965. The official military finding is that the object was a meteor that simply passed over the community, and eventually disintegrated. But in the last several months, witnesses have come forward saying they saw the object that night in a field near the community. In her article, Santus interviewed two men who said they saw the Kecksburg UFO at two top-security military bases in Ohio just days after the alleged landing.



Sharon Santus

CR: S. Gordon

Aliens shaped his life

Cohoes man regrets having reported abduction by extraterrestrials

By Bill Eager

Staff writer

COHOES — Richard Price has appeared on national TV twice in the last year, his name pops up in science magazines from time to time, and his autobiography is almost finished.

And you probably haven't heard of him.

Despite limited exposure in the Capital District, Price, of 34 Masten Ave., is something of a celebrity among UFO enthusiasts, from people claiming to have seen brightly-lit spacecrafts in the sky to scientists trying to determine whether aliens even exist.

"I'm actually known all over the world," Price said.

Price, 43, was on comedienne Joan Rivers' talk show and the docudrama "Hard Copy," in 1990, recounting his claim of abduction by aliens from Troy's Oakwood Cemetery in 1955. A Japanese television crew also taped his story.

He has spoken at three UFO conventions and on several radio shows. The latest issue of *UFO Universe* also includes his tale, and a taped interview is on video at Hollywood Movies in Latham.

"When he's on local radio, people check it out," said David Pirri, an employee at the store. "It's not a power renter, but it goes out."

Price said the recent attention is a relief after years of trying to get people to listen without ridiculing him or his family.

"The kids used to get picked on at school, but it's not as bad now," said Price, who is married and has three sons. "Since 'Hard Copy,' it's not as bad. Once the book comes out, who knows what will happen."

With wiry gray hair pushed back and a thin gray and white mustache and heavy eyebrows, Price looks a little like a middle-aged Albert Einstein. Polite and soft-spoken, he said the abduction story has shaped, and often troubled, his life for 35 years.

He struggles to keep jobs, is presently unemployed, and admits that a lot of people think he and his claims are as far out as the Hubble space telescope. He wishes the whole thing had never occurred, yet feels compelled to tell his story.

Even those who believe UFOs visit Earth are skeptical of abduction stories because most prove to be unfounded, but many also feel that some

'Skepticism is healthy. What bothers me is bull-headed negativism, refusal to consider the possibility'

— Don Berliner,
Fund for UFO Research

tales may be true — and Price's may be one.

"Skepticism is healthy. What bothers me is bull-headed negativism, refusal to consider the possibility," said Don Berliner of the Fund for UFO Research in Mount Rainier, Md., who is familiar with Price's story.

Author Budd Hopkins, who has written two books on UFOs, says the similarity of tales from alleged abductees is strong evidence that aliens are real. Hopkins, who has met Price, said he wants to interview him again under hypnosis to probe the details.

"I don't doubt his inherent honesty," Hopkins said. "I think he's a very honest, very troubled man. I'd like to explore his case further."

Price's claims date back to age 8, when his family lived in North Troy. By Price's account, he was playing with a friend when aliens ordered him aboard a craft, examined him and returned him to earth a few hours later. He describes in striking detail what he believes he saw.

For years, he said, everyone dismissed his story as pure fabrication, and he went for long periods without talking about it. More recently, he has contacted others who believe in UFOs and has resumed talking about it publicly.

"Someone asked me three years ago, 'Why don't you write a book?'" Price said. "I said, 'so much happened, I don't know what I would put in it.' Then, I think it was in May of '89, I thought, 'Well, maybe I can put something together.' Next thing I knew I had 15 or 20 pages down."

Price has written for his book off and on since then and hopes to complete it in the next two months. He's confident that he can sell the manuscript, and believes that his life will be

changed further when it is finally published.

"That's when I'll probably go on Carson or Letterman," he joked.

At least 1,000 claims of UFO abduction are on record, according to Don Berliner of the Fund for UFO Research. Price's has drawn extra attention because he believes he has physical evidence.

During his abduction, Price said, a piece of thin, dark material was implanted in his lower abdomen. It remained there without irritation until August 1989, when it worked its way through the skin.

A physicist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is studying the object. The professor, who spoke on the condition that he not be identified, said he's found no evidence that the artifact is alien. At the same time, he's not sure what it is or how it was produced.

The professor said he's skeptical of UFO claims, but added that the chance to study the object was alluring because of the possibility that it might prove to be alien.

"I took it because I have a great interest in this business," he said. "Being able to prove life exists elsewhere is a Nobel Prize. It would be the biggest discovery ever."

"It would be the story of a millennium," Berliner added.

John Ford of the Long Island UFO Network says the alleged implant also piqued his interest in Price's case. He invited Price to a UFO conference in October.

"I don't think that Richard's experience was fabricated," he said. "What's different about Richard's case is the scientific documentation."

"As far as recovering anything, it's extremely rare."

Price hopes that someday, perhaps at MIT, the existence of aliens will be proven once and for all, so that people will know he wasn't making any of this up. He feels he's been stuck with a burden he never asked for.

If he can't get any proof, Price hopes he can meet whoever or whatever he believes confronted him in the cemetery.

"If I could just see them again," he said, a little angry. "I'd like to know why they took me and things turned out the way they did. When you see everyone else living the type of life you wanted and didn't get, yeah, it makes you angry."

foremost researchers on the UFO subject," will be on hand.

Scheduled speakers include:

■ George Wingfield, a British researcher who will address the existence of mysterious "crop circles" that have been reported in many parts of the world.

■ Linda Moulton Howe, who will report on the "unknown technology" that may be associated with the Berryville cattle mutilations.

■ Jorge Martin, who will report on the "great number of UFO events" that have taken place in Puerto Rico.

■ Bob Oechsler, a former NASA mission specialist, who will show new photos and videotapes of UFOs.

Registration for the conference is \$35 by mail or \$40 at the door. Additional information is available by calling 354-2558.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR — March 11, 1991

Ozark hosting 3rd UFO forum

Recent cattle mutilations near Berryville, in Carroll County, may be the work of UFOs, according to a participant scheduled to speak at an upcoming conference on extraterrestrial visitors.

The third annual Ozark UFO Conference is scheduled for April 5-7 at the Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs. In order to "keep the public informed of the latest research developments," conference organizers said in a news release, "some of the world's

Fireball Across the Sky Leaves Only Questions

It zoomed across the night sky early yesterday, a greenish-red fireball. Airplane pilots radioed that it seemed to be hovering over New York City. Or Philadelphia. A baker in Absecon, N.J., worried that it was a scud missile. And then, it was gone.

A long-forgotten spacecraft? An unidentified flying object? Or just a less distinctive chunk of the 10 tons of debris that falls from the sky every day?

"Presumably, it was a shooting star," said Dr. Thomas Hamilton, a research scientist in the astronomy department at Columbia University. He said that shooting stars crash to earth 150 times a year, but ones as bright as a full moon are relatively rare.

As to whether it was some less explainable phenomenon, Don Berliner of the Fund for U.F.O. Research, a non-profit research group at Mount Rainier, Md., said there was no reason

to think so. That set it apart from something that whizzed over Michigan and Ohio in 1965, made a turn and crashed near Pittsburgh, leaving debris that Mr. Berliner said looked like a spaceship.

The fireball appeared at about 3 A.M., and in minutes a pilot was telling the Philadelphia International Airport that it was "the mother of all meteors." Soon telephones were ringing in police stations from the New Jersey shore to Ithaca, N.Y.

"It seemed to cover a pretty large area, not just New York," said Diane Spitaliere, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

CR: E. Rager

UFO over Northeast leaves experts baffled

By HOPE MacLEOD

A mysterious brilliant fireball, trailing green and red sparks, was seen streaking across New York skies early yesterday.

"We're as much in the dark about it as you are," said Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Diane Spitaliere at Kennedy Airport.

She said pilots and others called the air-transport center in Garden City, L.I., and at the Teterboro, N.J., airport shortly after 3 a.m. to say that "it looked like some bright light was moving across the area."

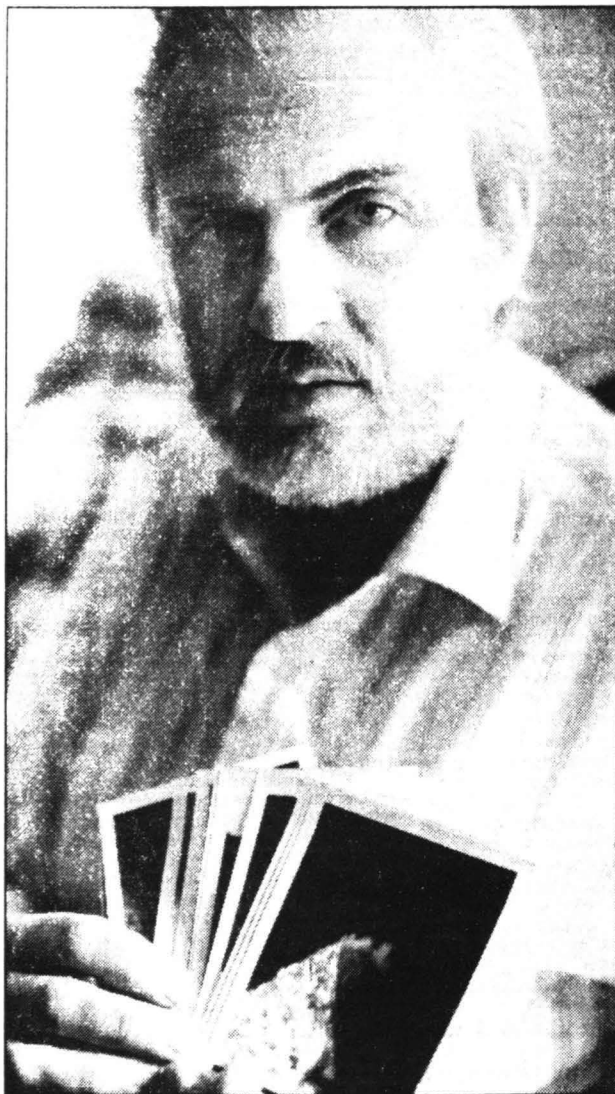
Spokesmen for the National Weather Service and Hayden Planetarium could not offer any explanation, either — or even report sightings.

But observers from Martinsburg, W. Va., to Bangor, Maine, reported seeing the bright, meteorite-like phenomenon.

It looked like "a boom-erang on its side — a cluster of lights with a big red fireball behind it," said Mark Barton, a police officer near Boston.

A pilot radioed air-traffic controller Jim Krimm at Philadelphia International Airport, saying that "it appeared to be the mother of all meteors."

"I've never seen anything like it before in my life," said Danny Fletcher, 23, of Atlantic Highlands, N.J. "At first I thought it was a SCUD missile."



Times Union photo by John Carl D'Annibale

EVIDENCE — Richard Price of Cohoes holds microscope photos of an implant he says he received during an abduction by aliens.

TIMES, New York, NY — March 7, 1991

UFO 'sightings' reported at Days Inn

By AARON HOOVER

The Dispatch

ASHEBORO — The North Carolina chapter of the Mutual UFO Network held its quarterly meeting Sunday afternoon at the Days Inn in Asheboro.

Time travel, government cooperation with aliens, and the fine points of probing UFO reports were among the topics discussed.

No kidding.

"The words getting around that we're just as real as UFOs," said Lincolnton resident George Fawcett III, founder of the state chapter. Considered by the faithful to be a top expert on UFOs, Fawcett has spent his spare time studying the subject for over 40 years.

More than 100 people packed the small convention room. In addition to routine business — a presentation of a treasurer's report, an introduction of the 1991 officers — witnesses of UFOs described their experiences. An official reported that UFOs are attracted to power stations and geological faults, and another official said aliens are



Fawcett

responsible for recent animal mutilations in the west.

Business as usual? Jayne Ware, historian for the state chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, said the organization welcomes anyone who has nowhere else to turn.

"Everyone who is here is here for a different reason. Some want to get further information, and some are here because they need support for what they've seen."

One such person was Asheboro resident Nadina Albright, who told the crowd about seeing a UFO nine years ago.

"OK, this sighting was here in Asheboro, right over this building," she said, causing a distinct murmur.

On her way home from a shopping trip in Greensboro, Albright said she exited off 185 to Hwy. 64 (where the Days Inn is located) when...

"We noticed a UFO drifting right to this building. The lights seemed so bright and so big. Each light looked to me like it was probably the size of a washing machine. Only round."

"So I told my cousin, 'let's go, if it gets us, it gets us.'"

The two went to the cousin's house nearby, where they tried to get the family to come out and see. Suddenly, the UFO tilted and took off, Albright said, adding that it had also been seen by several people in a convenience store.

nience store.

Albright is special, according to the Network, because she is among the 10 percent of UFO witnesses to report a sighting. The organization claims that most witnesses keep their sightings to themselves, meaning that a gold mine remains to be tapped.

Consider the Network's claims that North Carolinians alone reported 51 incidents in 39 counties in 1990. These "incidents" weren't sightings, or rumors, they were landings, or abductions — when aliens make a kidnapping. If that many people report things that extreme, how many more have just looked up in the sky and seen something strange?

The Network makes a lot of other claims. In a written statement, it says that its "Board of Consultants" is composed primarily of PhDs and MDs. The statement also says the Network trains "field investigators" to high degree of proficiency. This claim was clarified at the meeting, where a lot of discussion about investigating went on.

"We've got 71 field investigators in training, and only 11 have become investigators," said George Lund.

"To become a full fledged field investigator there's an exam you have to take."

An investigator's task can range from analyzing landing sights to scouting out UFO approach patterns. Mostly, though, he or she knows how to speak with people.

"When you investigate UFOs, you investigate people first and UFOs second," Lund said.

"We've got to look after our witnesses."

Albright, who had nothing to do with Network before she saw the UFO, might be considered a success story. Rather than keep the experience to herself, she joined up.

On the other side of the story, some people's experiences have meant changes far beyond becoming a Network member.

Fawcett, standing at the microphone in a jacket and white and red checkered shirt, said he once met a man who said a UFO made his whole life different.

"He said to me, 'I was lying on the floor, contemplating, and I said 'Lord, if you want me, come take me.'"

Then, Fawcett said, the man heard a hum and went outside to see a UFO hovering above some trees.

"Lord, I'm not ready yet," Fawcett said the man said.

"He got a new lease on life after that," Fawcett said.

Fawcett warned that such an experience might happen to everyone, Network member or not, one day.

"UFOs not just hanging over your yard. They're coming in your bedrooms and pulling you out of cars."

COURIER TRIBUNE, Asheboro, NC - Jan. 27, 1991

UFOs, area researcher says, eyeballing Randolph County

By NICOLE MICHAELS

Courier-Tribune Staff Writer

Unidentified Flying Objects have an uncanny attraction to the Randolph County area and have been here as recently as last Christmas, according to research by David Oldham, who has 13 years amateur experience tracking the phenomenon.

Oldham has some ideas why UFOs ranging from cigar-shaped objects to glowing discs are coming to the area — and it isn't for the barbecue or stock car racing.

Oldham's theories will be heavy on his mind Feb. 3 as he attends a UFO conference at the Days Inn in Asheboro, the quarterly meeting of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina.

The public is invited to the meeting, which is scheduled for 1-6 p.m. Admission is \$2. The meeting is scheduled to include a dramatic videotape filmed by Steve Harrell of Farmer on Dec. 25.

'With so much activity going on in this area, they're like windows, almost windows into the paranormal.'

— David Oldham

Harrell may have inadvertently caught a UFO on a home video. Harrell said Saturday he plans to attend the conference which includes a review of current UFO books and publications, a TV documentary on UFO reports in Russia and election of new officers.

Harrell's experience is a key event Oldham, a former member of MUFON, includes in his study of Randolph County.

The Greensboro researcher who claims he witnessed a UFO as a teen-ager in a Guilford County park plans to photograph key areas from a helicopter next week and wants to offer himself as a resource people who believe they've seen UFOs can call. Oldham can be reached at home in Greensboro at 272-4676.

"If it's happened in the past, it's more than likely it will happen again," Oldham said. "I'm concerned that the doors have to be open for the

information to come in. We have to establish that it is an area that's heavily active. At this point in time it appears to be that way."

Oldham said he is sensitive to the fact that people who have seen UFOs may face not only ridicule from their peers but inner turmoil as they doubt the reality of their experience. "There are more people out there who have seen things who won't or haven't come forward. We want them to come forward without ridicule," he said.

He has been featured as a UFO witness in two books of interviews with UFO witnesses, *The Intruders* and *Missing Time*.

Oldham wants to establish a network for reporting sightings, offering himself as a confidential resource, and stressing the importance of people coming forward to benefit studies of the area.

"I am a firm believer," said Oldham, "that we have a heavy concentration of activity in three areas — southwestern Randolph County, southeastern Randolph County, and northwest Moore County — and all of them appear to be on the river, either the Deep River or the Uwharrie River. There appears to be a connection of some sort here."

"These are the areas that statistics bear out, and people in these places should be watching."

Rivers, said Oldham, may be one way UFOs navigate; research suggests power lines, major highways and even land faults also statistically are associated with UFO sightings.

Some of the more spectacular accounts target an area between Pilot Mountain and Coleridge Airport, or around Erect, he said.

your backyard to think anything of it," he said.

That's exactly what happened to Steve Harrell.

It was on Christmas day around sunset that Harrell was videotaping his son in the family backyard; his son was test driving a go-cart Santa had brought for Christmas. Harrell was about to stop taping when the red, pink and orange orbs of a glowing object landing behind the trees of his Uwharrie River riveted his attention. Harrell turned the camera on the object, filming four seconds of dramatic tape.

According to Oldham, who will not release the names of witnesses to protect their privacy and his ongoing research, other people report seeing an object in the same area that day.

One man, a pilot, told Oldham he was returning to Asheboro's airport, Causey Aviation Center, on Christmas evening when he saw what he described from the air as a fire 1,000 feet long and as wide as a football field.

"He said it was the brightest light he had ever seen," Oldham said.

Meanwhile, as Oldham tells it, three deer hunters crouched in the woods near the Uwharrie River also saw a strange light. One said he thought it was the moon rising, colored by the hues of sunset — until the "moon" went back down behind a ridge. "Then he realized the moon didn't set."

Another passed the light off as military flares.

Oldham said the multiple witnesses of the Uwharrie River sighting makes it what he calls a "significant" event. The event also establishes a familiar pattern of human reaction to the sighting of a



UFO researcher David Oldham of Greensboro.

UFO, as witnesses try to fit the object within the realm of the familiar.

"Everybody that had seen it shrugged it off until Steve Harrell's picture came out," Oldham said.

Researchers, he said, rely on such testimony to conduct their work. "We have something really hot here. The more people that come forward the better off we're going to be."

He has also poured over topographic and navigational maps, charting UFO sightings based on word-of-mouth reports. His conclusions, based on his studies locally and on popular ideas in the community of UFO research, suggest that there is a correlation between UFO sightings and local geography.

He espouses the theory that UFO sightings cluster around cracks in the earth's crust or faults. Oldham said he was involved in similar research in the Charlotte area, but is excited by the potential of Randolph County.

"With so much activity going on in this area, they're like windows, almost windows into the paranormal."

As he continues his research, Oldham expects some reports will be disqualified as bona fide UFOs, but hopes future accounts will bolster research and attract scientific analysis to the area. "When you go into prove a UFO case, you don't approach it as an unidentified. You try to identify it. ... It really is an art to investigate."

The need for answers also comes from inside.

"More or less it is a personal vendetta. I need to know the answers. ... I don't have the answers. I don't tell people things I don't know. But I assure you I am pursuing this. I am pursuing it and seeking to find the answers."



John Bielinski displays model of alien he claims he sighted. He is sitting in an unused satellite dish at his home.

UFO sighters swap stories

200 beam up to North Haven next weekend

By Catherine Sarault
Register Staff

Coventry police Lt. Lawrence Fawcett used to believe there was an explanation for every strange object in the sky.

That was before July 25, 1965, the day he and several other people witnessed a UFO hovering over an electrical substation in Manchester.

"When I first saw the object, it was coming down like a leaf falling from a tree," said Fawcett, who became a cop sometime after the sighting.

"It was getting bigger and bigger. There were no wings and no engines. By the time it stopped, it had grown to the size of a 747 — no wings, no windows, no seams.

quality assurance inspector at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in North Haven. He said he'd very much like to meet someone from another planet.

People attracted to what believers call the UFO phenomenon are from all walks of life, from cops like Fawcett to published authors like John White, 51, of Cheshire and engineers like Craig Howland of Meriden.

