

UFO

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NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES, Fayetteville, AR - April 7, 1991 CR: K. Hall

UFO diehards descend on Eureka

...Hear reports on crop circles, mutilations, sightings

By KAY B. HALL
Times Staff Writer

EUREKA SPRINGS -- More than 400 ufologists attended the fourth annual MUFON-sponsored UFO conference held at Inn of the Ozarks Friday, Saturday and today.

They came to listen to speakers from as far away as England and Russia and to be updated on the latest reports on crop circles, animal mutilation, and alleged UFO activity around the globe as well as to hear eyewitness accounts of encounters of the closest kind.

Puerto Rican sightings

Jorge Martin, from Puerto Rico, and editor of "Enigma" magazine, a magazine devoted to UFO reports, is an active investigative member of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network. MUFON members keep track of alleged UFO activity. Martin told of many "sighting" investigations he's undertaken since 1975.

Puerto Rico, a United States island territory, has seen a number of UFO-related sightings and incidents over the past decades, Martin said, including the alleged abduction in broad daylight of U.S. jet fighter F-104 planes which were sucked into the craft as reported by several witnesses. Reports tell of a triangular-shaped spacecraft which split in half, each side going in different directions.

Slides, interviews

His talk was accompanied by several slides, documents and interviews with a number of military, retired military, farmers, fishermen and other witnesses who claim to have seen not only spacecraft but to have been abducted. Some claim that spacecraft frequently disappear under a lake and rise out of the lake, illuminating the whole area.

Witnesses said the light from the emerging or submerging craft was like that from "a city in the distance."

These reports, he said, came from residents in and around Laguna Calaguena, where UFO activity has been alleged since 1957.

Jetliners approaching this area frequently report seeing UFOs. Many photos have been taken by pilots and by passengers shooting through the windows.

Photos

One series of photos taken by an "abductee" with an instamatic camera brought a request by Martin to the audience to please not photograph the photographs by request of the alleged abductee who had not yet published them.

As a musician, the abductee had

'Witness' describes N.M. crash site

By KAY B. HALL
Times Staff Writer

EUREKA SPRINGS — Gerald Anderson, 49, of Battlefield, Mo., was 5 when his family moved to New Mexico on July 4, 1947, and life hasn't been the same since. The peace of desert living, he said, was disrupted only two days later when the family saw a spaceship crash into the New Mexico desert.

The group rushed to the scene, and Anderson claims to have seen and even touched some of the occupants of the spacecraft, whom he said were small and had large eyes.

Soon, though, his story goes, the military ushered them away and told them never to speak of what



Anderson

they'd seen.

"My father was with the Atomic Energy Commission. He designed and manufactured trigger devices for the bomb, but we didn't know at the time what he did. I only found out after he retired and after the restrictions on the secrecy surrounding the project was lifted," he said.

Anderson said it was because he was used to secrecy that he never talked about what he saw, or the strange little creatures with the large "beautiful eyes, eyes that communicated with me. Remember, I was at an age where I had no trouble believing that teddy bears could talk."

Anderson sat on his story until last January, when NBC-TV's "Unsolved Mysteries" aired an episode about a related UFO incident near Roswell, N.M.

"I just couldn't sit by while 'Unsolved Mysteries' did such a poor job of portraying what happened out there."

So Anderson went public.

Witnesses at the time, he said, told of two UFOs flying in tandem. It was his belief, from looking at the large gash in the side of the craft, that they had collided and landed about 40 miles apart in the desert.

But Anderson had been more interested in the creatures.

"I thought at first the large-eyed creatures were dolls. I touched one of the dead ones, and then I knew they were real," he said. "When the one that was alive looked me straight in the eyes, it was like someone was thinking inside my head. It was an out-of-control feeling, a tumbling feeling. I felt his fear, a fear that would penetrate concrete. I was feeling his loneliness."

Anderson said he never gave the incident much thought until recently, adding that he doesn't seek the spotlight in telling his story, but that he may write a book about his experience.

been working in a nightclub and it was 4:30 a.m. when he was driving his Toyota on a deserted dirt road. He drove slowly because the road frequently had cattle crossing it, and he thought he saw a cow out of the corner of his eye.

It turned out to be a small man jogging alongside his car. His car went dead, and he doesn't remember anything else until daylight when he awakened crying. A message in his head kept telling him to grab his camera and take some photos. Every time he'd hear a "beep" he'd snap the shutter. The results were the photos Martin showed of two planes trying to catch the elliptical disc in the sky.