"Five to 10 percent of all sightings never get reported. People are sensible. They don't like being made fun of. Others are afraid of losing their jobs," said Bletchman.

Bletchman said that 90 percent of UFO reports come from well-intentioned people whose sightings can be explained as natural phenomena or known technology. He said there are very few outright hoaxes.

A local expert on myth and pseudo-sciences, Dr. Kenneth Feder, said that most UFO sightings are made by "people who are not familiar with the events in the night sky, get excited" and assume what they've seen is an extraterrestrial visit.

Feder, an anthropology professor at Central Connecticut State University, said many believers in UFOs are people who take comfort from the idea that there are more intelligent beings somewhere in

"It was getting bigger and bigger. There were no wings and no engines. By the time it stopped, it had grown to the size of a 747 ..."

Police Lt. Lawrence Fawcett

"Some type of rod came out of this thing, some lightning jumped from the rod to the substation. Subsequently, the lights went out in that area. It retracted the rod. The whole thing lasted 30 to 35 seconds."

Next weekend, more than 200 people who, like Fawcett, have seen UFOs, or are just interested in them, will gather at the Holiday Inn in

the universe.

"Science has shaken people's belief in an ultimate justice. I'm not saying that these folks are replacing their religions with UFOs, but there's an undercurrent in most UFO literature that 'we've screwed up the planet pretty badly and these guys are out there watching and will come down and take charge when we're about to destroy ourselves,'" Feder said.

Everyone who has ever seen a UFO seems to have a theory. Fawcett, a founder of C.A.U.S., Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, and co-author of the 1984 book "Clear Intent: The Government Cover Up of the UFO Phenomena," said he believes UFOs might be some type of secret government project.

Howland spent 13 years as a UFO investigator for various organizations before he had his own sighting in 1987 while on his way to a fall hiking trip in Vermont.

"We were driving up (Interstate) 91 around sunrise when a large object off to the left caught my eye as we crossed the Connecticut River. It was not a jet. It was shiny and large, like a blimp. It was motionless, hovering about 300 to 400 feet over the river ... I saw it again about a mile further up the highway," said Howland.

Three books were written about

North Haven for the fourth annual international conference on "The UFO Experience."

Robert Bletchman, a Manchester attorney and public relations director for MUFON, Mutual UFO Network, estimates that 2.5 million Americans have had valid UFO sightings, including 25,000 Connecticut residents.

John H. Bielinski, 42, of Wallingford, said he has seen UFOs three times. He hopes to see an extraterrestrial pilot the next time he encounters one. Meanwhile, he contents himself with building plaster-and-cheesecloth models of aliens described to him by people who claim to have seen them. He said he's bringing two of his mannequins to the conference.

"There are craft from other worlds. You can't be egotistical enough to think we're the only ones here. If God created a universe, he created other life," said Bielinski,

Connecticut resident Betty Andreasson Luca's stories of encounters with extraterrestrial visitors, the two best-known being "The Andreasson Affair," and "The Andreasson Affair, Phase II."

Luca, 53, a Connecticut resident who doesn't want her address made known, said she was a 7-year-old Massachusetts resident when aliens first visited her in 1944. She said her encounters aren't all that unusual.

"It's not only me. There are hundreds of thousands of cases already documented worldwide. There are many who haven't reported it because they can't deal with the bizarreness of it," said Luca, whose most publicized encounters took place out-of-state.

Luca, who said she has undergone hypnosis to remember some of the details of her experiences, said she was abducted three times by gray-skinned, hairless creatures, three to four feet tall with three-digit hands, large, slanted eyes, and holes for ears and nostrils. They communicate by telepathy, she said.

Admission to the two-day conference is \$150 or, if space permits, \$75 per day or \$15 per event. For more information, write to Omega Communications, P.O. Box 2051, Cheshire.

Register reporter Karla Schuster contributed to this story.

UFOs reported in 27 counties in the last year

By The Standard Observer

Residents of 27 Pennsylvania counties reported encounters with Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's) or other strange incidents in 1990, according to one locally based scientific group.

The Greensburg-based Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained investigated 277 reported UFO cases and 14 other instances of an unusual nature, including a reported Bigfoot sighting near Ligonier, in that time.

Some of the UFO sightings were found to be misidentifications of bright meteors, planets and stars, aircraft lights, and various other man-made lights reflecting off low cloud layers. Others, however, have remained unidentified even after investigation.

According to the research group, one of the most spectacular occurrences that has remained unexplained was the sighting of a brilliant fireball-type "meteor" in area skies on the night of Jan. 27.

The fireball was reportedly seen at 7:10 p.m. that evening by thousands of people who jammed police, news media and UFO hot lines with reports. Some of those witnesses reported hearing a hissing noise as the object passed overhead.

Another reported UFO sighting took place in an isolated rural area of Oakland Township, Butler County, on the evening of March 8.

Property owners who witnessed that sighting reported finding nine oval shaped scorched areas. The scorched area had no smell.

A PASU study team was sent to obtain samples of the burnt area for laboratory study. While at the site with some local residents, a strange light was reported to appear in the sky and hover over the area for several minutes before leaving.

Lab tests conducted to date have shown no evidence that would indicate the burnt areas were fabricated, while analysis of video tapes of the object, showing a glowing top-shaped spinning in the sky, have ruled out conventional explanations for the lights.

In the meantime, reports from Chestnut Ridge, near Ligonier, have raised the possibility that a Bigfoot-like creature may exist in the area.

A series of large footprints were reported there in January, followed by similar reports from other parts of the state that same week. During the spring and summer months, residents of the Ridge area reported hearing strange screaming sounds and attacks on animals.

Culminating the reports was the incident reported by a long time resident, and experienced hunter, of the Ridge area.

In April, the man reported being awakened at approximately 3 a.m. by a loud, high-pitched scream. Taking a flashlight outside to investigate, the man reported seeing what he described as a humanoid figure about three-and-a-half to four feet tall, covered with hair or fur, with a large face and a snout-like nose. What reportedly impressed the witness the most was the creature's eyes, which glowed bright red when struck by the flashlight beam.

The creature scared the man away when it emitted another loud sound. The creature disappeared a short time later.

The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained is an all-volunteer, non-profit scientific research group that conducts open minded investigations of strange and unusual occurrences. PASU is comprised of selected individuals with training or experience in the fields of science, engineering, technology or medicine and is widely recognized across the country by law enforcement and news agencies.

Fireball Spotted In Four States

The Associated Press

Witnesses in four states, including Nebraska, said they saw a colorful fireball cross the sky Monday.

People in northern Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota reported seeing the glowing ball at about 6:30 a.m.

"It just kind of traveled across the sky real fast, and it fell real fast," said Sue Braun, who saw the object as she drove from Detroit Lakes, Minn., to Fargo, N.D.

Maj. David Griffard of the U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., which tracks man-made objects in space, said the light likely was a meteor.

Eva Kelly of Fargo said she and a neighbor saw the light as they came out of a gym. Ms. Kelly said it was not a meteor.

"Those are just pinpoints of light in the sky," she said. "This was saucer-size. Then it had a tail of yellow bright light extending out the back, and it was streaking across the sky. We were waiting for an explosion after we lost sight of it. That's how frightening it was."

Radio station KQWR in Winner, S.D., said witnesses from Butte, Neb., and Valentine, Neb., also reported seeing the lights.

WORLD HERALD, Omaha, NE - Feb. 26, 1991 CR: P. Hicks



Staff photo by Dean Shalhoup

Members of the area chapter of MUFON — the Mutual UFO Network — gather recently at Moose Hill Orchards in Londonderry, a high spot where they can keep an eye out for unidentified flying objects. From left are Donna Milbourne; Cheryl Powell, MUFON group coordinator for the area; Michael Alianiello; and Vail Leach, who is holding a homemade antenna to detect electromagnetic waves.

Londonderry group searches the skies for UFOs

By DIANE RIETMAN
Telegraph Staff

DERRY — For many people, the night sky holds few questions — some stars, a few planets, the moon. Occasionally a meteor streaks across the darkness, or the lights of an airplane or helicopter.

But for Cheryl Powell of Derry and other members of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), there is more in the sky than meets the eye.

Sometimes those things can be explained; occasionally they can't. Finding an answer to questions about unidentified flying objects is the reason for the international organization. Powell serves as a coordinator for the southern section of the state.

"Two percent of the sightings are just hoaxes, 80 percent can be explained. The additional sightings are UFOs," says Powell. "I'm not saying they're from outer space, although that's a possibility. But there are a lot of things out there — many of them military aircraft — that we just don't know about. If we can't explain what they are, then they're classified as unidentified flying objects."

Those who doubt that any objects of extra-terrestrial origin have ever visited Earth note that UFO reports were rare before the Soviets launched Sputnik in the 1950s, setting off the era of satellites that are often visible from the ground. They also note that despite the tens of thousands of sightings for which no cause has been tracked down, no one has ever been able to produce hard evidence, such as undisputed photographs.

Among the many objects often mistaken for UFOs are the planet Venus — which, when near the horizon, sometimes seems to be spinning and changing color quickly — and airplanes carrying lighted advertising signs. These seem to disappear when sideways to the viewer.

Locally, Powell says there have been sightings of UFOs in the Londonderry-Derry area over the past couple of years. An observation site was set up in Moose

Hill Orchards a few years ago.

The group isn't interested just in aerial oddities. She points out that in Windham, approximately 1½ years ago, a circle of flattened grass was found in a field off Mammoth Road. There was a central tuft of grass that was not flattened. Similar circles have been found in crop fields in England, often in odd shapes, and some people have claimed that they cannot have a terrestrial origin.

At this point there is no explanation for the circles found in Windham. There are no animal droppings at the site to indicate any animals had been there and no tire markings to indicate that a car or other vehicle caused the impression.

Also over the past year, a group of observers from New Hampshire stalked out a site near Penacook where Powell says there had been a number of sightings. A "V" formation of lights flew overhead at a high altitude, circled the area twice, then disappeared. Further investigation, Powell says, found the light formation to be part of some sort of military operation.

But as the observation team started packing camcorders, cameras and other equipment, a bright white light appeared in the sky and headed south.

"It hovered sideways with no sound. Then when we flashed a flashlight toward it, we heard a noise that sounded like machinery," Powell says.

The oval light then flashed a blue beam to the ground which Powell says knocked out the visual capabilities of the videocameras, but audio sounds could still be heard. She has a photograph she claims was taken of the UFO using

infrared film. The photo shows a blue spotlight hitting the ground, apparently coming from the object, Powell says.

Whenever there is a pattern of sightings in any one area, a MUFON observation team will go to the site in an attempt to get photographic, video and sound evidence of the UFO. They will check with local airports for aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting.

"Many times we get the runaround from the Federal Aviation Administration, military or other officials.

We're only questioning if we saw a plane or some kind of aeronautic experiment," Powell says. "Why they're covering up for something that can easily be explained, it is a puzzle to me. I think some people don't want to believe anything else is out there."

Powell first became interested in UFOs while attending Wakefield (Mass.) High School in the mid-1960s. There she joined the school's UFO club. During that time, the U.S. Senate hearings on UFOs were taking place based on information presented by the National Investigatory Commission on Aeronautic Phenomenon.

After spending time doing independent research, Powell, a medical lab technician, decided to become a member of MUFON. There are currently 40 members statewide.

Members can go through training to be field investigators. Powell has often been involved in cases in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts. Members of the group include doctors, engineers and psychologists, she says.

Powell claims that coverups of UFO sightings began in the 1940s and continues today.

'A UFO is not necessarily a flying saucer — it's just something unidentified flying in the skies above our community.'

— Cheryl Powell

"We had just completed World War II — the biggest war of our time. To tell people there may have been visitors from outer space could have affected our entire culture, economy and religion," says Powell. "Look at the effect of the radio broadcast of 'War of the Worlds.' We may still fear that unknown of something out there, and that's why there's the continued coverup."

Powell speculates that for each sighting reported there are 10 sightings which go unreported. Many people have sighted UFOs locally, but fear being ridiculed and so say nothing, she says.

"People says it's the first time they truly question their sanity," Powell says. "It's upsetting and traumatic for these people. Their friends and community may turn on them. But two months or two years down the road when they have a sighting, they will be just as scared. But they'll also want to be believed."

Working with that fear is another part of the work done by MUFON. They serve as a support group and exchange information. Psychologists and social workers who are members of the group help people who claim they have seen a UFO.

They interview those people who have sighted UFOs over a period of time in order to gather information about the event. These interviews may go on for a year or more before proceeding to hypnosis. Through hypnosis, a psychologist will try to probe memories of sightings. There is, however, considerable controversy over whether hypnotic reconstruction produces accurate memories.

Meanwhile, flight records of local airports and military bases are conducted for that time, as well as astrological occurrences such as meteor showers, which could be the source of the object.

"Sometimes we can find a source of the UFO. Other times we can't," Powell says. "I'm not trying to convince people that there's something else out there, although I think there may be life in another world. A UFO is not necessarily a flying saucer — it's just something unidentified flying in the skies above our community."

Texans thrive on tall tales; Aurora's is one of the tallest



KENT
BIFFLE'S
TEXANA

— Speed kills. For example, let me cite the unexpected obit of an old buddy of mine. I'll explain.

Wallace O. Charlton's 1989 book, *This Dog'll Hunt*, was one of the brightest Texas books of the decade. Since then, Wally has amazingly sired half a dozen Texas books.

He's faster than a cat with his tail on fire. He writes them faster than I can read them. I guess he writes them faster than his editor can read

AURORA

them. In his latest book, *Unsolved Texas Mysteries*, Wally describes the investigations of a *Dallas Morning News* reporter in the aftermath of President John F. Kennedy's fatal ambush in 1963. Wally calls the reporter Hugh Ainsworth.

Hey, Hugh, my old buddy.

But a few pages later, Wally disposes of key figures in his mystery:

"By 1988, the 25th anniversary of the assassination, they were all gone. Jim Hood, Charlie Mulkey, Cy Wagoner, Hugh Ainsworth, and the others were dead. . . ."

Whoa, Wally. Whoa, I say.

Hugh's name is spelled A-y-n-es-worth.

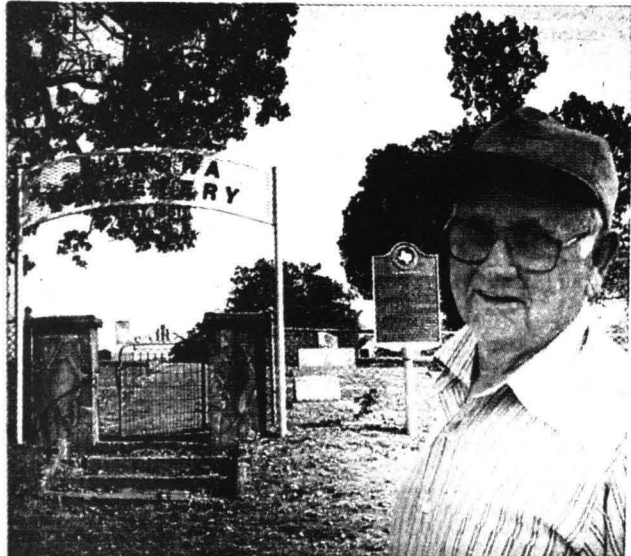
Moreover, he's still kicking.

This is a public service announcement aimed at those readers who may hold Hugh's chits.

Hugh lives in Dallas. He's a far-flung correspondent for the *Washington Times*. And he's writing — not too speedily — his own shelf of books. The latest, co-written with Steve Michaud, is *If You Love Me, You Will Do My Will: The Stranger-than-Fiction Saga of a Trappist Monk, a Texas Widow & Her Half-Billion Dollar Fortune*.

Sound mysterious? Without mysteries, the Texas jobless rate would soar.

Hugh's mysterious demise occurs in a segment Wally calls "The Pool of Vanishing Blood." It's about unexplained fresh blood seen on the



The Dallas Morning News: Kent Biffle

Waymon Reese says an 1897 report that a spaceman was buried at the Aurora Cemetery was a hoax.

Sky spy

Connersville man says UFOs aren't imaginary

By BILL ENGLE
Palladium-Item

Seventeen years ago Rhonda saw a bright light in the sky near her Connersville home. The light darted and moved, then descended to hover seven or eight feet above a field.

She walked toward it, realized it was an oval spacecraft and spotted a small alien peering out at her. When the ship left, she realized more than an hour had passed.

Fourteen years later, Rhonda saw a picture in her mind of the alien taking her around inside the vessel and two other aliens at what she believes were the controls of the ship.

Rhonda is not her real name, but her story, she says, is real.

Don Worley of Connersville believes her and says more and more people like her are realizing — sometimes years later — that they were taken aboard an alien spaceship.

Worley, 69, has studied unidentified flying objects for over 25 years. He was a special investigator for more than 20 years for the now-defunct Aerial Phenomena Research Organization based in Tucson, Ariz., once the oldest UFO research group in the world. He has written more than 20 articles about UFOs and has lectured around the country.

Age has slowed but not stopped his pursuit of UFOs. When people laugh and call him crazy — which many have done over the years — he just keeps plugging away.

He is not sure what happened to Rhonda while she was on the spaceship, but he is convinced that the alien was not giving guided tours.

"My theory, and it is my total conviction because of all the other people who have had something happen to them, is that she wasn't taken on the ship to stand around," Worley said. "They were conducting some kind of experiment."

"A lot of people — too many in far too many other parts of the world to be a coincidence — have come up with the same kind of story," he said. "There's a purpose in what (the aliens) doing. What they are doing is a vast, deep question."

He says he knows UFOs are real, even though he himself has never seen more than "lights in the sky."

"Oh they're real, all right. There's no doubt in my mind about that," Worley said. "I've been in it for 25 years and it's going on. Nobody believes me. But the evidence is there for those who will really study it. I have."

He said he is alarmed by the number of people who now are reporting they have been taken aboard alien spaceships.

"It seems like there's more of that happening now," Worley said, "but you have to wonder if they haven't been doing it for a long time and we just weren't aware of it. Part of the problem is that it's so hard getting people to talk about it — getting them to talk to the press about it."

"I'm amazed at the amount of infiltration and the public doesn't realize it," Worley said. "The aerial phenomena we see is just a masquerade, just the tip of the iceberg. The main activity may be going on at ground level."

Worley said he has talked to callers from Indiana, Illinois, California and many other states who say they were abducted.

"Aliens are tricky and they usually erase the mem-

steps of the infamous "grassy knoll" just after the assassination.

Wally treats the report of the blood as a possibly significant clue in the case. In my view, a clue's not a clue unless it somehow links up with something else. The blood hasn't done that. But it's a good tale.

They're all good tales — from the celebrated Marfa Lights (which I'll confirm) to Old Rip, the legendary horned toad who fabulously survived 31 years in the cornerstone of the old Eastland County Courthouse. (And fabulously is the operative word.)

Wally reviews "The Five-Shot Suicide" of Henry Marshall, whose death, after more than two decades, was finally seen as a homicide.

The book is dedicated to Robert Stack and all the guys at NBC-TV's *Unsolved Mysteries*.

I'll bet that one of Wally's bright ideas for *Unsolved Texas Mysteries* got out of hand and became yet another book — *The Great Texas Airship Mystery*.

Listen to Wally:

"For several weeks in April and May of 1897, something very strange was going on in Texas. Even though it was six years before the Wright brothers' famous flight, a strange cigar-shaped flying object was seen from the Red River, south to the Gulf of Mexico, and west to the Rio Grande."

"Witnesses speculated the object may have been a meteor or a star, perhaps a sign from God, or even a visitor from Mars or the moon. Some people thought an unknown inventor had solved the problem of 'overhead transportation,' but many more thought the excitement was nothing but a hoax."

"After a month cruise, the airship sailed off into history, leaving behind a 'what was it' mystery that has never been solved."

The blue-ribbon Texas airship or spaceship tale in 1897 landed, among other places, in *The Dallas Morning News*. It was submitted by a country newspaper stringer named S.E. Hayden:

"AURORA, Wise County, Tex., April 17 — About six o'clock this



The Dallas Morning News

morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing through the country.

"It was traveling due north, and much nearer the earth than ever before. Evidently some of the machinery was out of order, for it was making a speed of only 10 or 12 miles an hour and gradually settling toward the earth. It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden."

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one on board, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world. . . ."

"The pilot's funeral will take place at noon tomorrow."

After a time, the sensation settled down. But in the mid-1960s Frank X. Tolbert, the late columnist for *The News*, resurrected the story by shooting it down. He concluded that Mr. Hayden desperately concocted the narrative to publicize Aurora, which was near extinction.

Flying saucer enthusiasts promptly grabbed the story and inflated it to their purposes. They, in turn, attracted reporters for terrestrial publications. Soon the whole world was reading about Aurora. Mr. Hayden would have been pleased. Meanwhile, Frank Tolbert

was rightly referring to the affair as "Hayden's Hoax."

Ultimately, the controversy created a crisis. Aurora Cemetery Association members had to get an injunction to stop UFO fans from digging up the graveyard in search of the spaceman. Wally's well-researched book lured me to the scene of the excitement. Things were as quiet as a bite of banana.

Wise County Historical Commission Chairwoman Rosalie Gregg told me the spaceship crash was a hoax and nothing more. "Judge (J.S.) Proctor didn't even have a windmill," she said. "But at the Wise County Heritage Museum, folks from Los Angeles to New York still ask about the crash."

Just outside the 376-population village of Aurora, I met Waymon Reese walking along the road to the Aurora Cemetery. He's lived in Aurora for 73 of his 83 years. Beneath a live oak tree, he showed me a stump of limestone rock that marks the spot where the spaceman was supposedly buried.

"Wasn't a thing to it," said Mr. Reese. "Never was. Them old men, all they had to do was sit around, whittle and joke. They all knew better. Nobody here believed that stuff."

Like Mrs. Gregg, Mr. Reese named dead friends who had lived in Aurora in 1897 and saw nothing of a spaceship crash.

Mr. Reese said: "There was one old man about 10 years older than me who heard that story when he was just a child. He's dead now. When he got old, he lost his mind, you know. But he still remembered that story about the spaceship. He'd tell it for the truth. And he was the one the reporters always talked to."

Mr. Hayden's publicity stunt failed to alter his town's fortunes. As Aurora's poet laureate, Etta Pegues, wrote:

When tourists travel westward
On Highway One-fourteen
They pass through old Aurora
The town that might have been.

And what's the government's response to these accounts?

"The government doesn't want to admit this," Worley said. "It's all too much. They don't want this to reach the general population. They're not ready for this. Never have been. It could shake the very foundation of society."

"The government knows things we don't know," Worley said, "but they won't release a word of it because they're totally defenseless against it."

But Worley remains vigilant. "It's still going on," he said. "It could be on the increase. I don't know. But I'll still work at it."

ory of someone they abduct," he said. "But sometimes people remember. It comes back to them in dreams or they have some psychic powers."

"A lot of times we trace back and find something happened to their parents."

He says there are many theories about UFOs and what their occupants are up to, and his research shows that aliens are interested in human reproduction.

"There does seem to be a lot of interest in the egg and sperm," Worley said. "They could be interested in re-creating us somewhere else."

UNEXPLAINED LIGHT, REAL FRIGHT



The Oregonian/TROY WAYRYNEN

Six years ago, Bobbie Jones saw and heard what she thinks may have been a UFO outside the bedroom window of her Vancouver home.

UFOs gain notice

□ Scared Portland-area residents report increased inexplicable light activity in the area's night skies

By DEAN BAKER
Correspondent, The Oregonian

Bobbie Jones is a 47-year-old Vancouver grandmother who has never seen a flying saucer or a little green man — not exactly, anyway. But six years ago, she did see and hear something unearthly in her back yard. Now she is one of a growing number of Portland-area residents who've recently started talking openly about things they've seen and can't explain — in the sky or on the ground.

Unidentified flying — and landing — objects: UFOs. They're nothing new. Sumerians apparently saw them 6,000 years ago. Ancient Egyptians and Romans referred to them. And, in modern times, sightings have often been reported worldwide since the early 1940s.

Ninety percent of the "sightings" can be explained — helicopters, aircraft, weather balloons, planets, stars, weather aberrations or hoaxes. But paying attention to the unexplained 10 percent has become the norm.

Witnesses, who earlier had feared ridicule or doubted their

own sanity, are coming out of the closet. About 13 million Americans are said to believe they've seen a UFO; hundreds of Americans claim they've been abducted or contacted by extraterrestrial beings, and many bizarre UFO stories — checked by lie detectors, investigations and hypnotic regressions — have been verified.

The Portland UFO Group, just a living-room gathering in Gresham three years ago, has moved into a Mt. Hood Community College auditorium, where it draws crowds of 200 to its monthly meetings. Many have UFO-related tales to tell. The national Mutual UFO Network established an Oregon office three years ago. It has 36 members who investigate sightings. The group sorts hoaxes — such as the one in The Dalles last year in which a man got phony flying saucer photos published in a newspaper — from true mysteries, such as sightings in Vancouver and Dallas, and in Portland and outlying areas.

Wilsonville resident Jennifer Brown-Jacobs, the key organizer of the Portland group, says several sightings of UFOs a day were reported along the Columbia River Gorge and into north Portland on Jan. 21-23. A UFO shaped like an arrowhead was seen from Portland moving across the moon on Jan. 23, she says, and seen at night were strings of lights and balls of light.

"Something's going on," she says of the heightened activity.

Bobbie Jones doesn't belong to the national group and has never attended a Portland meeting. Until now, she's shared her story with only a few friends. She and her husband Bob grew up together near Death Valley, Calif., moved north 20 years ago and raised their two kids in Vancouver. For a few years in the 1970s, she piloted light planes for fun. Now she is busy running her business, teaching first aid and caring for elderly disabled clients. She spends little time dwelling on her chilling memory of two summer nights when eerie lights and sounds appeared in her back yard. Usually, she'd just as soon forget those nights, three weeks apart in July and August 1985.

Twice, she was awakened in the early morning by noise and a glow outside her bedroom window near the apple tree, between the clothesline and the garage just beyond the wisteria bush in her west Vancouver back yard.

She pulls a blanket close, anxiety in her eyes, laughing nervously at times. She's dead serious, and her voice is halting, quavering.

"I still get chills in my heart every time I think of this," she says.

To her, "UFO" means what happened in her back yard in 1985. "The night that's really terrifying to me is the second one," she says.

"Six years ago in July, a chopping sound woke me up in the night, and I looked out my bedroom window, and there were lights out there. I rolled over and called 9-1-1. They sent a little bitty police officer over here — a woman." As the officer drove up, the mysterious lights and sounds suddenly vanished. Jones and the officer inspected the yard and didn't find anything. No chop marks on the apple tree. Nothing.

"Then three weeks later, in August, a sound like I've never heard before or since woke me up in the night and I looked out the window, and there was a light out there. You know when you see something, and you don't know, your mind tries to figure out what it is..."

She pulls the blanket closer and shudders.

"What it looked like was a TV set that you shut off in the dark and the glow is still there. I tried to wake up my husband. He was in the other room. He wouldn't get up.

PORTLAND

PROFILE

Portland UFO Group

What: About 200 people interested in unidentified flying objects, strange lights or other phenomena.

Meets: Monthly at Mt. Hood Community College.

Subjects: Range from scientific studies to first-hand reports of abductions.

Quotes:

"To know that others have had these experiences doesn't make me feel any safer."

— A victim of "missing time"

"My own concern is that some branch of our government is behind this, doing its best to keep the citizenry from connecting..."

— James Deardorff, professor Oregon State University



STEVE GIBBONS

Charlene Elliott (center) of West Linn, a board member of PUFOD, shows one of the group's books on UFOs to Bud Powers, Portland, during February's meeting in Gresham. Maggie Elliott watches.

"Anyway, there was a sound I've never heard before or since. I've never heard a cat or a possum or anything make that noise." She tries but can't be more specific.

It was about 2 a.m. The noise seemed to be close outside her window. She cowered in her bed. The glow and the noise continued for about a half hour, she says. Too embarrassed to call 9-1-1 after the earlier "false alarm," she tried to calm herself. "I didn't want to seem like a kook." Then the sound and light went away, leaving her shaking in her bed until dawn.

"The next morning I went out there, and there were burn marks on the grass, and a residue."

There were five round 1-foot diameter burn marks arranged in a 5-foot circle, she says. The five circles were connected by a narrow burn mark, making a circle. In the center of the circle was a residue that looked like partially dissolved laundry soap.

Jones was frightened. She nailed her bedroom window shut, went out and bought sheets and hung them over the window so no one

(continued on page 9)



It was in her backyard, outside her bedroom window near the apple tree, that Bobbie Jones heard strange noises, saw a weird glow and discovered residue on the lawn.

could see in or out. For years she kept the window nailed. She still keeps the window locked and tightly covered, and she won't go in the back yard alone at night. She's afraid of the dark. Nothing like that has happened since. She'd rather it didn't.

Portland sightings

In Southeast Portland, three professional women who live in two apartments in a duplex say they have seen frequent UFO activity during the past year, including clear sightings on Dec. 3, 4 and 6. They won't give their last names because they fear damage to their reputations and harassment from the government, which they believe is covering up its knowledge about UFOs.

The Southeast Portlanders are Barbara, a 50-year-old transportation manager; Deb, 37, a social worker; and Ahrea, 30, an independent businesswoman. Their friend, Kathy, a 40-year-old government worker who lives in Southwest Portland, also saw the UFO on Dec. 4.

All four women say they have seen UFOs throughout their lives.

Now they gather in the living room to warily tell their stories.

"What I am saying is the truth," says Ahrea, a warm and frequently smiling woman who twists at her coat, uneasy about talking. She says she first encountered a UFO 10 years ago while on Oregon 126 between Walton and Mapleton in the Coast Range.

"This kind of experience is very isolating. To know that others have had these experiences doesn't make me feel any safer," she says.

In 1981, Ahrea says, she and a friend left Eugene at 4:30 p.m. on a

spring afternoon en route to Yachats. On the forest highway an hour later, a red light enveloped them. They felt calm about it, and it seemed nothing had happened, except that they arrived in Yachats at 11 p.m., three hours later than they had expected, and they couldn't account for what had taken so long.

No, Ahrea says with a welcome laugh, they had not been smoking anything strange. She says she can't remember anything unusual except the overwhelming red light.

In UFO circles, such experiences are commonly called "missing time." Through hypnosis, hundreds of UFO witnesses have recalled being taken aboard UFOs for study by UFO occupants — extraterrestrials — on similar occasions involving missing time. Ahrea doesn't recall anything like that. Usually abductees recall what happened only after working on their memories under the guidance of a psychologist or hypnotist.

A burning BB

Last July, Ahrea says she was awakened by awareness of a powder blue light coming from the garden and spilling into the kitchen of the Southeast apartment she shares with Deb. The apartment was awash in the light, as if it were daylight, she says. Deb, in another room, did not wake up, saw and heard nothing. Ahrea got up, but didn't go outside.

While vacuuming next morning, by the couch where Ahrea had slept, Deb found a tiny bronze-covered, rough-cut ball-bearing, "like a BB." Just the sight of the object filled Ahrea with fear. When Barbara handed the BB to Ahrea, it made the hair on Ahrea's arm

stand up. The same thing happened to Deb when she handled it. It had no effect on Barbara, who took the BB upstairs for a few days.

Barbara's 7-year-old niece picked it up to look at it. "Ouch!" she cried, and dropped the BB. It burned the little girl's thumb, leaving a mark. Barbara gave the BB back to Deb, who put it aside for safekeeping. When she tried to find it later, it was gone.

Not visible to all

On three early December nights the four women say they observed UFOs over the Holgate area of Southeast Portland. A man named Chuck told the Portland group he saw one two blocks from the women's home.

What Barbara and Kathy reported were huge lights, "bobbing like an apple in water" and stopping, backing up, then rising and, on two occasions, dropping five blue "sparks" that flew independently. The light was larger than landing lights of a jumbo jet, they say.

"I still get chills in my heart every time I think of this."

— Bobbie Jones, Vancouver

Deb and Ahrea saw a diamond-shaped, solid, steady yellow light flying slowly and erratically. Barbara later saw the huge light, but for only 10 seconds before it vanished. All the lights were silent.

Right after the sighting, Barbara says, five helicopters flew into the area, close around their home.



STEVE GIBBONS

Jennifer Brown-Jacobs, a PUFUG founder, talks about UFO activity.

"I called a friend to tell him about what I saw," she says. "I hadn't been on the phone three or four minutes before they were there — bunches of helicopters. Five big helicopters. They were black. They had blacked-out windows. They had no call letters on them at all. It was a really nice starlit night and there are a lot of street lights. There was enough light that you could see. They were really loud."

Barbara raises the possibility that they were military aircraft. She also says she sometimes feels "the helicopters may be theirs, too" — they might belong to the owners of the UFOs. She says she feels it's possible that some human beings can see UFOs, while others can't.

Believers in "interdimensional" phenomena believe that a separate reality coexists beyond what humans usually perceive. This is sometimes called the "fifth dimension." When humans have "out-of-body" or "near-death" experiences, they may be looking through a window into this dimension of perception. Barbara says she believes UFOs are real in both ways — both as physical metal objects piloted by beings from other planets, and as entities that exist on this planet but can't always be seen, perhaps can be seen only occasionally, and not by everyone.

In 1979, Barbara says, she worked near the Los Angeles airport. One day she and others observed a pure-white, cigar-shaped craft as big as several Boeing 747s, hovering over LAX while planes took off and landed. It wasn't a blimp, she insists. She and others saw it clearly, she says, while others in the crowd could not see the craft at all.

Lights over Vancouver

At least a dozen Vancouver residents — including Bobbie Jones — saw the lights Mert Oakes and his daughter Pamela watched for hours in the night sky over the Dollar's Corner-Battle Ground area east of Vancouver on Oct. 24 and 26.

Oakes, 58, manager of a Vancouver welding shop and a light plane pilot, had never seen or thought much about UFOs before. After supper on Oct. 24 he went out behind his rural home to adjust his TV satellite dish.

While tilting the dish, Oakes caught sight of some unusual lights in the sky out of the corner of his eye. Pamela Oakes, 37, lives in her own house next door, but she was on the intercom phone in her folks' house, turning the TV dial and advising her dad as he adjusted the dish. Oakes called to his daughter to come out and see the lights.

They watched the lights for four hours. There were several craft — a half dozen, perhaps — each silent, sometimes standing still, making right angle turns, moving quickly or slowly in all directions, up and down, sometimes flying directly overhead. Stopping and going. Zig-zagging.

"Dad," Pamela Oakes said, "They aren't making any sound."

The lights returned two nights later, and flew near the Oakes homestead for a couple of hours.

"I think if one had landed in the field, I would have gone right over to see what it was," Mert Oakes says.

When they later saw videos of triangle-shaped UFOs seen last year by thousands of Belgians, including police and air force officers, and a home video that another neighbor made of the Vancouver UFOs, the light patterns were similar.

Linked to mutilations

"I think the jig is finally up," says West Linn UFO scholar Keith Rowell. A skeptic who owns hundreds of books on UFOs, Rowell has no doubt: UFOs are real.

At 44, Rowell is a scholarly, soft-spoken technical writer who works for the national UFO group with Carlo Sposito investigating cattle mutilations around Portland. Six have been reported in the Vancouver area during the past year. Rowell and Sposito believe cattle mutilations are related to UFOs.

Since 1967, thousands of animals — mostly cattle, but also horses, deer and other creatures — have been mutilated in a similar fashion in the American Midwest and West, Puerto Rico, the Canary Islands, Panama, South America and Europe. The animals are killed. Taken from their bodies, with precision cuts that appear to be made by a laser, are portions of sex organs, udders, rectums, tongues, eyes and the flesh of skulls. Often all the blood is drained from the animal. There are no vehicle tracks, and often no animal tracks nearby. The carcasses have been

"This kind of experience is very isolating."

— Ahrea, Portland businesswoman

found close to ranchers' homes in some cases.

There are four theories about the mutilations: cult activity, predators, secret government research and UFOs. Given the number of mutilations, the methods used, the scattered locations and the fact that the series of incidents has been going on for 24 years, Rowell and many other investigators believe that UFOs — once the laughing stock of the skies — are simply the most logical explanation.

Other authorities, including those in Vancouver, say they believe mutilations are more likely the work of predators or cults.

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9 -
OREGONIAN, Portland, OR
- Feb. 28, 1991)

Group investigates

Skip Schultz, a 44-year-old mechanic and former Air Force jet engine technician, directs the Mutual UFO Network's Oregon chapter out of his home office in Woodburn.

Sightings in Dallas, Oceanside and Gervais stand out in his memory. At Oceanside around 8 p.m. on Sept. 28, 1989, eight witnesses saw six to eight bright, spherical, glowing lights moving around an invisible line that formed an ellipse. Other witnesses said they saw such a UFO move up the coast that night, at least 70 miles north to Warrenton.

At Gervais shortly before midnight on July 16, 1988, the five members of the family of James Harper, owner of the H&H Construction Co., saw moving in the air over a power line close to Interstate 5 an object that Harper describes as a "huge ship shaped like two dishes upside down together with a dome on top. It had four legs with lights on two legs, one red and one gold. It was real quiet and the size of our three-bedroom house." It was silent, flew as low as 20 feet, swayed from side to side and was visible for 15 minutes, family members said.

At Dallas, at 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 16, 45-year-old Anna Mae Farrar saw passing over her father's farm a white, glowing disk as big as a farmhouse and shed.

Farrar said the object was about 100 feet wide, solid-appearing and disk-shaped with a steady yellow light on top. The bottom had a large, bright white opening. A grid-like structure was around the opening like pieces of criss-crossed metal. Around the lower edge of the object was a row of steadily glowing red lights. The farm's kitchen lights blinked out as the object passed overhead.

The object went over the hills to the southeast, stopped glowing and was no longer visible.

Desert etchings disputed

A visible sign some believe to be connected to UFOs appeared last summer in Mickey Basin north of the Alvord Desert east of Steens Mountain in Eastern Oregon. Discovered there in August was an intricate 1,563-square-foot Hindu meditation symbol — a sriyantra or mandala, designed to focus the mind inwardly as a person opens up in an attitude of contemplation and peace.

At first, the origin of the etching was unknown. Then four artists from the Midwest claimed they had made the design.

One Oregon scientist doesn't believe the artists' confession. James Deardorff, 62, a research professor emeritus of atmospheric science at Oregon State University and now an ardent student of UFOs, contends the four were hired by the U.S. government to cover up the origin of the etching: possibly UFOs.

The etching consists of 15 miles of curves and congruent lines including 24 cuspidal segments in perfect alignment. The artists' story, that they used only hand tools and finished the whole project under the August sun in the desert in 10 days, is unbelievable, Deardorff says.

"My own concern is that some branch of our government is behind this, doing its best to keep the citizenry from connecting the ground pattern to the patterns in the wheat in southeast England, for example, because of the reported UFO associations of the latter," Deardorff says.

He was referring to "crop circles," hundreds of which have been found around southern England since 1975 and now are showing up in the wheat and cornfields of the American Midwest. Crop circles are perfect spheres of downed or flattened patches of vegetation. Some are as large as 100 yards in diameter — most are 10 yards or less. Some are found in patterns including circles such as those in the Mickey Basin etching.

A team of British scientists, working for years, has found no known natural cause for the cir-

cles. The crops can still be harvested. Some circles emit an electrical energy that can be monitored as sound. More than 1,000 of the circles, in which vegetation is swirled in both clockwise and counter-clockwise directions, but never broken off the stem, were found worldwide in 1990.

TIMES, Gloucester, MA - March 6, 1991 CR: B. Greenwood

Strange lights spotted in night sky

By VIRGINIA LOWRY
Essex County Newspapers

Police throughout Eastern Massachusetts, including the North Shore up to New Hampshire, were among residents who spotted strange lights in the sky — possibly a meteor — early this morning.

Ipswich Patrolman Charles Schwartz said he was on Topsfield Road at 2:50 a.m. when "I noticed a bright light. I was headed out of town," he said.

"When I first saw it, it was like a green, bright, bright, light (with) an orange tail, with sparks," said Schwartz.

He said he stopped his police cruiser and "it went right over my head. I would estimate it was no more than 3,000 to 4,000 feet. When it got directly overhead, it lost the green glow. It went north toward Rowley," he added.

Federal Aviation Administration specialist Michele Motzi said there had been several reports of the object from several places, but the FAA had no confirmation of what it might have been.

No UFOs were reported to Gloucester police. At the U.S. Weather Service at Boston's Logan International Airport, weathermen, who had not seen it, guessed that it might have been a meteor.

A Hamilton police officer, who did not want to be identified, described the phenomenon as "just a stream of light, with a big bulb hanging. It just kept going north," said the officer.

Newburyport Police Sgt. Thomas Howard said he saw a "basketball-sized object" which was lighted and an orange-green color about

'When I first saw it, it was like a green, bright, bright, light (with) an orange tail, with sparks.'

— Ipswich Patrolman Charles Schwartz

200 feet above the ground, headed east.

A trooper at the state police barracks in Peabody also said there was a report of someone seeing lights in the sky.