Similar experiences

He wasn't alone in reporting an abduction. Ten others had a similar experiences and one woman, a Jehovah's Witness, had a difficult time in dealing with what she described as a "demonic experience."

Forest Crawford, a MUFON investigator from Collinsville, Ill., said that UFO study is limited by lack of conclusive evidence such as crashed or live ships, living or dead aliens, that such evidence seemed to be all

that held any weight with many skeptics.

"Much personal evidence or circumstantial evidence can be found," he said, but eyewitness accounts, no matter how credible whether from scientists and educators or from simple people of the land don't seem to count for much, and the stories that are circulated seem to lean more toward non-human creatures who paralyze you, beam you aboard ship, examine you or try to make babies, and "zap you back in bed. God forbid if they look human and just say, 'let's chat.'"

Illinois sightings

He does not ignore the personal evidence, however, and repeated stories of over 100 reports of an incident occurring in Bernadotte, Ill., Oct. 4, 1989, when strange objects were seen in the sky flying in formation. The objects were white lights and balls that looked as if they were connected to one another by streams of light. Others looked like tadpoles with flowing tails and one little egg with a dimple in one side, he said. There were cylinders 20 to 40 feet long, red diamond-shaped ships, flat pies, boomerangs tumbling end over

end as if showing off, saucer-shapes, swirling luminous lights. There were red and blue spinning spheres dropping out little spheres like a litter of puppies.

Some of these craft left a stream of "angel-hair" in their wake to be collected and examined by witnesses.

The fibrous, cobweb-like material was analyzed and so closely resembled cobwebs under a microscope, it was eerie. Over 400 sightings in the area were reported within a year of that incident.

Gathers evidence

It has been his job to gather "personal" evidence from contactees or abductees around the country and match and gather data by computer, to check one eyewitness report against another.

He created a list of questions to ask the contactees who felt they were still being contacted by "alien-beings" and then he matched answers they received from their alien "friend."

Surprisingly similar answers were forthcoming from all contacts and cases studied. These studies were conducted with people from all over the globe who had never met and did not know one another.

Was it a UFO or a plane?

by Linda Faulconer
Editor

A number of local people reported seeing some strange lights in the sky on January 31.

The lights, described as a line of about five very bright spots, were spotted in the northern sky and seemed to be located to the north and west of Peck.

Residents reported watching the objects which were motionless and quiet for about 30 minutes.

A spokesperson from Selfridge Air Base in Mt. Clemens said that the lights didn't belong to the base. "Our planes which usually fly over that area are all stationed in Saudi Arabia so we know it wasn't them," said Alice Errington of Base Public Affairs.

Errington said that the lights could have been linked to a NASA project. "I remember that NASA had an atmosphere testing experiment planned for about the time that the bombing started in Iraq and I know they delayed it," said Errington. "Their project involved some type of very bright lighting but I don't know if this might have been what the people up there were seeing or not."

However, NASA spokeswoman Mary Ann Peto couldn't add to the Selfridge information.

"We are doing some lighting experiments which causes a reddish glow," Peto said. "These are only visible in the southeastern U.S."

Regardless of what the military people say, the folks who saw the lights know they weren't swamp gas.

"They looked really close," said one caller. "They went off and on and every time they came back on they were in a different formation." Another caller said although the lights were strange, they were not frightened by them. "I thought they were landing in our yard," she said.

LETTERS To The Editor

To the Editor
Gulf Breeze Sentinel
Gulf Breeze, FL.

Sir:

As an after thought, prior to leaving my home in Corinth, MS., for a week's get-away in Ft. Walton Beach, I picked up my copy of Ed & Frances Walters' *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*. I had the vague thought of perhaps visiting Gulf Breeze and getting the authors' autograph. Little did I imagine that I would be put in touch with the local MUFON group and find myself on Sat. night, Feb. 23, 1991 and again Tues. night, Feb. 26, 1991 with said group searching the skies over Pensacola Bay and Santa Rosa Sound for UFOs.

On both these occasions, I can report having witnessed a very bright, seemingly stationary red light which neither arrived nor departed from the position observed which appeared to be over Santa Rosa Sound. This light simply appeared, remained for three to four minutes and then disappeared. On Sat. night, the initial sighting was of an extremely bright, white light which then turned red.

These are the first sightings I have had of truly "anomalous" lights in the night sky.