Police in Salisbury also received telephoned reports of the sighting.

Peabody meteorologist Kenn Schaffer said this morning that the lights could have been a meteor.

Schaffer, who flew into Boston last night, said that the night was extremely clear and Boston had unlimited visibility. Meteors, he said, "tend to burn and disintegrate to zero."

State police in Boston said the first they heard of what remained an unidentified flying object hours after it was seen was from police officers who spotted it in the area of the Massachusetts Turnpike in Newton.

Reports then came, in succession, from the Braintree-Norwell area on the South Shore, the Andover area north of Boston, the Mansfield area south of Boston, back north again to the Lynn area and then in the Dedham area near Route 128.

Most sightings apparently were between 2 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.

Attleboro Police Officer Mark Barton told radio station WARA that he and at least four

other officers saw it.

"From what I could see, it almost looked like a boomerang on its side. A cluster of lights with a big red firetail behind it," Barton said.

"That tail had to be as long as the Triboro Plaza (a shopping mall). It was moving so slow that I had time to get in my cruiser, radio other officers to look in the sky and get back out and continue to watch this thing fly off," he said.

A brilliant fireball with a greenish-red tail was also reportedly sighted in the sky near Philadelphia this morning, authorities said.

The fireball flashed over southeastern Pennsylvania shortly after 3 a.m., according to Jim Krimm, an air traffic controller at Philadelphia International Airport.

A pilot radioed that it "appeared to be the mother of all meteors," Krimm said. "He said he had never seen anything in all his time flying."

Telephone calls reporting the fireball indicated it appeared to travel from at least 20 miles west of Philadelphia to 20 miles east of Philadelphia, Krimm said.

FAA spokeswoman Diane Spitalieri said pilots who called airports in Teeterboro, N.J., and Garden City, N.J., said the bright light was moving back and forth over New York City.

Stan Gordon of the Pittsburgh-based Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, a clearinghouse for UFO reports, said he received reports describing a fireball that lasted five to six seconds, with a green tail mixed with some red color.

Associated Press reports were used in this story.

UFO experts seek evidence of Incident

Rob Goldsmith
Record Staff Writer

On July 8, 1947, Army officials at Roswell Army Air Field released a statement that said the remains of a flying saucer had been recovered on a ranch northwest of the city.

This weekend, during the 24th annual reunion of Roswell Army Air Field-Walker Air Force Base Veteran's Association, four nationally-known UFO experts were seeking witnesses to the 1947 incident.

One of the researchers, Stanton T. Friedman, a nuclear physicist and lecturer from New Brunswick, Canada, called the Roswell Incident a "seminal" event in human history.

"This means that man is not alone," said Friedman. "Coming to terms with this event is going to force us to rethink our view of ourselves, of religion, of economics, of where we fit in the galactic neighborhood."

Don Berliner, an aviation and science writer from Alexandria, Va., said the incident attracts so much national attention because it is the classic case of a UFO encounter.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Sept. 30, 1990

"Out of all the tens of thousands of UFO events over the decade, this is the most thoroughly investigated and the best supported by witnesses."

Friedman and Berliner, along with Donald R. Schmitt and Kevin Randle of the Chicago-based Center for UFO Studies, talked with Daily Record on Friday.

Randle, author of 60 novels and two books about UFOs, said he and Schmitt will take advantage of the base veterans' reunion to find additional witnesses to piece together the puzzle surrounding the 1947 event.

"Everytime we find a new witness," Randle said, "they have a little bit, a piece of the information, but it always fits into the whole scheme of things."

Schmitt and Randle are collaborating on a book about the Roswell Incident that will be published in January.

Berliner and Friedman also are collaborating on a book about a flying saucer crash in the Plains of San Agustin, west of Socorro, that occurred at the same time as the Roswell Incident.

Friedman, who appeared with Randle in a recent television episode of Unsolved Mysteries about the Roswell Incident, says after more than 40 years, they are in a race with time to find witnesses.

"What we are trying to do," he said, "is get at what's the total picture of this very important historical event, which isn't in the history books. And people are dying — we're racing the undertaker."

Although the researchers have interviewed hundreds of witnesses to the 1947 incident, they have

never seen the flying saucer wreckage or the remains of its occupants. This is due, they say, to intense government secrecy — what Friedman calls a "Cosmic Watergate."

According to Berliner, "What we're talking about here is probably the greatest example of effective secret-keeping in history."

"The A-bomb was kept secret for three or four years during wartime when everybody was security conscious. This has been (kept secret) in peacetime and wartime for 40-plus years, and it's just starting to come out."

Schmitt, director of special investigations at the Chicago Center, said many witnesses have been sworn to secrecy, or for other reasons, are reluctant to talk about the incident. He explained why the government may want the episode hushed up.

"Certainly the military involvement," he said. "You have this strange material (debris from the wreckage that) defies any conventional explanation ... and certainly the first effort that would be made on the government front would be the military application, duplication of that material ... and technology."

Debris from the alien crash has been taken to highly secret government research facilities, such as Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, to be studied, the researchers say.

While the four agree there is no evidence to think the aliens are either hostile or benevolent, Friedman says continued government secrecy and unfriendly actions toward the visitors could provoke an unwanted reaction.

"I think it's important

that we the people of the planet have some say in what that interaction becomes in time," said Friedman. "Because it may well be that the governments will do things that will change whatever their (the aliens') intentions are."



Friedman



Randle



Schmitt



Berliner



Close encounters: Fact or fiction?

A MOTHER and her ten-year-old son were travelling along a country road when they realised they were being followed.

Both say that behind the car near Shepton Mallet on December 28 was a brightly lit flying saucer.

It moved to the side travelling half a mile from the car and suddenly sped off out of sight.

This was just one of four UFO sightings reported to investigators at Bristol Quest last month.

The day before the Shepton Mallet incident, two people reported blue-white orbs of light travelling at tremendous speed across the skies of Horfield.

And on December 23 a pink coloured

By Julie Harding

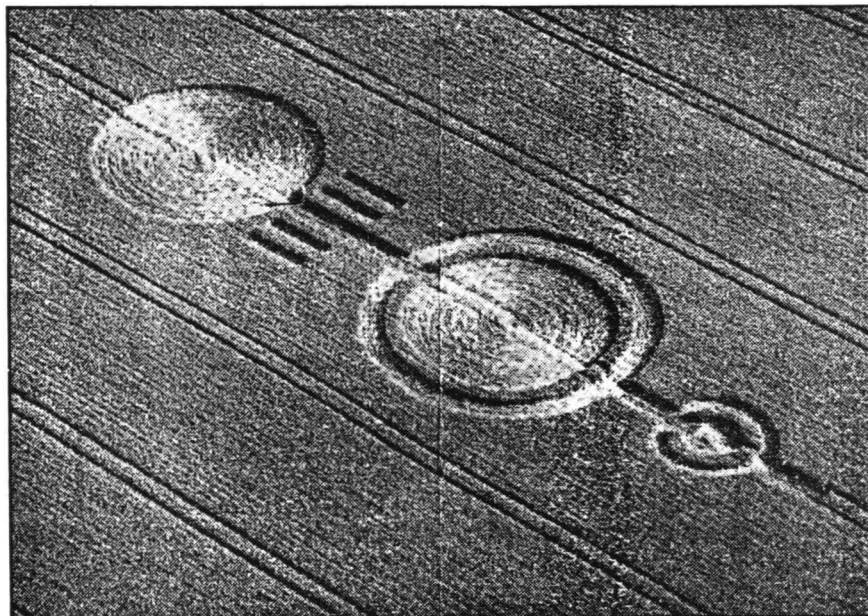
sphere was seen to move in an easterly direction towards Keynsham.

Another UFO, this time cigar shaped, was spotted over Weston-super-Mare on December 5.

Bristol Quest's area regional co-ordinator, Richard Tarr based at Horfield Common, firmly believes the sightings were not caused by 'Christmas spirits.'

He said the witnesses were "sincere and honest".

"Through Quest International's 24-



hour hotline number we have been receiving many UFO sighting reports and by liaising and co-operating with the regional police, Bristol Airport's air traffic control and the RAF we have been

able to carry out very detailed investigations."

On March 23 UFO spotters from all over the world will be gathering at Patchway High School for a major conference on the subject.

Man, machine or UFO? - No-one yet knows who or what creates these mysterious circles in corn fields up and down the country.

Many of the country's leading UFO and crop circle experts plus speakers from Germany will be there.

It will feature all the latest discoveries including photographs from an alleged UFO crash in Russia.

Speakers include

George Wingfield, author and principal field research officer for the Centre for Crop Circle Studies; Britain's leading UFO authority.

Bristol Quest is keen to hear from anyone who has had a close encounter. The hotline number is 0756 752216.

Craven Herald, Skipton, England Jan. 25, 1991

Book

For those who believe in such things, the "UFO Report 1991" will make compulsive reading. Sightings of strange phenomena in the sky have intrigued many people over very many years, and this area is reputed to be among the most fruitful.

Indeed, Tony Dodd, who was a police sergeant in Grassington, figures in the book three times. John Sharp recounts how he was walking his dog along a country lane on the outskirts of Skipton when he saw "a pulsating, pale yellow light approaching from the south."

Mr. Sharp claims he was able to see quite clearly that it was triangular with a single tail-fin at the rear. There is a drawing of what Mr. Sharp saw — or believes he saw — on January 9 last year.

Sightings and strange happenings from all round the world are recorded and there is reference to strange circles that have appeared in crop fields in this country. Stranger than fiction, it could upset some folk.

Me? Sorry, not even pink elephants cross my path, no matter how right the conditions might be!

The book costs £9.99 from Sidgwick and Jackson of London, and can be obtained from the Craven Herald bookshop. J.H.

CR: T. Good

York UFO remains a mystery

ROGER and Dawn Toye are today still trying to discover exactly what they saw in the sky above them last week.

A series of lights hovered 500m above Knavesmire, York, before drifting off to Naburn while the couple were walking their three dogs around 5am on a clear, frosty morning.

"It was a strip of lights, about the length of two to three lampposts, flashing on and off intermittently," said Mr Toye of Moorcroft Road.

"There was no noise from the lights, which rules out them being from aircraft. We first thought it was a shooting star, but it stayed too long."

There were no records of anything untoward happening in the skies above York late last week, according to Mr Martin Lunn, the curator of astronomy at the Observatory in the Yorkshire Museum in York.

The city's police similarly have no records of other sightings, but Ch Insp Jim Boam said the lights might be connected with crystals which the United States announced one of their satellites would put into the atmosphere late last week.

Sqn Ldr John Corby at RAF Linton-on-Ouse said air force activity was very unlikely to have caused what the Toyes' saw. And his station's meteorology experts were unable to suggest an atmospheric or climatic reason.

BOOKSELLER, London, England Feb. 8, 1991 CR: T. Good

In April Headline publishes *The UFO Encyclopedia* (£16.95), compiled and edited by John Spencer for the British UFO Research Association. Covering everything from alien abduction to fantastical hoaxes, this A to Z is illustrated with 32 pages of b/w photographs. *First Contact: The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence* (April, paper, £4.50) is edited by Ben Bova and Byron Preiss.

SUNDAY MAIL, Glasgow, Scotland Jan. 13, 1991 CR: T. Good



PROBING... Ron Halliday with dousing rods.

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - Feb. 5, 1991 CR: T. Good

Not so dusty, this corn circle theory

Corn circles are caused by dust, not spaceships, according to weather expert Dr Terence Meaden.

He believes the mysterious circles, which appear in cornfields in Wiltshire, are formed when dust particles are sucked in by whirlwinds.

The dust becomes electrically charged and is spat out, flattening the crops and forming the patterns.

Theories to explain the shapes, which appeared in areas such as Alton Barnes, near Marlborough, during the summer, range from UFOs to people using garden rollers.

Dr Meaden, founder of the group Circle Effects Research, has been studying the phenomena with Japanese Professor Hiroshi Kikuchi.

"Some circles are in sets of five, just like the five on dice," said Dr Meaden, of Bradford on

Avon.

"People ask how that can happen naturally: a member of my organisation has proved it can in a laboratory."

"By shooting one vortex downwards, it hit the ground and burst into five."

"Professor Kikuchi has looked at the mathematics of these suggestions and he is backing me with this theory."

Richard Tarr, who studies the crop circles in the West Country, said: "With some of the patterns it is obvious there is some intelligence behind it. They are not random — they are no accident of wind or dust."

"Some of the simpler patterns could be explained as being formed naturally, but others have been thought about too intelligently."

He believes they may be caused by extra-terrestrial beings.

UFO CAPITAL!

Where spacemen go to town...

GREAT balls of fire! Sleepy Blairgowrie has become the flying saucer capital of Scotland.

The Perthshire town is usually better known for its strawberries than spacemen.

But it has had such an amazing concentration of crop circles and UFO sightings that the Strange Phenomena Investigations group are probing reports of:

- Balls of fire shooting across the ground;
- Spaceships making circles in crop fields — such as appeared at Ardblair in May last year;

By LEWIS THOMSON

- A ball of fire in a bush;
- A spaceship with flashing lights.

The SPI want to find out if this concentration of weird happenings in Blairgowrie is linked to high-energy 'ley-lines,' running under the town.

The SPI say that, over the last two years, there have been five crop circles in the Blairgowrie area and 12 reported UFO sightings over the last 30 years.

Ron Halliday, who works in SPI's office at Stirling University, said: "Blairgowrie is now the paranormal centre of Scotland."

"It's had an amazing number of sightings for such a small area."

"The ley-lines which run under Blairgowrie are a source of energy which flows all over the world. We track the surface energy by using dousing rods."

"We think that all the phenomena are linked and we're trying to find people who have seen lights in the sky, which could be UFOs or products of the energy."

"The work of the SPI and our magazine, *Enigmas*, is to come to an understanding of events outside scientific explanation."

POLICE

"Such as people seeing balls of fire which shoot across Blairgowrie not far from the ground."

"In 1987, a woman saw a ball of fire in a bush. When she looked up, she saw a spaceship several hundred feet long, with lights all around it."

Local police deny that they have had reports of UFOs.

One officer said: "People may be getting mixed up with the Northern Lights."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Feb. 13, 1991 CR: G. Conway

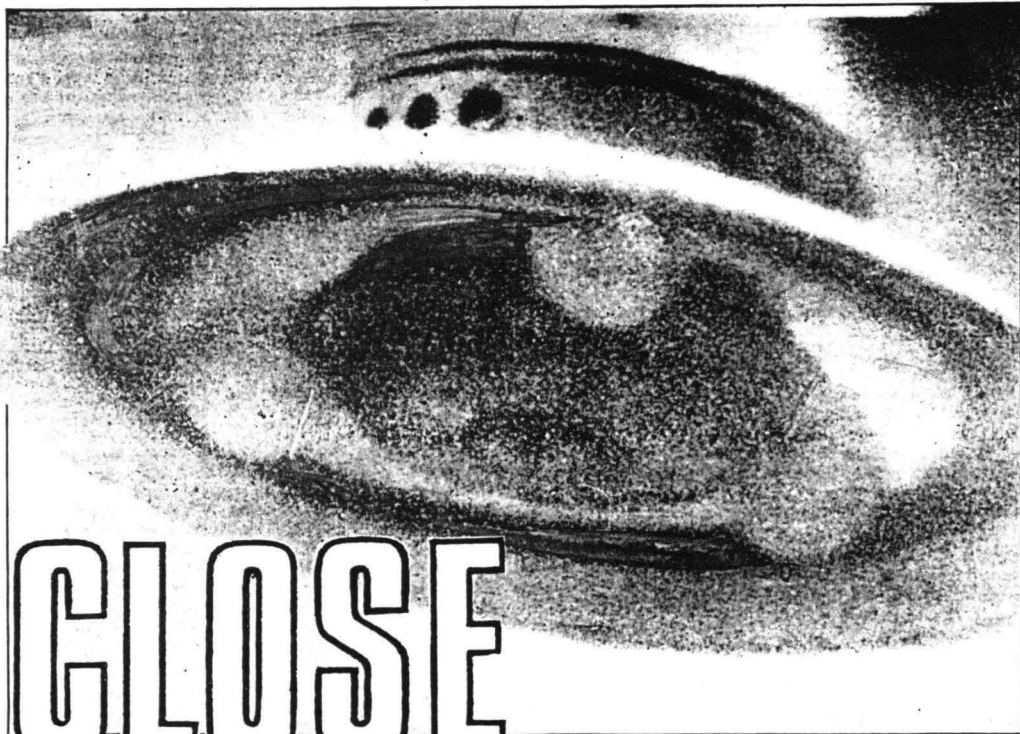
UFOs



Tass reported that the skies over Uzbekistan were teeming with flying saucers.

Locals, who are said to have grown accustomed to the space invasion, suspect the aliens are after the region's vast gold deposits. In the latest twist to the space mystery, newspapers *Vecherny Tashkent* and *Molodezh Uzbekistana* reported the visit by alien robots in the town of Daugyztau, in central Kyzyl-Khem.

Three local teenagers spotted what they described as "truncated pyramids, covered with metal scales." They had what looked like wings on their sides, and made huge leaps, covering 4-5 metres. Tass said the report could have been the result of the boys' rich imagination, but Soviet UFO experts said they found powerful magnetic fields in places pointed out by the children.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

HAVE you ever seen a flying saucer? Or a bright white 'spacecraft' like the one which glided down the Dee one night, terrifying four poachers?

Or a large cigar-shaped object with a red centre like the one spotted by two men near Dyserth on January 4, 1986?

If you have, join the happy crew. I've seen one, lots of people in Clwyd have seen one, and Mrs Margaret-Ellen Fry of Llangernyw — our local UFO expert — has seen about forty.

Mrs Fry is an investigator for the British branch of Contact International, which traces and takes statements from people who have seen unidentified flying objects.

She knows of 11 North Walianians who claim to have been abducted by extra-terrestrials, and in her spare room there is a filing cabinet crammed with eye-witness accounts of close encounters of the third kind.

The strangest case of all in Mrs Fry's dossier is the Pwllheli Abduction Case.

About six or seven years ago a teenager who now works in a hotel near Pwllheli went to visit friends in the countryside nearby. As he walked home in the early hours of the morning he saw something in a field by the side of the road, and as he turned up a side-road he felt a presence behind him. When he turned around he saw 'two mechanical sort of beings enfolded in a type of suit which covered them,' and they wore visors.

They walked by his side and he felt obliged to accompany them as they 'propelled' him towards an object in the field. This turned out to be a spacecraft which contained other humans, but the teenager was unable to give a clear picture of what happened next; he believed that they toured the universe.

"What is startling about this," says Mrs Fry, "is that even then he described the 13 moons of Pluto — some time before the American probe discovered that there are in fact 13 moons."

Terrified to this day, he still has nightmares about the incident and categorically refuses to allow his name to be divulged.

He hadn't been drinking, says Mrs Fry, a fact averred by the policemen who found him and took him back to the hamlet where he still lives.

He arrived home in such a state of shock that his mother, after hearing his story, went to the local library the next

Our local UFO expert knows of 11 North Walianians who claim they have been kidnapped by aliens, and there have been dozens of unexplained sightings. The strangest story in her dossier is the Pwllheli Abduction Case...Lloyd Jones reports

morning and found the address of the Contact International headquarters.

Despite the fact that there was thick snow on the ground she drove her son all the way to Oxfordshire to see a UFO expert. The teenager was still so terrified that he refused to get out of the car when they arrived and it has taken years to get the whole story from him.

Then there's the case of the four young men who went poaching on the Dee one night in January 1978. Whilst they were at their wily craft they saw another sort of craft — a bright white one — gliding down the river towards them.

Terrified, they hid behind a bush and watched the 'spacecraft' as it came to a halt and disgorged two beings dressed in what appeared to be spacesuits and helmets. These beings put a crate around a cow in the field and transported it to the 'spacecraft', and what was even more remarkable was that the poachers all noticed that the other cows in the field were completely immobilised.

The craft sped off and the incident might never have been heard of had not one of them mentioned it to a girlfriend some time later and she in turn contacted a reporter friend.

Other sightings seem to have been shared by perfectly rational people going about their daily business, people such as Keith Jones who saw a banana-shaped object by a pub near Denbigh. He rushed inside and told the locals, who went outside and witnessed the craft taking off. "It sent down laser beams and was seen by practically

everyone in the pub," says Mrs Fry.

Then there was the man living in a caravan at a remote farm near Cerrig-y-Drudion. One night the caravan started shaking violently and the man went outside where his normally fierce dog was in a state of abject terror, his fur standing on end. Looking up, the man saw a jet-black circle above him...the next memory he had was of waking up on his doorstep. When he went back into the caravan he started drawing amazingly technical sketches of spacecraft, a compulsion which has stayed with him to this day.

Three independent motorists reported seeing an object with revolving lights sitting on a hill near Cefniddwysarn last January. Five farmers reported seeing a UFO near the television receiver there in January 1986.

And there's the Cwm Canol Incident which seems to have been witnessed by a whole crowd of people, from the man who initially saw a double glow as he put away his car at Holland Arms.

Farmers out lambing saw twin orange lights travelling towards Gwytherin: these lights descended on Cwm Canol, a farm between Gwytherin and Llansannan. As they came down to earth the orange lights 'solidified' into a grey craft, and among the witnesses were a group of 14 Venture Scouts camping nearby.

"The Army came and I was woken up in the middle of the night by a huge yellow helicopter disgorging soldiers," says Mrs Fry. "They said they were looking for old rockets."

Stranger still is the case of Mrs W of Pentre Halkyn who, whilst sewing late at night in her spare bedroom in 1982, suddenly saw a meteor-like object hurtling towards her.

She rushed outside and saw a huge object over her bungalow, and as in the Cerrig-y-Drudion incident, her dog behaved quite oddly. The 'spacecraft' gradually receded and she went to bed, but in the middle of the night she woke up and saw a man at her window.

She described him as "a quite nice looking man with olive skin and short brown hair." The next second he appeared by her bedside and she said: "I wonder if I'm dreaming you."

As she put out her hand to test whether he had any substance he made a gesture with his hand and she knew no more — other than to receive sporadic 'messages' from the beyond.

One of these messages told her that the aliens had left three tripod marks on Halkyn Mountain and she started exploring the area.



Mrs Margaret-Ellen Fry: In the right place at the right time.

"This area is very dangerous, with many mine shafts, but she eventually found three perfect squares in the ground. Having seen them I have to believe her," says Mrs Fry. "They were right on the edge of a shaft and no earthly thing could have left such perfect indentations so close to a hole without slipping in or corrupting the ground around."

She adds: "This woman is in her mid-fifties, is very homely and is completely sane."

One under-awed couple from Dyserth gave chase to a UFO in their car but were foiled when the craft landed in a field and "literally went out like a light."

Mrs Fry has seen UFOs about 40 times.

Her first sighting was a bell-shaped craft in Kent, where she was living, in 1955. She had taken her son to see their doctor, who was present when they saw "a huge thing 16-17 feet above their heads." It had three ball-bearing like castors.

"I remember it so well: it was the 17th of July, 1955," says Mrs Fry.

"The doctor said: 'It must be some sort of secret craft. I can't believe it. It's impossible. I don't care if I am seeing it, I still can't believe it.'"

"As is common with many people who see UFOs, the doctor eventually died of a brain haemorrhage but I found out that he had reported the incident," says Mrs Fry.

"The spacecraft had nuts, bolts and rivets. But the colour was like nothing you see on this earth: a silver-blue with a pewter texture — a totally different hue."

When I visited Mrs Fry she was giving her home a good spring clean but once we started talking about UFOs, that was it...three hours later I emerged into the Llangernyw sunlight pretty well convinced that my own little 'experience' (a very peculiar darting star above Aberporth) was one of many sightings shared by a veritable horde of North Walianians.

Mrs Fry, I must point out, is the very picture of sanity.

She was born in British India, in the Punjab. Her father, William Arwyn Nagle, was with the CID in India but moved back to Britain when Margaret-Ellen was 19 to become a scientist at Aldermaston; although he was not involved in nuclear work he was part of the team which split the atom and was later awarded the MBE.

Mrs Fry moved to Llangernyw about nine years ago with her disabled husband so that they could be near her daughter, who lives in Llansannan.

Although she experienced her first UFO sighting in 1955 she did not become a member of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association (BUFORA) until 1965; she is also an investigator for the British branch of Contact International, which has 34 member countries.

Why, I ask her, has she seen so many UFOs?

"I think it has been a matter of being in the right place at the right time," she says in a matter-of-fact way.

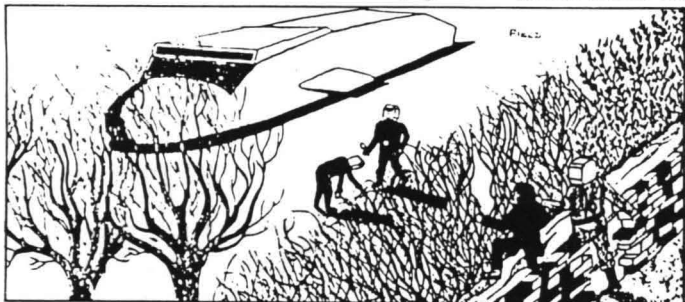
"The area of Kent where I lived has three convergences of ley lines and I was not the only person to see UFOs: they were witnessed by lots of people."

"The other explanation is more mystic: there is a possibility that they single out a certain type of person."

"I don't want to be neurotic about it; I prefer the more prosaic explanation which is that I just happened to be there, and I would add that I have never seen one on my own."

UFO activity seems to happen in bursts; in 1978 there was a spate of sightings and she interviewed 246 people and watched some of the sightings with them.

(continued on page 13)



An artist's impression of the Pwllheli Abduction — the victim is still "terrified".

The most remarkable sighting in her memory happened on July 26, 1978, at Bexleyheath. She and a host of neighbours saw an 'awesome beautiful' light show given by what appeared to be a giant cobweb in the sky controlled by two black cigar-shaped objects. The show lasted for an hour and 26 minutes.

Mrs Fry is reticent about discussing ufology in public; she was in a group on the first of Terry Wogan's chat shows and his fun-making, although gentle, convinced her that she should never do the same again.

UFO spotting is a hobby for her but she is careful not to take it too far: "It's not beyond the realms of possibility that people are bumped off — take Hilda Morrell," she says. "A lot of it's got to do with secrets, military etc., which we'll never know about."

At this point Mrs Fry's grandchild walks in and confirms that she once saw a UFO with her grandmother in Llan-sannan.

Although Mrs Fry is convinced that

there are extra-terrestrial beings, she has never seen one and has no firm theories about them. "I feel that they are probably indifferent to us: we are like animals in the zoo to them."

How is she treated in Llangernyw, I ask? Do the locals think she's a bit odd?

"The little boys used to laugh at me but they don't now, and as for the grown-ups, so many people have seen sightings locally that they take me for granted."

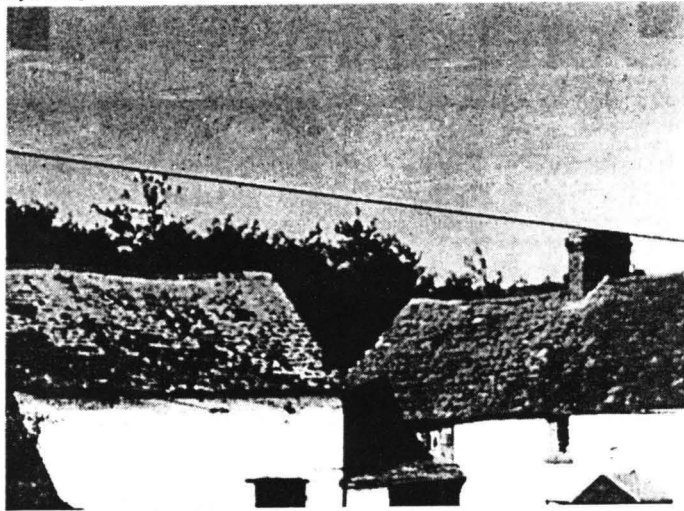
"These crafts tend to concentrate on rural areas and I suspect that they frequently concentrate on underground establishments."

Would she ever get into a spacecraft?

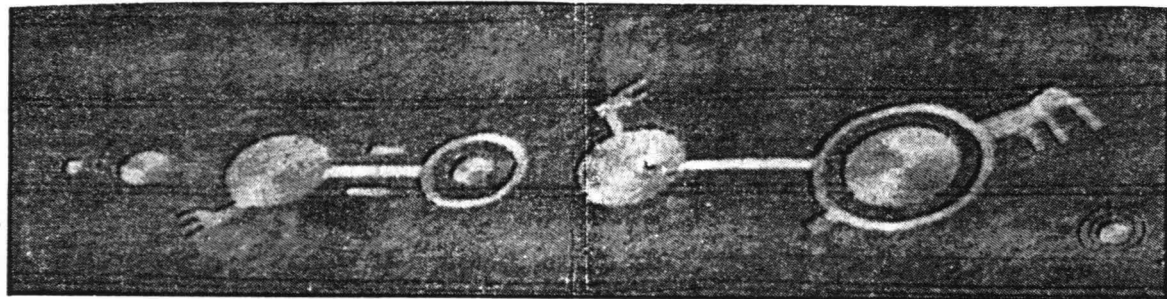
"Oh no, I know too much...I'd run like hell!"

"Who knows what they are: in different universes there may be life in different molecular structures, with a dimension beyond our comprehension."

And with that intriguing thought, I headed back for Planet Earth. ■



Mrs Fry's picture of the UFO above her daughter's home at Llansannan (above), and two of her slides illustrating cases from her dossier



The amazing pictogram which appeared overnight at Alton Barnes, Pewsey Downs, Wiltshire, this year in a field of corn.

Pictograms of a mystery

DO you believe in beings from another world? Or are you convinced that we alone are the only intelligent beings in the universe?

Some people are of the opinion that to insist that humanity is unique is preposterous considering the number of planets — mathematics alone says there must be at least one million other inhabited planets with various life-forms, according to Carl Sagan and others.

But are visitors here among us now? Jacques Vallee in *Confrontations* (Souvenir, £14.95) is convinced they are and as a scientist has carried out years of research.

So, too, is Dr Edith Fiore, a psychiatrist, who reports on encounters in *Abductions* (Sidgwick & Jackson, £13.95) from people who have been her patients, while Howard Mum in his thoroughly

researched *Out There* (Simon Schuster, £14.95) has been unable to verify whether alien spacecraft have been found in America because of government secrecy.

Dozen of people have written books on the topic, but no one has produced evidence so conclusive as to make it impossible to believe that aliens do not exist.

Physical

Even Tim Good errs on the side of caution in *The UFO Report 1991* (Sidgwick & Jackson, £14.99 hbk, £9.99 pbk), the second of what it is hoped will become an annual report of UFO encounters around the world.

In this collection of articles from ufologists around the globe, Mr Good, a professional musician who has taken more than a part-time interest in the pheno-

by MARK MASON

menon, sets out to explore the evidence and although he is a believer tries to be as objective as possible.

What he finds particularly interesting is physical evidence of the unexplained, like the crop circles — now called pictograms — which seem to have sprouted like mushrooms all over Britain, spreading out from Wiltshire and Hampshire and this year into Devon.

Starting off as circles in cornfields, in the last couple of years they have radically altered shape and design, completely debunking people like local weatherman Trevor Appleton who claimed they were made by stationary mini-whirlwinds.

George Wingfield in his section on the pictograms comes to no conclusions

as to how they are formed, usually overnight, and is content to let the crop circle investigators — who call themselves cereologists — put their own points of view.

But he is at pains to point out that as far as he is concerned as a science graduate, the pictograms seem to encompass four distinct areas of knowledge — ufology, the physical sciences, dowsing or earth mysteries and the realm of the psychic and metaphysical. "I suggest that no solution can afford to ignore any of these four areas of knowledge," he says.

Uncanny

Certainly there is a great mystery here, but one suspects that cereologist Pat Delgado has gone off at a tangent with his declaration: "Evolution — therein lie all the

answers. It is at work everywhere."

He comes to this conclusion in *The Latest Evidence* (Bloomsbury, £5.99); together with Colin Andrews as a follow-up to their highly successful *Circular Evidence*.

Together, they outline some of the pictograms which have appeared in 1990 during Operation Blackbird when thousands of people took part in a corn-watch to see how the formations were created.

Unfortunately, no one actually saw a circle being laid down, although many people reported uncanny sensations and a feeling of other beings — only to find a new pictogram just yards away in the morning.

The suggestion is that these pictograms are a message from some other form of intelligence — all we need is the key

UFOs just sun spots seen in the mist

TWO pale orange lights, which mystified a Hayling Island woman, were actually sun spots refracted through a heavy mist, says a Hampshire astronomer.

Richard Judd, chairman of Hampshire Astronomical Society, said yesterday's sighting by Norma Greenfield, of Sinah Lane, was not an U.F.O. as she earlier believed.

"When it is a misty morning with the sun rising high, the mist can act as a filter knocking out the glare," he said.

"I was looking at the sun through the mist, and there were several sun spots."

Mrs. Greenfield, who was out walking her dogs Kelly, Nicky, and Mace, near Par Three Golf Course, rang The News when she noticed first one and then two "car headlights" as high up as a small aircraft.

At first she dismissed it as a flare, but could not believe it was a helicopter either, because there was no noise.

"I just stared in amazement at what I was seeing," she said.

"It could have been a light at the end of a pole, but there was nothing round it."

Mrs. Greenfield, a word processor operator at John Horwood Consultants, on Hayling, said she had not believed in U.F.O.s until now, but kept an open mind.

■ Mr. Judd said he would not recommend anyone ever looked directly at the sun, or through a lens such as a telescope or binoculars.

JOURNAL, Bristol, England - Feb. 8, 1991 CR: T. Good

Granny spots alien peeping Tom

TERRIFIED granny Edna Anstey had a rude awakening this week ... from an alien peeping Tom.

The petrified pensioner was lying in bed when her bedroom was suddenly flooded with brilliant white light.

Edna, 69, rushed to the window of her Knowle flat and saw an enormous circular craft hovering above the garden - apparently looking right in her bedroom window.

"It was a big round object with lights

Exclusive by
Morag Massey

all around it. It was moving from side to side," she said.

"I've always kept an open mind and it seemed to be surveying the area. I would put my hand on the bible to swear I'd seen it."

The retired nurse was woken at 1am by the UFO. She stared in silence for five minutes before it glided away.

"I was dumb-struck. It was so beautiful. I can see it now in my mind as clear as day," she said from her home in Daventry Road, Knowle.

Edna believes the UFO was looking into her house.

Now she is hoping the UFO will return so she can take a photo of it. She takes her camera to bed every night.

"There must be other people in the universe and somebody had to build the UFO. I really hope I see it again," she said.

BARNSEY CHRONICLE, Yorkshire,
England - Feb. 1, 1991

UFO not the first

Following our report last week on the sighting of a strange object in the sky by Brierley couple, Tony Fletcher and Julie Creasey, a former Brierley resident, Frank Hudson, now living in Silkatone, says he and his wife Frances saw something very similar one night three years ago when they were driving back from Darfield.

"We were approaching the crossroads when we saw a brilliant white light in the sky on the right-hand side of the road. At first we thought it was some kind of aircraft, but suddenly it shot like a streak of lightning across the sky and stopped dead and then shot back again. I thought it must be static on pylon cables, but when I drove back again the next day I noticed there weren't any in that area," he said.

"When I read the story in the Chronicle it struck me as a weird coincidence that it had happened in the same place."

CR: T. Good

LETTERS

Don't dismiss those who've seen UFOs

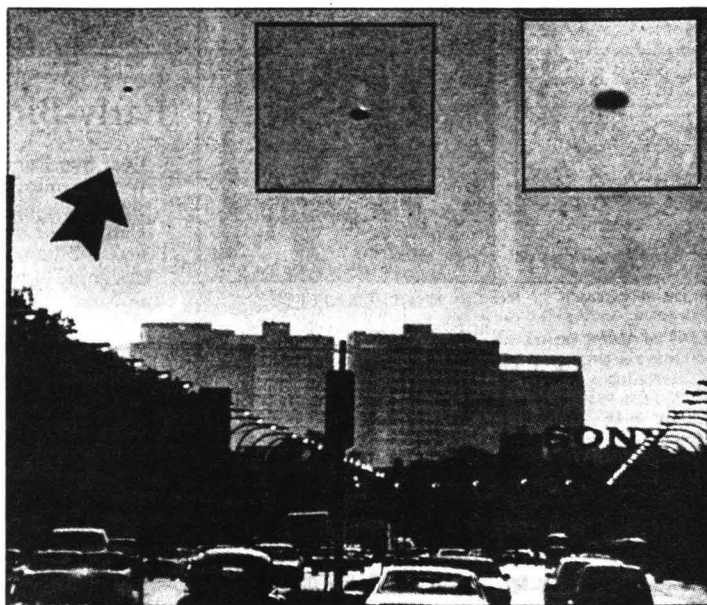
In the opening sentence of his review of *First Contact* (Extraterrestrial life: The search is now a serious science, Saturday Review, Dec. 15), Kerry Regier dismisses "the lunatic fringe who believe the flying saucer tales of Whitley Strieber and others."

Unfortunately it is all too easy to regard reported UFO sightings and abductions as cult behavior. Yet there are thousands of people across North America, of no shared psychological profile, who seem to have been subject to traumatic events (of the kind Strieber relates) that have resulted in the effects of post delayed stress disorder — the so-called Vietnam Syndrome.

To cynically dismiss the sufferings of this diverse group of people — scientists among them — is the height of journalistic trivialization. Certainly UFOs are a matter of belief, in the religious sense, to a great many people. Yet the subject is also one of the great remaining challenges to 20th century physics, psychology and sociology alike.

Some researchers are comfortable with the concept of extraterrestrial intelligence in the distant reaches of space. Yet for many the possibility that it is we who are in the cosmic Petri dish remains a little too unnerving.

GEOFF OLSON
1855 Creelman



UFO SIGHTING IN WINNIPEG, 1982: subject remains a major challenge

NEW TOWN ADVERTISER, Skelmersdale, England - Jan. 10, 1991

Mystery in night skies

DID YOU see a brilliant white triangle with three lights on its underside in the skies above Westhead or Bickerstaffe on Thursday evening?

A Skelmersdale couple did and they feel sure that others must have witnessed what they saw as they drove along Westhead's Whiteley's Lane at about 7.30 p.m.

Barry and Linda Dawson of Yewdale were on their way to the motor auctions on Scarth Hill when they had their encounter - and to their amazement the object was still there when they left.

Said Barry, 34: "We were travelling along in the car and I said, Look there's a light in the sky. My wife - who was driving - said it was a plane but I said it wasn't because a plane has a red flashing tail light and this never had one."

"It was like a triangle shape, a very bright light and it was on its own. My wife actually had to stop the car to look at it herself before she believed me."

"Cars coming the other way were slowing right down and looking themselves. There was one particular car - a blue Sierra - where the fellow took the bend very slowly because he was glancing up. And there were two people walking along the road from the direction of Edge Hill College - a lady with brown boots on and a coat, and a man and a dog."

"When we came out of the auction I looked up through the windscreen and the light was there again. Three lights appeared around the bottom of it and all of a sudden it disappeared."

"It was very strange - I've never seen anything like that before. It seemed to be following us going from Westhead and when it left us it seemed to be headed towards Bickerstaffe. I'm a believer in UFOs anyway but seeing is believing," said Barry.

"My wife said she didn't think anyone would believe me so I said I would leave it. But I've been thinking about it all the while and when I woke up this morning I decided I had to tell someone."

Mr. John Clough from the meteorological office on Aughton's Turnpike Road said that weather balloons were released at 5.15 and 11.15 for measuring cloud height and these are located by a search light until radar can be locked on them. The earlier balloon would have been well out of visibility by 7.30 - "It was certainly not a balloon from here," he said.

★ Have you had a similar experience with an unexplained phenomenon? If you have, then Advertiser reporter Graham Gilbert would like to hear from you on Ormskirk 572501.

CR: T. Good



Wrestler Cowboy Frankie Lane got into the ring Friday, a 3.6-metre (12-foot) one in his father's soybean field. Lane isn't sure who or what made it.

Mystery ring knocks area grappler for loop

There were strange things happening in the corn patch in the movie *Field Of Dreams*. Is the same thing happening to Cowboy Frankie Lane in a field of beans?

By Don Collins
The London Free Press

ALVINSTON — Cowboy Frankie Lane, the much-travelled professional wrestler and promoter, was back in the ring Friday. But this time his opponent was the Great Beyond.

"I'm a firm believer in UFOs," he had said 30 minutes before stepping into this rather strange ring — a circular patch of flattened soybeans on his father's farm.

A smaller version of the mysterious circles that have been baffling scientists in the English countryside, this one showed up after the first frost in late September.

Why did Lane, who measured the diameter at about 3.6 metres (12 feet), wait until now to report it?

"I didn't want people thinking I was

kooky. The only reason I'm doing something about it now is because it's bothering me. I'm just curious to see if anyone can solve this mystery."