CR: R. Reid

Sincerely,
David Bell
510 Cruise
Corinth, MS 38834
(601) 287-8778

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - March 7, 1991 CR: R. Reid

Strange light in sky draws attention

By David Baker

On February 23, 1991 two Pensacola men were fishing on the three mile bridge. At approximately 7:50 p.m. the fishermen's attention was drawn to a bright red light which suddenly appeared over Gulf Breeze.

The two men said the light

would dim then come back bright red, stay that way for a while and then dim again, all the while moving slowly in their direction. They detected no sound from the object.

Before the object disappeared it blinked to green momentarily, changed to a brilliant white and slowly faded away. The

sighting lasted about four minutes and there were nine additional witnesses.

If you have any information concerning this or any other sighting, please call the M.U.F.O.N. hotline at 436-2700. All calls will be handled confidentially.

Closer encounters

By Michalene Busico
Mercury News Staff Writer

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 extraterrestrials make us forget.

But we've been evolving, too. Now UFOlogists such as Saratoga psychologist Edith Fiore have a way to make us remember: Hypnotize abductees, and they talk.

Actually, they talk their heads off, going on for hours in a single session, telling of alien ships cruising Cupertino, ETs taking them onboard around Sacramento. And not all the experiences

are bad. 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 Los Gatos bedroom 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 extra-terrestrials.

Lots of people say they have. Fiore lists 25 other hypnotherapists who work with abductees in her book; 11 of them are in the Bay Area. Local abductees can call in reports to a UFO hot line based in Menlo Park — that's (900) USA-UFOs, \$2 for the first minute and \$1 for each after that. The

*Flying saucers are watching us,
some people say. They're sure of it.
After all, they've been on board.*

*'They were nice;
they said relax. . . .
Later, one particular
being was not so nice.'*

THE Los Gatos woman who was Edith Fiore's Chapter 1 — titled "They Put Something in My Rectum" — is a typical UFO abduction case. She had vague memories of missing several hours one evening when she was 12. Under hypnosis, the 30-year-old desk-top publisher believes she discovered what happened.

She was watching television in her family's rural Colorado home. The TV went out. There was a bright light. She felt herself floating. Then she was on an examination table, covered by a sheet.

"These small, doll-like people were zipping around in some type of white robe," says the woman, who asked that her name not be used. "Their thoughts were coming right into my head. They were nice; they said relax, don't be afraid. Later, one particular being was not so nice. He wanted to hurt me."

She says he began by asking science questions she couldn't answer, then conducting a physical exam, poking "every rib and muscle."

"They did horrible things," she says. "They put a very big needle between my big toe and my next toe. And they did some sort of anal exam, I think with another long needle."

After remembering the incident, the woman says she was freed of fears and anxiety she has had ever since the abduction.

— Michalene Busico



Cheryl Nuss — Mercury News

Edith Fiore is a Saratoga psychologist, and she says there's nothing crazy about UFOs.

merely curious can call and listen. The Northern California chapter of the international Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) has almost 200 members, including many abductees, and meets in Mountain View every other month.

Those who'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 short — around 4 feet — with big heads, light gray skin, no hair, slender bodies, and "a silver jumpsuit or something of the sort," Fiore says.

"There's not much known about the feet," says Virgil Staff, local MUFON chairman. "The feet are a problem — witnesses frequently say they couldn't see feet."

The abductee is sucked into a spaceship. The preferred vehicles for Bay Area aliens are saucers, although some ships look like "balls of fire," Staff says.

Then they're given a physical examination that requires many probes. "They are examined in every orifice of their body," Fiore says, "by a number of these . . . aliens."

ETs and experiments

Staff says things have been quiet in the Bay Area lately. There were two reports in November, two in December and one in January.

"But for every abductee we learn about," Staff warns, "there are dozens, hundreds, maybe thousands we don't know about."

"Some of the ETs have been compassionate, but the typical story is the abductees are treated like laboratory animals. More recently, there have been indications that they're in more of a hurry . . . almost like they have a schedule."

Diane Tai — Cupertino mother of two, Chinese herb distributor and cosmic frequent flier — explains about the aliens who've been dropping by for more than 20 years.

Ever since they planted something in her brain, she's been able to contact them whenever she likes. They call her sometimes, too, with advice or information about the future.

In her most vivid memory, gentle, big-headed aliens took her from her Cupertino bedroom.

"I remember dark eyes, bigger eyes and more slanted eyes," she says. "Not real crazy like in some

pictures, more gentle. More like a Spock kind of a thing. They were tall and thin and had bigger heads, but just slightly. Not like the Romulans, not that big. They did not communicate through words."