To get the answer, he phoned a newspaper and three television stations.

At 47, Lane has seen his share of flying objects in and out of the wrestling ring — a cup of urine and a knife, compliments of irate fans, and, in 1968, a flying saucer he believes was from outer space.

RING BOTHERS HIM: But he says this little ring in his father's soybean field, four kilometres southwest of Alvinston, bothers him more than the others.

"Maybe it was some kind of circling wind gust. But that wouldn't have killed the soybeans in the circle and left them this sickly color," he said, pointing to a crop that had turned grey and black. "And there were no bugs."

Beyond the circle, which is about six wrestling throws from Brooke Township Side-road 15, other soybean plants stand as golden examples of good health.

lives down the road from his father, John Luhovy. He said he noticed a discolored patch while driving by, phoned his father and said "Pop, something weird is happening in that field."

SLEEPY ACTED UP: His father, who discovered the circle, recalled that his German shepherd, Sleepy, had been acting up in the early morning a few days before.

Sleepy wasn't living up to his name. He barked for about 15 minutes, which Lane said "was out of character for his personality."

As he viewed the circle Friday Lane was joined by neighboring farmer Steve Janicek and Janicek's son, John.

"He used to be a professional boxer," Lane said, nodding toward the elder Janicek.

Now there were two fighters in the soybean ring, neither of them able to emerge as a winner over the mystery that confronted them.

Steve Janicek was asked if he believed in UFOs.

"I only believe in the Lord," he said, smiling.

WHO MADE THE CIRCLE: Lane said he did, too. But he didn't think it was the Lord who made the circle in the soybean field.

"They're coming," said the younger Janicek as he looked at the circle. "But they just haven't decided when."

He, too, was smiling. Sleepy isn't saying anything.

WITNEY GAZETTE, Oxon, England
Aug. 9, 1990 CR: T. Good

Harvest worker finds crop circles

The latest in a crop of mysterious circles were discovered in an Oxfordshire field.

The two 30-foot diameter crop circles were spotted as farm worker John Ostojak harvested a field of winter wheat last week between Bladon and Begbroke.

He said: "I saw them from the combine harvester. There were two perfect circles about 10 yards in diameter and about 20 yards apart."

Mr Ostojak, 30, of The Moors, Kidlington, said they were the first that had been seen on the land which is farmed by Mr Fraser Crawford at Home Farm, Bladon.

He said: "They looked windswept. We don't think it is anyone pulling a prank on us. If they were done by humans then they were well done."

Theories on the origin of crop circles range from mini-tornadoes to energetic mating hedgehogs and alien visitors.

DID a former police officer really photograph an alien on Ilkley Moor in 1987?

Early in the morning of December 1st, 24-years-old Philip Spencer set off from Ilkley across the moor to visit his father-in-law. He was carrying a camera to photograph the town from the hill tops. He never arrived.

Along the way he was startled by a "green creature", four and a half feet tall, with long arms, long thin legs and large dark eyes. He managed to take one picture then chased after the creature which disappeared behind a bush. Seconds later, a disc shaped UFO shot upwards and vanished into the sky.

Some what confused, Philip returned to Ilkley, only to discover that almost two hours had disappeared from his life. What had really happened up on the moor? Was it a hoax, or was Philip Spencer abducted by extraterrestrial beings?

What followed was an intense investigation orchestrated by writer and chairman of the Manchester UFO Research Association, Peter Hough of Lowton.

The results of this investigation, which included the help of Kodak, scientists and a clinical psychologist, will be presented in a slide illustrated lecture at Abram Library on Thursday, (January 10th), at 7.30pm.

Tickets priced 50p are available from the library. Refreshments included.

LEIGH REPORTER, Manchester, England - Jan. 3, 1991 CR: T. Good

The mystery of the Ilkley Moor alien

UFO AND AAD

MOROZ. *Hardly a day passes without the press, radio or television reporting some flying saucers observed in this country's airspace same objects landing on our territory, and people meeting visitors from outer space. As for me, I welcome the development of such contacts. It is all very interesting. One might say that it is proof of a new thinking in interplanetary relations. But, strictly speaking, all this is a violation of USSR sovereignty. Why don't the Air-Defense Forces interfere?*

TRETYAK. People's interest in phenomena abbreviated as UFO is understandable. But the nature of these phenomena is as yet not at all clear. Most importantly, it has not been proved that they are of artificial origin, that they are a product of an extraterrestrial civilization's intellectual activity.

Most of the UFO evidence available today can in one way or another be explained by quite natural causes, like optical phenomena resulting from solar activity. There are a great many research balloons flying about in the sky, some of which are no longer controlled.

In recent years, intensified space flights and all kinds of missiles have congested near space. The atmosphere has been badly polluted by industrial discharges. The aftereffects of this pollution and contamination materialize in different forms, including that of UFO: they all fly at different altitudes, being illuminated by the rising and setting sun and assuming most unexpected shapes.

The mid-seventies, as you may well remember, also saw a UFO reports boom. Unidentified flying objects were mostly observed in northern areas. The time of their appearance — in ninety and even more per cent of all UFO — coincided with the time of missile launching from the Plesetsk missile launching center. They were not necessarily direct traces of the launchings. In many cases they were some kind of phenomena indirectly connected with them. Our specialists think that many phenomena mistaken for UFO were caused by cosmic rays penetrating through ozone holes formed as a result of the launches. Secrecy considerations, however, kept such views from being published at the time, and the general public was just left wondering as to what it was.

True, convincing explanations for all the UFO that were observed have not been found yet. The reason for that, as I see it, is quite simple: our present-day knowledge of the material world around us is far from being complete.

In any case, I think it is premature to talk of any interplanetary spaceships invading this country's airspace and thus violating its sovereignty, for which the AAD, among other arms of the service, should be held responsible.

MOROZ. And yet, I am in the habit of believing our newspapers. I just can't bring myself to stop trusting them. That is why I would like to give a few short accounts of some most sensational recent publications to make sure that your negative conclusion applies to them as well.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, June 25, 1989: at about 11 o'clock p.m. on April 24, many residents of Kharovsk, a town near Volgodga, observed a silvery object which first flew from South to North and then from North to South and left a trace behind it. Inside its body, as if on an X-ray, four tall creatures resembling human beings were visible. The author of the publication goes on to say that on June 6, 1989, within half an hour of 2.30 p.m., four spherical interplanetary spaceships, three to four meters in diameter, swooped down from a high altitude and landed, one after another, on a meadow near Konantsevo, a Kharovsk suburb. Extraterrestrial visitors were seen getting out of three of them...

Moskovskaya Pravda, December 31, 1989: A flying saucer appeared on September 13 over the academic township of Protvino near Moscow at about nine o'clock in the evening. It made a landing. Two women-members of the crew got out of it and meeting Ms L., a Protvino resident, invited her on board the spaceships. They gave her a ten-minute ride on the flying saucer and then landed again.

Sovetskaya Kultura, October 10, 1989: A few schoolchildren playing soccer in a Voronezh park Yuzhni on September 27 noticed a pink glow in the sky at 6.30 p.m. A little later they saw a reddish-crimson sphere, about 10 meters in diameter, landing there. Two creatures alighted from it, one of them apparently a robot. Then follows an account of the extraterrestrial visitors' adventures in the Voronezh park.

Moskovskaya Pravda, October 28, 1989: At the end of September a UFO was seen flying over Klimovsk, a town near Moscow. It was moving slowly, altering its course now and then, at a height of about 500 meters. There was a luminescence at the front. Eight days later, there was another similar flight. This time, the UFO resembled a dumb-bell with two brightly glowing spheres at both ends. Two ruby-colored lights continually flashed out off and on from the surface of the back sphere.

Vechernyaya Moskva, March 24, 1990: About a hundred UFO flew over the city of Kirov on October 5.

There have been many reports about the so-called Molebka triangle (Molebka is a village, about 130 miles from Perm and 60 miles from Kungur). Something is always happening there — visions of columns of light, spheres, flashes, outlines, etc. This locality is said to have been chosen as a favorite by UFO.

And, finally, there has been high UFO activity in the Ivanovo region...

What do you make of it? After all, people do see something, don't they?

TRETYAK. Yes, they do. Our servicemen, especially those on guard at night, also rather often see something unusual in the sky. However, it does not at all mean it is some airborne vehicles that they see flying (we are, first and foremost, interested in them). AAD radars get a lot of signals from all objects that reflect or emit radio waves within a certain range. Our task is to filter them and identify those that can be regarded as what we call "air targets", that is planes, helicopters, missiles, balloons, and other airborne vehicles of existing types, and determine their altitude, speed, and flight path. As for signals from other airborne objects, such as: clouds, flocks of birds, small-sized balloons, etc., and also from anomalous atmospheric formations, as well as from areas with irregular ion concentrations resulting from intense solar activity — they are all regarded as radar interferences. To eliminate or diminish them, specific technical measures are taken and operators are trained accordingly. That may be the reason why AAD radars do not, as a rule, respond to UFO.

The latest case when one such object was observed by great numbers of people was on March 21, this year. For rather a long time, from 8 to 8.30 a.m. two flashing lights moving together in a cluster, like a plane's running lights, were seen in the sky north-east of Moscow, in the vicinity of Pereslavl-Zalessky, Zagorsk, Fryasino, and Kirzhach. But it was not a plane. We have some written testimony of witnesses and photographs. Some witnesses even claimed that the object's rate of flight depended on the pulsation frequency of the lights. An interceptor — fighter that was ordered into the air, with a pilot Lieutenant-Colonel Semchenko on board, approached the object as close as 500 to 600 meters. The pilot saw nothing, however, except the two flashing white lights, although he was watching the object against the background of Pereslavl-Zalessky that was well-illuminated at the time. True, the "target" was visible on the sight screen, but the plane's recorders did not register anything.

MOROZ. *How is it possible? It smacks of some sort of mysticism.*

TRETYAK. There is nothing mystical about it. The fact is that the sight screen registers three signals coming from a target — radar, visual, and thermal. They kind of duplicate one another. Whereas the recording system registers the radar signal alone. There was no radar signal in this case. This goes to show that it was not a regular flying machine but most probably just some natural phenomenon, and we are not, as I have already said, really interested in natural phenomena, which we qualify as atmospheric.

The air-defense ground radars did not register the target either, although they were specifically oriented on it.

MOROZ. *Why didn't the pilot come closer to it?*

TRETYAK. The general flying safety regulations prohibit approaching another object closer than 500 meters. To be more exact, the pilot did not enter the UFO's flight level. The plane flew 500 meters higher. The UFO moved slower than the fighter-plane.

MOROZ. *Why was there no attempt made to bring down the object?*

TRETYAK. What for? Unknown natural phenomena should be studied and not "brought down".

MOROZ. *There was a press report that this year, on September 3, many inhabitants of the Kola Peninsula observed a UFO which was later shot down by an air-defense interceptor. As far as I know, it was the only case of a successful attack on such an object — in similar attacks planes are in the main reported to fall apart and missiles to go off course. How did you succeed this time?*

TRETYAK. It was a balloon that came from Sweden. Our air-defense forces had been watching it for several days. For some reason, it got out of control and moved into our territory, flying at a lower altitude. The interceptor really brought it down. At some moment, when the balloon was losing height, the suspension automatically separated and descended on a parachute.

MOROZ. *Marshal Koldunov, your predecessor in the office of AAD Commander-in-Chief, and the Defense Secretary were both removed from their posts for failure to stop the flight over our territory and the landing in Moscow of a harmless sports plane flown by the notorious Rust. Do you think you might keep your office if the air-defenses failed to prevent a flight in our airspace and especially a landing on our territory of some unknown huge (as extraterrestrial spaceships are often described) airborne vehicle that could have nuclear, beam, or god knows what other weapons on board?*

TRETYAK. I am prepared to bear full responsibility for any significant slip-up, but as far as extraterrestrial visits are concerned, here I have no cause to worry, since there is, I repeat, no evidence that the planet Earth in general and this country in particular will, in the foreseeable future, be visited by interplanetary spaceships. But if we were to go into hypothetical surmises and imagine something like that, I doubt if anyone could be blamed for not being prepared to meet such spaceships — it is common knowledge that all our structures, including the air-defense forces, are oriented to quite a different kind of activity.

As for the Rust affair, I think it was artificially exaggerated. Nobody seems to be making a hullabaloo about hundreds of people illegally crossing the border in the usual way, overland, so to speak, but there was no end to emotions with Rust. On the whole, the incident should have been viewed more broadly than it really was. As is known, Rust's plane was discovered by the air defense forces. Some interceptor-fighters were ordered to take off. Then what should be done with it had to be decided — whether to let it pursue its course or bring it down. The former was chosen. The rest is well known. The landing of the plane near Red Square in Moscow caused a highly negative reaction inside this country. But what would have happened if the plane had been shot down? I think the reaction would have been even sharper and it would have reverberated throughout the world, as was the case with the South-Korean plane. And, for that matter, there were no real grounds to bring down Rust's plane: it could have been our plane. The thing is that until recently light aircraft were not equipped with airborne responders of the "friendly-hostile" type. It wasn't until the Rust case that we emphatically demanded being provided with such equipment... So, it isn't all AAD's fault.

MOROZ. *Even if the arrival of extraterrestrial spaceships here is highly improbable, it can't be ruled out altogether, can it? Have you, in that event, any program of action? Do the air-defense forces have any instructions to that effect?*

TRETYAK. There are certainly no instructions specifying air-defense actions on encountering extraterrestrial spaceships. But there are general regulations governing the behavior of certain armed services on detecting some flying objects whose designation and intentions are not quite clear — say, different balloons or aerostats. For example, they regulate the actions of our aviation in case of encountering them — how to approach them, what weapons, if necessary, to use (there is even a special type of missile for that purpose).

MOROZ. *Is there any plan of cooperation between the air-defense forces of the Warsaw Treaty countries in case of UFO transit flights? Does any exchange of information on UFO take place between the corresponding WTO and NATO forces? Shouldn't all earth-dwellers unite in the face of a threat of extraterrestrial invasion?*



Collage by Timothy BAZHENOV

Oleg MOROZ, LG columnist, speaks with General Ivan TRETYAK, Commander-in-Chief of the Anti-Aircraft Defense Forces

TRETYAK. There is practically no exchange of information on UFO between the WTO countries or between the WTO and NATO countries since there is no information to exchange.

MOROZ. *Why not? Here I have before me another publication from Pravda, of July 13, 1990.*

"The Belgian Air-Force headquarters published some excerpts from a report which gave an account of the events that occurred on the night of March 30: It was at last officially confirmed that the mysterious 'black triangles' that had for seven months recurrently appeared over Belgium were detected by military radars."

TRETYAK. I know about this publication. But the fact is that several days later it was refuted: there had been no detection by radars.

MOROZ. *As I have already mentioned, reports about encounters with UFO often stress that all attempts to shoot them down with the help of anti-aircraft missiles or to intercept them by using aviation end in failure: missiles go off course, interceptors fall apart in midair, etc. In view of this fact, do you set the defense industry the task of equipping you with new, more sophisticated weapons that would not only be capable of resisting some weapons used by, say, NATO countries or some invisible bombers like "Stealth", but that would also be capable of fighting UFO?*

TRETYAK. I think it is premature to talk of employing any existing weapons or of producing any special ones for UFO warfare until science has established that UFO are the product of extraterrestrial rational beings' activity and until the possible degree of danger coming from them has been determined. One cannot create and employ a weapon without knowing the object it is designed to fight against — the object's flying, strength, and other characteristics.

Besides, if we seriously accept the hypothesis that UFO exist as a product of highly-organized intellect, waging warfare against such objects and their crews — before their intentions have been ascertained — will be of no avail and may even lead to an unpredictable response.

I believe that today — when international relations are thawing up, when all types of armaments are being reduced — searching for a new, imaginary enemy and demanding the creation of expensive weapons to fight it is not exactly the best way of showing concern for the security and economic stability of one's Fatherland.

But, at the same time, I do not exclude the possibility that some measures aimed at updating our equipment may also help to detect UFO more effectively. It is known, for example, that there exist certain materials and forms that sharply reduce the radar and visual detectability of an object. (As is known, it is this very quality that is realized in the above-mentioned US "Stealth" program). I agree that the measures to counter this

(continued on page 16)

program that we are now taking will at the same time help to solve the UFO riddles (as I have said, UFO are in many cases not detectable by radars).

MOROZ. Do you mean that the creators extraterrestrial spacecrafts may resort to special means to counter terrestrial radar detection, just as the "Stealth" constructors do — using low-reflection forms, specific construction materials, coating, etc?

TRETYAK. I just mean to say that we are not on the look out for UFO, we do not deliberately search for them. I mean — by radars, our specific means. We might see them, but, I repeat, we do not look out for them. The frequency range in which we work is rather narrow, it is specifically meant to detect our targets — planes, helicopters, or missiles, nothing else. If special observation posts were to be set up and the frequencies at which radars work extended to, say, longer meter bands, we might probably see more. But that would undoubtedly require great funds.

MOROZ. Can you use laser weapons against UFO? I remember recently reading in some newspaper that a "Mirage" fighter destroyed a flying saucer somewhere over South Africa with a laser beam.

TRETYAK. Specialists in the field know that there are just two or three planes in the world having experimental target destruction laser guns. As a rule, these guns are very cumbersome, for example, one on board a US heavy transport weighs several tons. Therefore, it is too early to talk about laser weapons on a fighter.

MOROZ. As is known, Vladimir Azhazha is our chief and supreme UFO specialist. A short while ago he claimed in "Vechnyaya Moskva" that there were numerous cases of "kidnapping without return", allegedly committed by visitors from outer space. According to Azhazha, "among the hundreds of thousands of missing persons, five and a half thousand may have been kidnapped by UFO". Just think — five and a half thousand kidnapped countrymen in one last year alone! It is downright aggression with the capture of war prisoners, isn't it? Don't you think it is the duty of the military to somehow oppose it and protect our defenseless people?

TRETYAK. This assertion can't be taken seriously. It is simply ridiculous. I think we should do more about reducing crime in this country and preventing social and ethnic outbursts instead of trying to attribute all these things to UFO aggressiveness.

MOROZ. Do you personally believe in visitors from outer space? (As for me, no matter how skeptical I am about it, I would rather grant their visits to be true than accept the idea that our newspapers may be telling lies). What do you, as just an ordinary man and as a professional, feel about every new report on the arrival of interplanetary spacecrafts?

TRETYAK. Do I believe in visitors from outer space? I believe serious scientists who say that the appearance of extraterrestrial visitors on Earth is highly improbable. Nevertheless, every new report of such an event makes me mildly curious. That is my human reaction. As for the AAD Commander-in-Chief's reaction — it is the desire to find out what really stands behind such a report. But there are so many such reports that it is impossible to check them all out. And I don't think it is necessary. As often as not they are just newspaper hoaxes.

There was a publication in *Rabochaya Tribuna* recently about some airborne vehicle appearing in the vicinity of Kuybishev and destroying a radar station. We, naturally, wondered why this hadn't been reported — a destroyed radar is an emergency. Even if it were to be struck by lightning, the fact should be immediately reported, whereas here was the case of an aircraft attack. It turned out that *Rabochaya Tribuna* had taken the information from the local newspaper *Za Rodinu*. It later transpired that the hoax had been made up by a correspondent of that local newspaper in order to attract the readers' attention. The correspondent may just at this very moment be standing in General Makashov's office and getting a good rub down. Nowadays all rumors and canards fall on fertile soil — everybody wants a miracle. And if there is a will, there is a way. At the same time, I repeat, there really are some phenomena which look to us like UFO whose nature we do not know.

MOROZ. In conclusion, I would like again to ask you: can you, after you have been in the office of the Air-Defense Commander-in-Chief for nearly four years, swear on your Party-card that within this period there hasn't been a single flight of an unidentified flying vehicle of cosmic origin over this country's territory?

TRETYAK. I don't think it is an occasion for taking an oath. To my mind, the situation is clear enough: there is no proof today that unidentified flying objects occasionally appearing in one place or another are spacecrafts of visitors from other planets or anything of this kind. Consequently, there are no grounds to believe that at least one such spaceship has flown over the territory of this country or landed on it.

Strange lights over the hills

EXPRESS, Burnley, England Jan. 22, 1991 CR: T. Good

STRANGE lights over Thievely Pike have left a Burnley pensioner wondering if she is seeing things, though she does not believe in UFOs.

Mrs Olive Bullock, of Brow Head Court, said she started noticing lights above the hill about four weeks ago. They appear in the early morning, between 5-15 a.m. and 7-15 a.m. and usually move off towards the east.