Outer space pep rallies

First, she found herself in a cold room with a brilliant blue light that had something to do with killing bacteria. Then came an examination.

"They were very interested in taking all kinds of blood, making analyses and laboratory workups," she says. "There was a machine over my head for some time. I felt as though something had been put into my mind. There was something going on there. They also cut inside, things were going in through my abdomen and I didn't have any anesthesia."

It wasn't such a bad experience, she says. After they 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.

"After, it was like I had a sense of purpose," she says. "Like, yeah, now I know now what I'm supposed to do."

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, Berkeley. Alien encounters are his "avocation." He's been collecting data for 30 years, and has interviewed more than 300 potential abductees, including Fiore.

Skeptics and true believers

Harder says 95 percent of people who've been abducted by aliens have no idea it happened. He hypnotizes people to make them remember, if they fit a certain profile: active in the peace movement, convinced UFOs are real, pursue a spiritual path of enlightenment and have psychic ability.

"They're (ETs) interested in us because the Earth is going through a crisis phase that's very interesting to the rest of the galaxy," Harder says. "I think some are trying to guide us to a better way of life."

Harder also says skeptics are threatened by the idea of something smarter than them lurking 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 suggestible," he says. "Fiore's patients were told about her belief in extraterrestrial abductions and the fact she was writing a book about such incidents before they were hypnotized."

All of which could create some very interesting fantasies, he says.

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. 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. No one has come forward so far.

UFO believers say that's because the government can't be trusted. They accuse the FBI and NASA of a massive cover-up — they call it "the cosmic Watergate" — dating back to the 1940s.

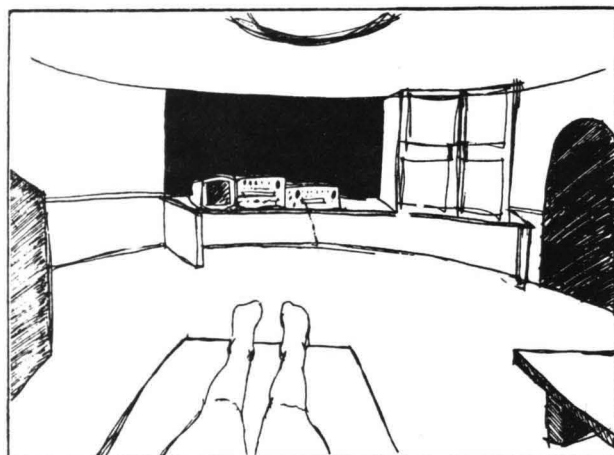
"We know this is a phenomenon. We have reports," Staff says. "It appears the government has one or more vehicles, in addition to bodies. But they've locked people up, brainwashed them, maybe even terminated them, so we can't be expected to produce hard evidence."

Besides reported sightings, unsubstantiated photos and memories recalled under hypnosis, "We have pod marks, broken branches and a few samples," says Staff.

Samples? "Apparently, substances dropped from hovering anomalous vehicles," Staff says. "My father had a big thick file. I threw it out in an attempt to make some space. It was a mistake."

Elusive evidence

There's often an odd carelessness with evidence of UFO encounters. Tai, the Cupertino woman who remembers being abducted, says her husband was accidentally mailed classified government documents about UFO sightings by



A Los Gatos woman, the subject of Chapter 1 of Edith Fiore's "Encounters," drew the room where she says she was examined by aliens. "They did horrible things," she says.

Air Force pilots, and alien bodies stored on a base in California. Tai says she and her husband were frightened, so they revealed the envelope and dropped it into the mail. Even Fiore didn't keep any of the tapes she made of her subjects recalling alien encounters.

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

Fiore says she is "reasonably convinced" by that, because of the dramatic improvements she sees in her patients after they remember an abduction.

Quicker cures

"It usually takes years to cure these sorts of symptoms — phobias, sexual problems, weight problems, addiction, depression — so I think there's got to be something to it," Fiore says. "I began taking it more seriously when I saw the results."

Fiore was trained as a traditional clinical psychologist at the University of Miami, and has practiced in Saratoga for 17 years. An hour-long session with her costs \$120.

Since she specializes in hypnosis, and estimates she's done 40,000 regressions, she finds "nothing is startling," including her patients' recollections of visits with aliens.

But then, Fiore 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."

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE



(Enterprise art by Kathy Morrow)

Randolph citizens say UFOs soar their friendly skies

By Jimmy Tomlin
STAFF WRITER

ASHEBORO - Maybe it's something in the water. Or maybe it's something peculiar about the lay of the land.