"Some are stationary, but they also move around at terrific speeds. They carry three lights, a white one at the front, then a red one and either a yellow or green, flashing on and off."

Though these are common aircraft markings, Mrs Bullock is adamant that the lights do not belong to ordinary planes. "There is no slipstream," she said, "and how could they remain stationary?"

High speed UFO investigated

GREENOCK TELEGRAPH, Renfrewshire, Scotland - Jan. 22, 1991 CR: T. Good

HUNGARY'S Defence Ministry is investigating the sighting of a high-speed Unidentified Flying Object over a military airport at Kecskemet, south of Budapest, newspapers reported today.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Dec. 9, 1990 CR: G. Conway



Staff photo by Jon Murray

Dorothy Wilkinson-Izatt of Richmond shows picture of one of many UFOs she's filmed.

Richmond UFOs starring on TV

By Steve Berry
Staff Reporter

Dorothy Wilkinson-Izatt has baffled the experts for years with her sightings — and films — of UFOs.

Now the Richmond grandmother is to be featured on television's *Unsolved Mysteries*.

"I call them light-beings, the watchers," said the bubbly woman yesterday of the strange

objects she has documented for 15 years.

Her 330 home movies show shimmering colored lights hovering or shooting across the sky.

Wilkinson-Izatt, 68, said she can "feel" when the visitors are near.

And she said her films have baffled experts from around the world. "It's all been checked and rechecked by scientists, hun-

dreds of them," said Wilkinson-Izatt.

"My family in the beginning thought, 'Oh, poor mom, she's going through menopause,' but now they believe me after seeing the movies," she said.

The intelligent beings "are visiting us to do good," she said, adding that she communicates with them telepathically.

Her story will be on Channels 5 and 8 Wednesday at 8 p.m.

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada - Jan. 16, 1991

Scientists reject worms as cause of rings

By Corey Bond
of the Star-Phoenix

Strange markings in crop fields around the world have had researchers running around in circles trying to figure them out.

But if an unidentified flying objects research group is right, the crop circles may not have been caused by UFOs, whirlwinds or even giant peanut-butter cups.

The Texas-based Mutual UFO Network says the mysterious circles — which have appeared in fields from England to British Columbia, and in Saskatchewan — may be caused by microscopic worms called nematodes.

However, its solution to the question is not accepted by scientists in Saskatchewan.

The UFO group bases its findings on research it did using soil samples from crop circles found in Dawson Creek, B.C., and in Saskatchewan.

Its B.C. director, Mike Strainic, says samples from both areas show "astronomically high numbers" of the worms.

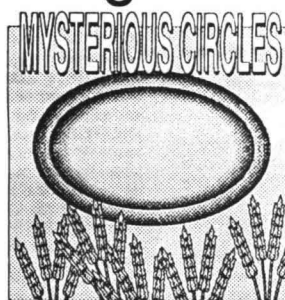
"Soil from both rings had identical counts of soil from inside and outside the rings."

But the nematode is an unlikely culprit, says University of Saskatchewan biology professor Thomas Gilmour.

"The worms are probably an effect rather than a cause," he says.

Once one of the mysterious rings is formed, the crop is knocked over and starts to die. "It is then that the nematodes may move into the dying material," he says.

Gilmour says this is as much speculation on his part as it is by the UFO organization. But he says there is an earth-bound explanation for the circles; he does not believe they are of extraterrestrial origin.



"Micro-whirlinds are causing them. It's not the sort of thing that people want to hear, they want to hear about UFOs and crap like that."

Gilmour says the "micro-whirlwind" theory is documented in a recent issue of *The New Scientist*, an esteemed English science journal.

Another U of S professor, Herman Austenson, also rejects nematodes as an answer. He says, while they are known to eat crop roots, they do so only in humid areas — not in our relatively dry climate.

Austenson, a professor of crop science and plant ecology, says the circles are very precisely shaped and stand out sharply from the surrounding area. It is unlikely worms would group this way.

"Nematodes, like anything else, do not produce populations on a sharp line."

While many scientists accept the theory of a whirlwind or vortex causing the circles, no one can explain how such a vortex operates.

Austenson says even the researcher who came up with micro-whirlwind theory can't explain how such a vortex operates. "Unlike normal whirlwinds, this vortex just dips down out of nowhere and disappears back to nowhere."

PORTSMOUTH NEWS, Hants., England - Nov. 28, 1990 CR: T. Good



● LUCY PRINGLE
— unexplainable

Mystery with a message

MYSTERIOUS crop circles carry a message for people, according to a Petersfield woman who has contributed to a new book about the phenomenon.

Lucy Pringle, who is a founder member of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, has written a chapter for the book — *The Crop Circle Enigma*.

"They bring a message to many who see them and who witness their absolute beauty."

"They are unexplainable. But they make people stop and think this is important."

"Anything that makes people stop and think in today's world is of great importance and significance," said Mrs. Pringle, of Sheet.

She wrote the section, *Headaches or Healing*, in the book about energies she said could be found in the circles.

She believes they could be made from force fields and she uses a dowsing pendulum to find energies in the circles.

She became interested in the circles three years ago after being shown one, and at Easter she helped set up the research centre based in Guildford.

But Mrs. Pringle stressed the book, which was published last week and is a first from the C.C.C.S., does not have any answers to the mystery.



By SHARON GRINDSTAFF
CCN Staff Writer

While James Thorne of Green Forest is upset over the loss of another of his heifers, a variety of opinions about just how the animal died and was mutilated are surfacing.

In November, when another heifer was discovered on Thorne's Berryville property, investigators at the sheriff's department noticed the mutilation (one eye and ear missing as well as the reproductive organs, anus, tongue and blood) matched incidents in other states - approximately 700,000 in the past 20 years or so. In those cases, satanists were thought to be responsible, using the animal parts and blood in satanic rituals.

Thorne began losing heifers mysteriously in 1978 - about one every four years. Each died within about 100 yards of the previous one and each had been mutilated with almost surgical precision.

This is the first time Thorne's lost two animals within such a short period of time - three months.

Carroll County Sheriff Lonnie Nichols said that the incident this month, however, is entirely from natural causes and indicates that he suspects the other case was, too.

Dr. Alan Hunnicutt of the Berryville Veterinary Clinic was called by Nichols and went to Thorne's to look and take samples.

He told CCN, "It was a yearling calf - not a grown animal - and it died of Black Leg, a bacterial disease. That's very common. The damage done to the cow was from buzzards, I guarantee ... In fact, when I pulled up there, there was a buzzard sitting on it, eating."

Hunnicutt said that cattle die all the time and if an animal's laying out in the open buzzards will come in. "I've seen them eat on cows like that even before they're dead. Dogs will do same thing."

The veterinarian also said that no blood was missing from Thorne's cow. "If an animal dies and its heart quits, the blood clots in the veins and arteries. When I went up and cut the calf open, there was very little blood. It had clotted." Hunnicutt said that there's only a lot of blood if an animal's cut before the heart stops beating or immediately thereafter, before there's been time for it to clot.

Sheriff Nichols said, "I've seen hundreds myself in my career." He said that the Washington County Sheriff's Department had so many of these sort of occurrences in 1982 and 1983 that officials there decided to try an experiment.

They put one carcass out in the open and another in the woods. Then they set up cameras and filmed for 72 hours, using time-lapse photography.

"The animals looked the same (after the experiment) as this one," Nichols said, "like the organs had been surgically removed. But they could see exactly what took place. It was vultures and crows."

The final verdict was "parasites and birds of prey."

Nichols said that the reason only one eye was missing is because it's the eye that was exposed. (The other was against the ground.) And he said that there was no evidence that blood was missing.

"Black Leg causes a perfectly healthy animal to just drop dead," the sheriff said. "There's no trauma. Look, when it's satanist that have done it, very often they leave evidence - like rocks stacked in pentagrams. This appears just like the ones in the Washington County Experiment."



JAMES THORNE INSPECTS HIS MUTILATED HEIFER, checking to see if the tongue had been removed as has been the case in past mutilations. (It had.) Since 1978, Thorne has lost a heifer about every four years but lately things have changed. The last incident occurred just three months ago, in November of last year. Archie Rousey of the Carroll County Sheriff's Department (left) began the investigation Monday. Thorne's son-in-law, Gene Wingate (back, right), discovered the animal Sunday. (CCN Staff Photo - Sharon Grindstaff)

Others agree that satanists are not to blame for Thorne's dead animal, but they don't believe it died of Black Leg or natural causes, either.

"That's just not true," said Vince Serencko of Forsythe, MO. He and his co-investigator - Jeanne Robinson - went out to Thorne's Thursday morning to have a look at the dead animal and take samples for themselves.

Serencko's business card identifies him as "Co-State Sec. Dir. - Mo Field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network, Inc." out of Seguin, TX. The investigators are affiliated with Linda Moulton Howe Productions - Research Branch - of Littleton, Colorado.

The pair took samples and forwarded them to Mutual's lab for analysis.

"I wish people would call us before they call the sheriffs or vets," Serencko said. "We'd like to be able to have more left to test."

Even so, he feels he was able to get enough samples for testing.

While the two are positive satanists were not involved, they don't believe the heifer died of natural causes, either.

"There's a pattern (in how the missing organs are removed) ... and it seems to point to people who are professionally-trained, surgically-trained."

Serencko says that because of the almost surgical precision of the cuts, it could not have been vultures or other animals feeding.

In fact, he's reasonably sure laser equipment must have been used. In current technology, however, the laser in question would have to be about the size of a large office desk and would probably cost about a quarter of a million dollars. In addition, there'd have to be generators and additional equipment - and perhaps silent helicopters (because there was no sign of struggle.)

The equipment needed to silently come in, kill an animal and remove the parts would be extremely expensive and cumbersome.

Because there have been about 700,000 similar cases during the past 20 years or so, the Missouri couple makes a point.

"This has been happening since 1967 - and this equipment - lasers - didn't come into use before 1979, medically and professionally." They indicated that earlier mutilations were also laser-cut, however.

Serencko and Robinson became interested in the Carroll County incident because of the unusual aspects of it. No apparent thrashing around as the animal died, no evidence that any person had set foot on the ground nearby and the missing parts seemed to be removed surgically.

Robinson says, "We have analyzed tissue from others. The cuts are so precise that sometimes, the cut is between layers of cells - without disturbing the cell walls."

Serencko adds, "When there is blood left, there are no white cells in it."

He continues, "The data seems to lead away from satanist aspects. Even though the blood was drained, it was not a ritual killing because that's usually bloody and there are a lot of candles and an altar."

In spite of the veterinarian's and sheriff's reports, Serencko insists, "This is scientific stuff. I don't care what they say."

But that scientific "stuff" is not something humans can be performing, the pair seems to feel. "Often, people see lights overhead before an animal's mutilated," Serencko points out.

Robinson adds, "With all the UFO cases and sightings of aliens, it just seems to point in one direction." She explained that although she has one witness who did see aliens working on a cow, it was only one person's testimony and couldn't be proved.

"We do not want to scare the people. We only want to get the facts."

The couple said that the different cases are being documented in Colorado. Films are made (such as the production company's "Earth Mys-

teries-Alien Life Forms" which recently aired on the Fox network in Atlanta) and testing results will be published.

They come to each mysterious incident with open minds and try not to draw any conclusions while investigating.

But Serencko will state his personal conclusions.

"We think it has to do with genetic engineering and genetic research." Cattle have similar DNA makeups to humans. Other groups of animals had been taken in the past but now cattle alone are used, he says.

"They're not an emotional issue. We eat cattle. If they're smart enough to get here, they're smart enough to know what bugs us."

Coming in UFOs and mutilating family pets would definitely bug people, but the occasional cow is usually dismissed as natural causes.

"This has happened hundreds of times. We've no idea what they do with those 700,000 cattle, at about 10 pounds each. That's seven million pounds of flesh!"

He continued, "We think that research is leading to the conclusion that proves it isn't satanists. Whether it's ETs (extra terrestrial) or our government, we don't know. It (mutilation) is done by trained vet surgeons with extensive education."

"They (ETs) have to fly in - I don't know of any satanists that can afford silent helicopters, generators ..." Besides, human equipment would be too bulky.

Aliens have probably reduced the desk-sized laser equipment down to something the size of a pocket radio, the couple explains.

They are sure what happened to Thorne's cow was done by a laser-trained surgeon. In addition to the precision cuts, there is radiation.

"The eye on the opposite side of the cow's head was blue. That only comes from heat or radiation."

Serencko disagrees with Dr. Hunnicutt. "He's wrong. It wasn't natural causes."

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Dec. 15, 1990

Biologists, fisherman disagree about Mussie

TORONTO (CP) — Ottawa fisherman Dana Rogers thinks he's caught the monsters of Muskrat Lake on film.

And he's convinced Toronto author Michael Bradley, who led a 1988 search for the two creatures that nearby residents of the lake have called Mussie for years.

Rogers transferred the film, shot with a Super 8 camera, to a videotape which Bradley showed to biologists at the Ministry of Natural Resources in Toronto on Friday.

The 90-second clip, which is often shaky and unfocused, shows two large wakes moving about the lake, and an object that Bradley says is one creature surfacing for about 15 seconds.

They have been described as red-grey in color, with "endearing brown eyes."

But the biologists say the creatures are likely large sturgeon.

"That's what I presumed at first," said Rogers, who was fishing on the lake near the mouth of the Snake River on July 27 when he spotted the creatures.

"But these things were making much more commotion," Rogers, 26, said in a telephone interview Friday.

Unsolved mystery surrounds mutilation

DAILY POST, Liverpool, England - Oct. 6, 1990 CR: B. Greenwood

Mystery of the deep gives terror ride

AN 80ft fishing boat weighing more than 40 tons was dragged sideways for nearly a mile by a mystery creature or object.

In a scene reminiscent of the movie Jaws, the crew of five men clung to the sides of the heavily listing boat as it was pulled at a speed of six knots - the equivalent of a brisk walking pace - through seas 12 miles off Aberdeen.

The worried crew of the Moray Adventurer radioed for help to Aberdeen Coastguard but their tow boat managed to free itself from the boat's nets about five minutes later.

The incident happened as the crew were pulling in their nets, it was revealed yesterday. The five were shaken but unhurt.

A coastguard spokesman said it was a complete mystery. "If it was a

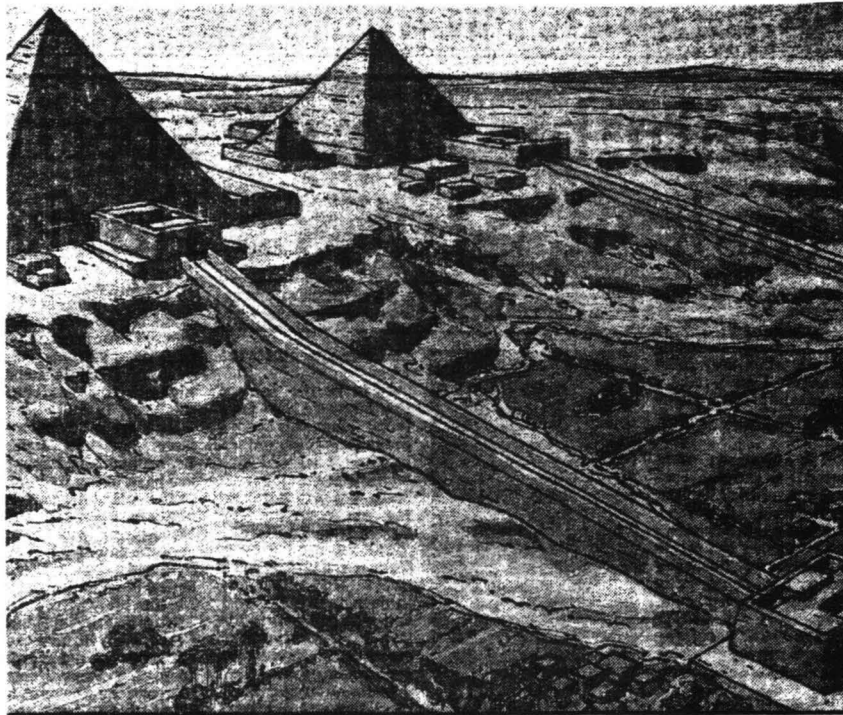
shark caught in the nets, it would have been larger than Jaws to pull a boat of that size at that speed."

He added: "A large whale could have been responsible but we don't see many of those in these waters."

He said submarines were also a rarity in the seas off Aberdeen but admitted that the Royal Navy never inform coastguards of the movements of its vessels.

● The first major Loch Ness monster hunt for three years got under way yesterday with four teams of searchers hoping to win the £250,000 prize put up by bookmakers William Hill.

The contestants include serious scientific efforts and Screaming Lord Sutch who hopes to entice Nessie with a bait of haggis.



● Civil engineer Manuel Minguez gives an idea of the basics for construction of the pyramids.

THE REAL SECRET IS ... *How did they do the impossible?*

FROM the time hieroglyphics were deciphered by Champollion in the 19th century until today, great strides have been made in Egyptology, and the work of French researchers has made a major contribution to this field.

But if our knowledge of the religion, the social organisation and the history of ancient Egypt is growing, the monumental achievements of this civilisation, which is one of the oldest in the world, has, like the Sphinx, continued to pose an enigma to which a convincing reply has not yet been found.

It is not a matter of the so-called "mysteries of the pyramids" providing a wealth of material for academics.

The real secret of the colossal monuments of ancient Egypt is that of how they were built, nearly 5000 years ago, by a society which only had rudimentary techniques at its disposal and a very reduced number of materials.

The great pyramid of Cheops, 146 metres high, built 47 centuries ago, was, for 4000 years, the highest monument built by man. To have some idea of the mass of stone it represents, we can use a calculation made by Napoleon and say that it would be possible to build a wall 1.5 metres high and 30 centimetres thick all the way around France, with the stone from the pyramid.

At the time Cheops was built, the Egyptians did not know about using wheels. The only metals they knew, apart from precious metals, were copper and lead.

And for the technical elements for handling and lifting stone, they could only use slopes and levers.

How were they able to extract the 2,300,000 blocks of stone making up the great pyramid, each block weighing between 1.5 and 15 tonnes, transport them over several hundred kilometres and handle them with the greatest precision?

Or, a few centuries later, cut, carry and set up monolithic obelisks weighing hundreds of tonnes such as those at Karnak?

Most Egyptologists assume that the blocks of stone and obelisks were brought by boat along the Nile from the quarries to a port near the building site and then to the site itself on wooden sleds drawn by dozens of men along ramps which had been wetted or oiled to make it easier for the sled to slide along. This hypothesis is mainly based on pictures painted in ancient tombs.

IN ORDER to explain how the blocks of stone were raised and handled, and how obelisks were erected, a great variety of hypotheses have been put forward.

Some Egyptologists have attributed the invention of unlikely sounding equipment to the builders. But the way these could have been used is not at all clear.

Others imagined that complex assemblies of machinery (pulleys, winches, capstans), the existence of which was only attested at a far later period, were used — not to mention those who suggested the use of levitation by extra-terrestrials.

A few years ago Manuel Minguez, a civil engineer, was involved in work on the course of the Moselle river. He had to solve a problem: to transport a barge, weighing 50 tonnes, over a distance of 300 metres. As an archeology buff, he had the idea of using methods attributed to the Egyptians, improved by the use of modern techniques.

Using two cranes, he hoisted the barge onto a purpose-built metal sled pulled by two tractors with a combined power of 600 hp.

After a few centimetres, the sled came to a standstill. Caterpillar-tracks skidded and steel cables frayed.

Minguez then turned to another method which had been supported by archeologists. The sled was hoisted onto logs. After a few metres, these went askew. It took a week to cover a distance of 300 metres. "It had been proved that, with or without logs, the sled technique was totally unsuitable for carrying out large-scale works," he said.

So how did Egyptian workers go about it? Minguez says he has found the answer, based on experimentation and on carefully reading ancient texts.

He says that the blocks (and later the obelisks) were transported from the quarries to the ports built near the building sites not on boats (their reduced capacity and instability because there was no keel in Egyptian vessels of the period would have caused them to capsize), but hanging under them, tied with ropes. (This technique would have presented a dual advantage: a reduction in the weight thanks to Archimedes' thrust (an upward force exerted on any immersed solid) and a considerable gain in stability with the block of stone serving as a keel.

IN ORDER to enable the boats to carry their loads right to the building site, the Egyptians may have used a system of locks, "hydraulic staircases" built with the help of wicker gabions filled with stones and clay.

Finally, the creation of an artificial lake on the very site of the pyramid could have made it easy to manoeuvre the stones with their floats to their permanent positions. (The installation of obelisks could be explained by similar procedures.)