It's probably not the zoo. No one knows for sure why UFOs appear to have chosen Randolph County as one of their favorite earthly hangouts. But there seems to be little question that UFOs have been racking up the frequent flier points traveling through Asheboro and the surrounding countryside.

At least, that's what quite a few of the locals and at least one UFO researcher will tell you.

"These people are in an area which, for some unknown reason, is prone to UFO activity," said David Oldham, an amateur UFO tracker in Greensboro.

"Asheboro is what we call a window area. There are certain places around the planet where you have consistently, over a period of years, paranormal activity over and over and over. Asheboro is one of those windows."

Oldham, who has investigated UFO claims since 1977, has probed dozens of close encounters reported in Randolph County, he said. His experience also includes work with three

UFO study groups - the Mutual UFO Network in Seguin, Texas; the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization in Tucson, Ariz., and the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill.

The stories Oldham tells about Randolph County aren't likely to appear in any of the promotional brochures put out by the Chamber of Commerce.

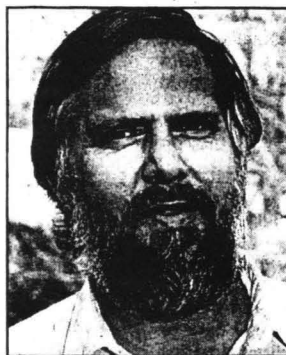
For example, there's the tale of the Franklinville pilot who said he encountered something strange in the skies between the Coleridge and Erect communities in southeast Randolph one night about 13 years ago.

The pilot could not be reached for this story, but his encounter was also related by Asheboro newspaperman Henry King and by George D. Fawcett, founder of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina.

According to the story, the pilot was flying back from South Carolina when he saw a reddish light closing in on him. Twice he tried to elude the light, but each time it veered into his path and finally came nose to nose with the small plane.

His control panel snapped, crackled and popped - and went up in smoke.

Just as the smoke cleared, the pilot saw the unidentified craft touch down along the Deep River. He managed to get his own plane back to the Coleridge airfield. The next morning,



David Oldham
Probes close encounters

he examined the plane carefully. All its wiring had been melted together.

More recently, Steve Harrell made headlines in December when he videotaped a large ball of fire falling from the sky near Farmer, in southwest Randolph.

While that case has since been proved to be something other than a UFO, Oldham said, the media attention it received generated renewed interest in UFOs and sparked a flurry of reported sightings.

"We've had a number of reports of

an object which appears similar to a stealth bomber," Oldham said. "It appears to be almost pyramid-shaped, and it can glide through the air with no noise."

The object has been reported seen along Spero Road near Asheboro, in the New Hope area in southwest Randolph, and in southeast Randolph near Coleridge.

Similarities between reported UFOs and U.S.-made aircraft are not uncommon, Oldham said.

"I find it very interesting that a lot of times it appears that some of the UFO phenomena appear to be technology that we develop 20 or 30 years later," he said. "I find that almost too coincidental in a way, but obviously I don't think they're testing the stealth bomber over Asheboro's airspace."

But the reports coming out of Randolph - and northern Moore County, which borders southeast Randolph - cannot be ignored, Oldham said.

Consider the following:
● Sonny Bullard, manager of the Asheboro Municipal Airport and thus familiar with all sorts of aircraft, reported seeing a helicopter-type craft in a field near Liberty, in northeast Randolph. Flashing lights circled the craft, and it made an unusual humming sound, he said.

"I said, 'Man, that's no helicopter,'" Bullard said. "It disappeared about as quick as you could blink your eyes."

● Jerry Craven, another pilot, reported seeing an eerie green light reflecting off his instrument panel one night as he was flying near Maple Springs Baptist Church. "Then I turned and saw a strange light behind and above me," he told Henry King, the Asheboro newspaperman. "It only lasted a few seconds, but I never did understand what caused it."

● Oldham also cited recent animal mutilations in the Sophia community. Worldwide studies have shown a correlation between UFO activity and animal mutilations, he said. "(Animals are) being precisionally cut open, and specific organs and parts of their bodies are being removed and the rest is being left to die or rot away," he said. "It appears to be some sort of genetic testing."

Sheriff Litchard Hurley said he's aware of Randolph's reputation as a

Seagrove woman describes encounter

By Jimmy Tomlin
STAFF WRITER

SEAGROVE - Nadine Albright had never really believed in UFOs.

"I had always been interested in space, but I really thought there was an explanation for things in the sky," said Albright, who lives in this small town in southern Randolph County.

She remained a doubter until October 1981. That's when she learned that seeing is believing.

"Until you see something, you're a little bit skeptical," she said. "But 10 years ago I had a very close encounter with a UFO in Asheboro, and it changed me."

Actually, Albright claims to have seen two UFOs within 12 hours. Now she believes.

The first sighting occurred at night,

as Albright and a cousin were returning from shopping in Greensboro, she said. The object came into view around 9:30 p.m. as the two drove down the U.S. 220 bypass near the exit ramp for U.S. 64/N.C. 49.

"As we were slowing down to exit, we noticed this huge thing, a large circle surrounded by white lights," Albright said. "Above the circle was a very large white light, at least 10 feet in diameter. The smaller lights were two to three feet in diameter."

At the top of the exit ramp, the object drifted directly over the car, just above the height of nearby power lines and trees, she said. It hovered right beside the road, and Albright feared crossing its path. So she pulled into a parking lot across the street and faced the object, she said.

Then she got out of the car. "There was absolutely no sound or anything - just this really brilliant

white light," Albright said.

Six or seven other drivers stopped and watched the object for about 10 minutes, she said.

"When it left, it tilted to one side and took off - not quite straight up, but almost," she said. "Within 10 to 15 seconds, it looked like a star."

The sheriff's department dismissed Albright's sighting as an advertising plane that had been in the area, she said. But officials at the Asheboro Municipal Airport confirmed the plane was on the ground at the time Albright saw the object, she said.

The following morning, against a crisp, blue sky, Albright and her cousin spotted their second UFO, this one near Randleman.

"We saw this shiny silver thing hovering over the treetops," she said. "It was cigar-shaped, rounded on both ends, sitting there vertical. It looked

like it might have been twice as high as a telephone pole.

"It was real shiny, like newly polished silver glowing in the sun. We watched it for about one minute, and then it tilted westward and took off without a sound. We watched it until it was just a little speck of silver."

For fear of ridicule, Albright's cousin won't discuss the sightings, Albright said.

Albright realizes how incredible her story sounds, but stands behind it.

"I'm not a crazy person, and I was not drinking," she said. "I know that I saw this object, and nobody can convince me otherwise."

Since she's been telling her story, others have shared similar experiences with her, Albright said. "So it's still out there, whatever it is."

UFO hotbed, but he's seen no evidence himself.

Randolph residents tend to flood the sheriff's department with calls when they spot something unusual, Hurley said, so his deputies investigate. Sometimes an electrical transformer that's popped will explain reported bright flashes of light, he said, "but usually we're not able to find anything."

That doesn't bother Oldham, though. He claims to have had close encounters himself - one of them in Greensboro's Battleground Park - and he's convinced UFOs are frequenting Randolph County.

And he wants to know why. "You have to wonder why they would choose a location that would be, to our thinking, an inferior landing site on the planet," Oldham said.

Many of the reported sightings in Randolph have been along the Uwharrie and Deep rivers, he said. "But I don't necessarily think they're landing by the rivers going fishing for trout or picking up shells," he said. Oldham thinks they may be following the rivers as navigational tools.

"They also tend to orient themselves around geological land faults, whether it be for navigational reasons or whether it be like a grid system which they can maneuver in safely without creating hardship for themselves," he said.

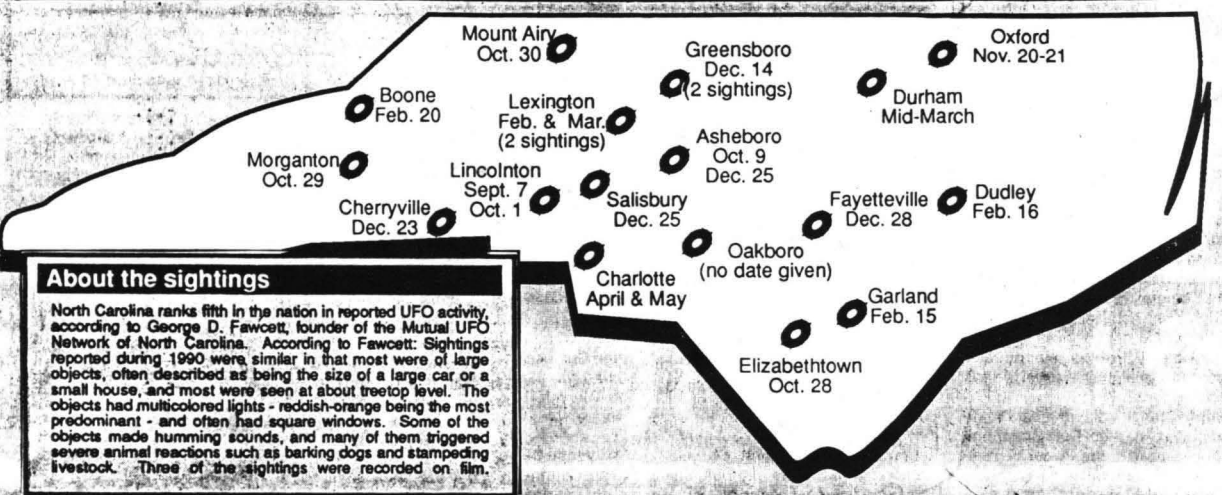
Such faults exist in and around Randolph County, and research suggests that UFO sightings have been concentrated in those areas, Oldham said.