Minguez's theories are not only original and coherent, but their technical plausibility is supported by figures based on experiments.

Constructions where remains have been found near each pyramid — particularly a "low temple" and a "processional causeway" linking it to the main monument — to which a purely ritual role has normally been ascribed, are thereby given a practical justification, the first of them corresponding to the port installations and the second to the canal and locks.

In the light of these hypotheses, texts by ancient authors, such as Herodotus and Diodorus, become more clear.

Minguez is convinced that his theory can also explain the erection of other monuments from the past, all over the world — from the huge statues on Easter Island, the megaliths of Western Europe, and pre-Columbian constructions in Peru and Mexico.

Monsters found in the Fiji deep

By GEOFF SPENCER
in Suva

A group of scuba divers has discovered what could be the remains of four prehistoric creatures in a remote underwater cave 51.5km off a resort island in the north of Fiji.

Sydney professional diver Kevin Deacon said the find was made last week by members of the Douglas family who operate the Matagi Island Resort, about 200km north-east of Suva.

Mr Deacon, who has taken photographs of the remains and is overseeing an initial survey of the coral cave, said the animals appeared to be reptilian.

"We have found what appears to be two adults, one adolescent and a juvenile," he said. "They bear no resemblance to any marine creature I know."

The adult skulls were about 1m long with a total body length of 8m to 10m. They looked prehistoric and perhaps were land animals or amphibious species.

The cave, now part of a reef about 50m under water, may once have been above sea level. One of the discoverers, Nigel Douglas, was showing a videotape of the remains to scientists in the United States. "So far they are quite baffled," said Mr

Deacon, who runs the Sydney-based company Dive 2000. "We are now taking more photos and videos for further expert opinion."

Mr Deacon said the remains were between 30m and 50m into the cave, up a winding passage divided into different compartments within the inner part of the reef.

The isolation, depth and darkness of the site made it a "very difficult dive," even for advanced cave divers with specialised lighting and other equipment.

"The place is completely black and very still," he said. "It is littered with bones, ribs and vertebrae. They are big creatures and it is quite haunting and stunning to see one look up at you as you flash your light about."

Mr Deacon believed the creatures were either prehistoric, or contemporary animals unknown to science — or, if they were some known kind of animal, then how they had found their way into the cave was a mystery.

NZPA-AAP

Cattle mutilations concern ranchers

By Andrew Garber
The Idaho Statesman

NOUNAN — Fear and anger have become familiar emotions to Kent Alleman.

He fears whoever is mutilating his cattle. He's angry about the senseless waste and loss of money.

"I'm trying to keep a ranch going on here, but it's tough, really tough," Alleman said. He lost six head of cattle worth \$3,000 to mutilators last summer.

And he's afraid the same will happen again this year.

"Three thousand dollars looks pretty big when you really need it," said Alleman, a man with a weathered, worried face.

Alleman works a full-time day job and takes care of his ranch early in the morning and at night.

In the past year his nights have been particularly long.

"You stay up all night long, sometimes. We were sneaking along the roads at night" trying to catch someone, he said.

That's not easy, given the rolling, green hills that make up his land in the remote narrow valley. From the road, cattle often are hidden by the hills.

The terrain is so hilly and se-

cluded that mutilations could easily occur in the daytime. And they have.

Riding along back roads, Alleman pointed out the various spots where his cattle had been killed. He took most of the carcasses out to a dump.

"I hate to look at dead animals, so I just drag them off," he said.

Walking out into one field he looked at the remains of one cow he didn't haul away. Time and predators had left little — a few bones, a little skin.

Alleman said he's worried that if it is people mutilating cattle, they could move on to something worse. Last fall "my wife was afraid to let the kids out of the house," he said. "She would just panic if she didn't know where they were."

He said he believes Satanic cults are probably responsible for the mutilations. And he said he hoped that more investigation by the sheriff's department will result in arrests.

But he acknowledged the track record of law enforcement is poor when it comes to mutilations.

"You just don't understand it," he said, gazing at some of his cattle. "I don't know. Maybe it is aliens."

Frozen waste falls from sky, near worker

ELKHORN, Wis. — A frozen block of human waste that apparently fell from an airliner ripped through the roof of a county highway department building, nearly striking a worker, authorities said.

Steven Kinney, a mechanic working in the building, said he heard a loud crash Monday evening and ran into the next room, where he found blue ice splattered around a tractor and a gaping hole in the roof.

The three-pound block of ice narrowly missed Richard Radtke, who was repairing the tractor's engine.

"It sounded like an explosion," said Radtke, 55, of Elkhorn. "It was really loud. I'm tellin' ya. It sounded like something blew up."

Workers called police and gathered some of the ice into a freezer to back up their story.

CR: R. Reid

What's in the lake: monsters or sun-worshipping sturgeons?

By Dave Yanko
of the Star-Phoenix

How do you determine the age of the Turtle Lake Monster?

Why, you simply saw out a hunk of his dorsal fin and count the growth rings.

At least, that's how one finds out the age of a sturgeon. Just like a tree.

And many believe a lumbering, old, caviar-producing sturgeon is the real culprit behind the numerous sightings of the "monster."

"The oldest sturgeon I'm aware of was 64," says Saskatoon biologist Rob Wallace. "That was in the lower South Saskatchewan (River)."

Unity district farmer Gordon Watt agrees the sturgeon theory is valid. But it's not a completely satisfying explanation for what he encountered two summers ago at Turtle Lake, located about 120 kilometres northwest of North Battleford.

Watt was fishing with his daughter and grandson when he spotted something in the water about 10 to 15 metres ahead of the boat from which they were casting.

"Its head came up, its back came up and it sort of rolled over," Watt recalled in an interview. "We never saw the tail."

He pointed out the creature to his daughter, Bev Dearborn, and her son, Ryan. Both caught a glimpse of the thing before it disappeared beneath the surface.

"We were sort of amazed — thunderstruck, I guess," Watt said.

Maybe it was a sturgeon, "but I'm not convinced."

"Its head looked like a seahorse."

Astonished as they were at viewing the large lake-lurker, Watt and crew were far from petrified.

As soon as they gathered their wits, they motored to the point where the creature slipped under and trolled back and forth, unsuccessfully trying to snag it.

Garry Ashton, a former Saskatoonian who returned here for the Christmas holidays, says he once touched the thing with a paddle.

"I was on my jet boat at the time," recalls Ashton, whose family has owned a cottage at the lake for 30 years.

"I thought it was a dog in the wa-



— S-P Illustration by Bill Clarke

ter, swimming.

"Its nose was sticking out of the water and I was going to grab it. But as I got closer I went Holy —!"

Ashton believes the "dog" was a huge sturgeon.

"What I saw was about five feet of it in the water."

"It's (the Turtle Lake Monster) just sturgeons sunning themselves on the surface."

Mary says there's an average of one sighting of the monster each year.

For those who prefer science over legend, the sturgeon theory is an attractive one.

But it may have a hole in it.

Paul Naftel, director of the provincial fisheries branch, says sturgeon are bottom-feeding, bottom-living fish.

"Very, very seldom have I ever heard of a sturgeon sunning itself on the surface, where it wasn't dead and floating."

The Saskatchewan and Churchill river systems are home to virtually all this province's sturgeons.

However, Naftel is aware of one being caught in Candle Lake about two decades ago and he says undoubtedly there are others in lakes fed by streams and rivers.

Speculation that young sturgeon made their way to Turtle Lake and couldn't return because of beaver dams is "probably a good assessment," he says.

But he doesn't contend that accounts for the legend.

Naftel once spent a year doing depth soundings at Turtle Lake and "we never saw anything that would give us a clue" about the monster mystery.

"Mind you," he adds, "that lake is pretty big."

Wallace, one of Naftel's employees and a man who's been involved in several studies of the ancient species, says sturgeons can live more than 65 years and grow to a weight of 200 kilograms.

They do prefer warm water. But he doesn't know whether the notion of "sturgeon as sun worshipper" holds any water. He says it's a possibility.

Until some boater is able to muster the wherewithal to reach for a camera at that crucial moment, the legend of the Turtle Lake Monster will live on.

Who knows, it may live on after that, too.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada — March 1, 1991

CR: G. Conway

Nippon-TV plans \$10,000-a-day sub hunt for Ogopogo

The first-ever submarine search for Ogopogo in Lake Okanagan is all set to go.

A one-man submersible Deep Rover will start searching the lake Saturday as part of a massive Japanese expedition with a budget of at least \$10,000 a day.

"Things have come together very well and all the last-minute details are being taken care of now," said Arlene Gaal, long-time researcher of the Okanagan's fabled lake monster.

Gaal, of Kelowna, is in charge of all arrangements for the expedition being undertaken by Nippon TV, a Japanese television network that first visited the Okanagan last summer.

Nippon's film last year caused so much interest in Japan that this new expedition was planned. It will make another film for a program called World Supernatural Phenomena, which has an audience of 80 million viewers.

The expedition's equipment will include the Deep Rover chartered from Can-Dive Services Ltd. of North Vancouver, a remote-controlled camera, a helicopter, houseboat and two scuba divers.

Gaal said the submersible, which costs about \$10,000 a day to rent, will be trucked to Kelowna.

Who knows, it may live on after that, too.

Who knows, it may live on after that, too.

Noisy rumble is a mystery

By MARLENE CLARK
Courant Correspondent

Lori Hemeldach didn't plan to have hamburger for dinner Monday, but the roast was ruined.

"The Pyrex dish broke in a thousand pieces. Right in the oven," said the Middlefield woman. "Something's going on."

What was going on, Hemeldach thought, was an earthquake. And people from Cape Cod to the Connecticut shoreline thought the same thing Monday afternoon as they were swept by a wave of loud noise, rumbling and shaking that lasted as long as 45 seconds.

But seismologists throughout the United States said Connecticut did not have an earthquake, and experts agreed the thunder most likely came from the sky.

"Something passed by," said John Ebel,

assistant director of the Weston Observatory in Weston, Mass., and head of the New England Seismic Network. "A sonic boom is one of the possible culprits." Ebel said the observatory received several calls from the Cape Cod area.

"Maybe Pratt & Whitney was testing a new toy," said a dispatcher from Valley Shore Communications in Deep River, who received dozens of calls.

The source of the boom is a mystery, however. Walt Waterman, an airport operations specialist at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, said he knew of nothing in the air Monday afternoon that could have caused a sonic boom.

Sonic booms, caused by aircraft

"Sound can do weird things."

Mel Goldstein
Weather center director

flying faster than the speed of sound, occur frequently, but rarely are felt on the ground. When a sonic boom occurs in the atmospheric conditions that prevailed Monday, however, sound waves can ricochet off the earth.

Mel Goldstein, director of the weather center at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, said a temperature inversion — cold

air in the lower atmosphere and warm air in the upper atmosphere — directs sound toward the ground. There was an inversion Monday, he said.

"Sound can do weird things," under Monday's conditions, Goldstein said. "It can skip around; it can reflect."

"It was a wicked rumble, and everything shook," said Sheila Chowanec, who lives across town from Hemeldach. "It was like thunder from the ground up."

Hemeldach wished the sound waves had not struck her dish, destroying her roast beef. But she was philosophical about the unexpected change in her dinner menu.

"That's what good old hamburger's for," she said.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada — Feb. 19, 1991 CR: G. Conway

JAPANESE HUNT AGAIN FOR PROOF OF OGOPOGO

By Don Hunter
Staff Reporter

Suffering serpents, the Japanese are after Ogopogo again.

Tokyo's Nippon TV has set Feb. 28 as launch day for a massive 11-day search for the legendary snake of Okanagan Lake.

"If they find something, it'll soothe the skeptics," says Arlene Gaal, Kelowna author of two books about Ogopogo and co-ordinator of the Japanese mission.

Last summer, an NTV crew said it sonar-tracked a moving object about 10 metres (30 feet) long at a depth of some 100 metres (328 feet). This time a 15-member crew will use a one-person Deep Rover

battery-powered submersible from North Vancouver's Can-Dive Services Ltd.

That will cost about \$10,000 a day. Add helicopter rentals, diver fees, a 318-kilogram (700-pound) remote-controlled camera — and maybe an underwater high-frequency sonar scanner — and "\$50,000 would be just the tip of the iceberg" for search costs, Gaal said yesterday.

The operation will be videotaped for NTV's World's Supernatural Phenomena and shown to a Japanese audience of about 80 million.

Gaal said late February could be a good time for a sighting if Ogopogo "has been hibernating, because it would be sluggish."

Farmer rules out all but aliens in cows' deaths

Carroll County sheriff cites disease

By John Rice
Gazette Fayetteville Bureau

BERRYVILLE — James Thorne doesn't come right out and say he thinks aliens from another planet are killing his cows.

He kind of backs into it.

It's not that he believes in UFOs or that he's read too many tabloids while standing in the grocery store checkout line, Thorne says. But the 74-year-old, plain-talking retiree can't come up with any other explanation for the mysterious deaths of five of his cows, two in the last three months.

The Carroll County sheriff can. He says the latest death — a cow found dead on Thorne's property Feb. 2 — had died of blackleg, a usually fatal toxemia linked to soil bacterium that can enter the tissue through minor wounds or abrasions.

But Thorne noted that each of the cows had her sex organs removed and blood had drained from each carcass. He said the animals bore cuts that looked to have been made with surgeon-like precision.

Sheriff Lonnie Nichols said the blood had not been drained, but rather had clotted in the veins and arteries. He said that's the reason the blood did not drip from the animal.

Thorne lost one cow in 1978, another in 1985 and another in 1986. In November, he found a fourth cow dead near his pond and then another on Feb. 2.

Thorne bases his aliens theory on the process of elimination.

He said an animal couldn't have done the dirty work because there were no signs of struggle near any of the dead cows. He also said he had watched as other animals avoided the dead cows — even vultures.

Thorne allowed a reporter to look at the carcass of the last cow found dead. The body appeared to be mostly intact, considering it had been exposed to the elements for almost two weeks.

Thorne ruled out human beings as suspects in the cow deaths, pointing to a steep mountainous terrain that was tough enough to handle during the day. A night hike would be impossible, he said, noting that each cow died during the night.

Thorne, who lives in Green Forest and owns the farm in Berryville, said that a person would have to travel about two miles with equipment and then leave without spilling about 2½ gallons of blood.

"I know no animal killed 'em and I know that no human killed 'em without anybody seeing it or alarming the dogs around here," Thorne said.

"I know it sounds crazy."

Nichols said he had a local veterinarian examine the cow found dead Feb. 2, and that the veterinarian had attributed the death to blackleg disease.

But two self-professed "UFO investigators" from Forsyth, Mo., also inspected the dead cow. Thorne said the team concluded after last week's visit that aliens had visited and used a laser to kill the cow and remove the organs.

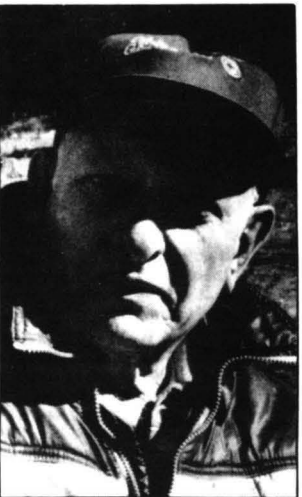
"They were very professional," Thorne said of the UFO team.

"They went over that cow with a fine-tooth comb. I think it's possible it happened that way, but I don't know for sure. I do know it wasn't an animal or a human."

Nichols recalled an experiment Washington County sheriff's deputies performed several years ago,

"They went over that cow with a fine-tooth comb. I think it's possible it happened that way, but I don't know for sure. I do know it wasn't an animal or a human."

—James Thorne, Berryville farmer



John Rice/Gazette Staff

James Thorne: Said his animals bore cuts that looked to have been made with surgeon-like precision.

using a carcass and time-lapse photography. During the 72 hours of photography, animals and insects cleaned the dead animal of its organs, he said.

Gene Wingate, Thorne's son-in-law who lives at the farm, said that didn't happen with the latest cow carcass.

"The tongue was sliced off from the back of the mouth," Wingate said. "I found the cow with its mouth shut and jaw clenched. If it was a bird how did he get the tongue out and then close the cow's mouth without leaving any marks?"

When a dead cow, believed to be killed on Halloween, was discovered Nov. 1, Wingate said, the jaw and tongue were removed in a clean, straight line.

"If you saw when it was first discovered you'd understand," Wingate said. "It's hard to imagine that the cow's organs could be taken off so clean without disturbing anything else and with no rips or tears. It just blows your mind."

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Sheldrake to present revolutionary theory

During the first week of December, British biochemist Rupert Sheldrake (pictured) will mark his first visit to New Zealand with a lecture at Auckland University, Wednesday December 5, at 7.30pm in Room B28 (Library basement).



Sheldrake stunned the scientific world in 1982 when his book, *A New Science of Life*, introduced the theory of morphic resonance, which suggests that the form and behaviour of all organisms are influenced by past organisms of the same species.

Each species, according to Sheldrake, has a kind of collective memory. His hypothesis predicts that when some members of a species learn something new, the ability to learn it should increase all over the world, in no time at all. During his lecture, Sheldrake will discuss recent experimental evidence that this remarkable effect does occur.

Sheldrake's ideas shed new light on the evolutionary process and the operation of memory in the human mind.

In a clear presentation aimed at the non-scientific person, he will explore the implications of morphic resonance on learning, creativity and change in the biological, social and personal realms.

Sheldrake is among a new wave of scientists (Bohm, Capra, Margulis, Lovelock, Prigogine) who are signalling that science itself is beginning to transcend its mechanistic (Newtonian) theory of nature. This shift in perception coincides with

the recent resurgence of "green" values in our politics, economics and personal lives.

Rupert Sheldrake studied natural sciences at Cambridge and philosophy at Harvard, taking a PhD in biochemistry at Cambridge in 1967. In the same year he became a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a Director of Studies in biochemistry and cell biology until 1973. From 1974 to 1985 he worked with the In-

ternational Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Hyderabad, India. He is the author of *A New Science of Life* (Tarcher, 1982), *The Presence of the Past* (Times Books, 1988) and *The Rebirth of Nature* (Bantam, 1991).

For further details and bookings for the Auckland University lecture, please contact Marion Feasey, Centre for Continuing Education, (09) 737-831.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - July 25, 1990 CR: G. Conway

Encounters with 'Ogopogo'

TV crew, reporter spot curvy creature in lake

By MOIRA FARROW
Sun Staff Reporter

KELOWNA — Only 24 hours after arriving here from Tokyo, a Japanese television crew had three close encounters with what crew members believe is Ogopogo.

And on the third occasion, on a still-warm evening, I also saw the mysterious whatever-it-is swimming in Lake Okanagan.

We were driving on a lakeshore road about seven kilometres from Kelowna at 8:30 p.m. when we spotted a strange turbulence in the calm water.

The driver of the mini-van carrying the six-man TV crew slammed on the brakes and pulled off the road. I was driving alone behind the van in a rented car and did the same.

As we stood on a bluff about 100 metres above the lake, we saw below us, about 50 metres out in the water, a long, curvy shape like a huge snake. It moved slowly, just breaking the

surface of the water, and turned in large circles.

I jumped out of my car so fast I left my notebook behind. But the well-organized Japanese had their cameras rolling as they piled out of their van. We watched the thing in the water for two to three minutes until a powerboat pulling a water skier roared across the lake.

Instantly the creature dropped out of sight below the surface. From the road it was hard to judge size, but it was easily 10 metres long.

"Ever seen anything like that before?" asked Kelowna resident Don Defty, who is working for the Japanese as driver and production assistant. All I could say was no.

Then it was back to business for the TV crew, whose search for the legendary creature of Lake Okanagan went on until nearly midnight.

The crew is one of several production crews for the Nippon TV weekly show called Thursday Special, which features mysteries around the world and has an audience of between 80 and 100 million viewers.



CANADIAN PRESS

NEW VIEW: cameraman scans lake

interpreter, said the sonar recording was made at 1:30 p.m. in the lake near Bear Creek provincial park. That is where car salesman Ken Chaplan recorded his controversial video of a creature in the lake last year.

"I was in the boat with the Japanese when we saw the thing on the sonar," said long-time Ogopogo researcher Arlene Gaal of Kelowna.

"The object was about 30 feet (10 metres) in length and at a depth of 350 feet (106 metres). The lake there is 400 feet (122 metres) deep so it was not on the bottom."

She said the object was moving and was definitely not a log.

The Japanese will stay in the Okanagan until Saturday and plan day and night searches.

It was on the drive to the evening's dive near Lake Okanagan Resort, some 22 kilometres north of Kelowna, that we spotted the thing in the lake.

Gan Hanada, who acts as Honda's