"I think what we have is a co-existing realm of reality," he said. "It appears that we have a bigger family out here than we might have imagined."

Ever see a UFO?

If you've ever seen a UFO in North Carolina, you can report your sighting to the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, c/o George D. Fawcett, 482 Battleground Rd., Lincolnton, N.C. 28092, or call him at 1-704-735-5725. If you've had a recent sighting that you think merits an investigation, contact David Oldham at 1-919-272-4678.

1990 reported UFO sightings in N.C.



Professor scoffs at claims of sightings

By Jimmy Tomlin
STAFF WRITER

Prove it. That's what Jamestown's Mike Marshall, president of North Carolina Skeptics, says about the existence of UFOs and aliens. Prove it.

"The claim of a UFO is such an extraordinary claim that it would require extraordinary evidence on the part of the person that's making the claim," says Marshall. "And so far the evidence has been less than compelling."

North Carolina Skeptics spends much of its time trying to debunk claims that are not of this earth - such as reports of supernatural and extraterrestrial activity.

And before Marshall will believe in UFOs, he wants evidence nothing short of an extraterrestrial interview.

"The type of evidence that it would require to convince me would be to have an alien on public display where anyone could go up and talk to it," he says. "And that never happens."

Those who claim to have witnessed and who believe in UFOs say there's no concrete evidence available because of a massive government coverup. But Marshall says that theory simply doesn't fly.

"That's a hallmark of all pseudosciences," he says. "One way to explain the lack of evidence is with a conspiracy theory that evidence is being suppressed. That's a good way to maintain a belief in something that doesn't exist through a twist of mental gymnastics."

Marshall, a psychology professor at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, believes UFO "witnesses" tend to confuse delusions with reality.

Unlike other skeptics, though, he stops short of suggesting that people claiming extraterrestrial sightings have actually had a close encounter with insanity.

"As a psychologist, we have lots of evidence that even normal thinking processes in normal people can lead to false conclusions," Marshall says. "They're seeing something, but just misinterpreting it as a result of their expectations or beliefs."

Generally, UFO sightings occur when people are

experiencing a lot of anxiety in their lives, Marshall says, "and they have a strong need to believe in a higher power."

"It's the same type of event that might occur with a religious experience, except in this case the higher power is an all-knowing alien."

An example of such a delusion? "If they saw a meteor or a lenticular cloud," Marshall says. "If they had a strong need to believe in UFOs, they could easily interpret that as being a UFO."

What believers cite as more concrete evidence - such as mysterious burned circles in the grass, believed to be spaceship landing marks - prove nothing, Marshall says.

"If investigated by scientists, they usually find the ground has been heated with a torch or it's the site of a chemical spill," he says. "There are so many simple, mundane explanations for something as trivial as a mark on the ground that there's no need to resort to bizarre or spectacular explanations."

"Why not start with the logical explanations first?"

E.T.'s here to study, researcher says

By Jimmy Tomlin
STAFF WRITER

Aliens from other planets are not here to impregnate our women and create a new interplanetary race.

If extraterrestrials exist, UFO researchers say, they probably have something in mind other than a generation of space humanoids named Gorg and Dweebzork. No matter what supermarket tabloids say.

"Presumably they are here on reconnaissance missions," said Steven M. Greer, director of the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence, based in Asheville. He cited the high number of reported UFO sightings near military bases and nuclear power plants as the basis of

his theory.

Greer, a doctor specializing in emergency medicine, has researched and investigated the UFO phenomenon since 1973, when he claims to have had his own close encounter with an extraterrestrial craft.

"These particular beings appear to be extremely concerned about the capacity for nuclear war on this earth," Greer said. "I think that's one reason we're being observed so closely."

It's more than mere coincidence, he said, that the number of reported UFO encounters increased dramatically in the late 1940s, right after the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Japan.

In Greer's view, extraterrestrials

want to save our planet, not harm its inhabitants.

"We regard the beings currently observing and interacting on this planet as non-hostile," Greer said. "There's no net hostile intent - the key word being net. We are very convinced of that."

Greer hopes to find out what the aliens might be doing here.

"What we do is analyze what all this means, set a course for future research and decide how to attempt to contact these extraterrestrial crafts and what protocols to use to engage them," Greer said.

Trying to contact and communicate with extraterrestrial beings, he said, is the most important scientific and educational project of the next 1,000 years.

MORNING NEWS, Dallas, TX - April 5, 1991
CR: E. Rager

No cause for alarm - maybe

Officials can't explain sirens, unusual lights

By Todd Copilevitz
and Nita Thurman
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

A cryptic Teletype about a ground fire and "fiery objects" falling from the sky - followed by civil defense sirens apparently sounding on their own - had Dallas officials humming the theme from *The Twilight Zone* on Thursday.

Beginning at 1:47 a.m., the 911 switchboard was flooded with phone calls from residents in the eastern third of the city wanting to know the reason for the sirens.

Authorities wanted to know, too. Computer tapes did not show that anyone had triggered the sirens - or even that they were sounding, said Bobby J. Martinez, assistant director of Dallas' Office of Emergency Preparedness.

But three minutes before the sirens went off, police received a Teletype from the North American Aerospace Defense Command, which monitors the skies for falling objects such as enemy missiles and space debris.

The message - first sent to the Texas Department of Public Safety

in Austin, then relayed to police departments - read:

"Report from national warning center on hot spot or possible ground fire 28 miles north of Longview. Are attempting to locate fire now. At approximately same time national warning center received reports of fiery objects falling from sky east of Oklahoma City. Are investigating a possible correlation of the two sightings. Request any agency receiving similar reports forward information to DPS Austin communications."

Moments later, according to telephone logs, people started calling about the sirens.

"This place was going nuts," said one police communications worker. "They kept expecting Rod Serling to step out from behind the corner," she said, referring to the host of the old *Twilight Zone* television show.

Mr. Martinez said the city's 94 sirens can be turned on only by the watch commander at the police communications center or the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

"Dallas police do not indicate that they sounded the sirens, and we weren't even in the office at that time," he said.

There is no way for a Teletype to trigger the 127-decibel sirens automatically, Mr. Martinez said.

Police and emergency preparedness officials tried to turn the sirens off, but with limited success. The sirens went back on as many as three times before Mr. Martinez's office disabled the city's entire system at 3 a.m.

"It became obvious that the system was not going to reset on its own, so our only choice was to disable it," he said.

NORAD officials said they had issued the Teletype about midnight

Dallas time. Apparently there was a delay in transmission of the message from the DPS in Austin to local police.

Meanwhile, the bright objects mentioned in the NORAD Teletype were reported by residents across North Texas.

Mike Ames, 25, of The Colony said he was jogging in a rural area when he saw a ball of fire streak across the sky from northwest to southeast sometime after 9 p.m.

"I thought it was a satellite coming down," he said. "I thought I was going to get hit by some debris."

A fisherman on Lake Whitney, 35 miles north of Waco, called the National Weather Service in Fort Worth to report that the whole lake lit up and debris fell everywhere, said a weather service spokesman.

"We had three or four calls here from people wondering what the light was," said meteorologist Jesse Moore. "All we can say is it wasn't weather-related."

As for the report of a ground fire in northeast Texas, Upshur County

deputies said a thorough search turned up nothing.

"They couldn't locate anything," said sheriff's Capt. Nancy Betterton. "There just wasn't anything there."

In addition to plenty of mystery, Mr. Martinez said the episode provided one benefit:

"At least we know now that the sirens are loud enough to wake people if necessary."

Staff writer Todd J. Gillman contributed to this report.

GAZETTE, Burke, SD - Feb. 27, 1991

Meteor (?) Or UFO Sighting Over Four States

Several people in this area who were outside at about 6:30 a.m. Monday saw what they thought might be a UFO streak across the sky. Experts from the Space

Administration say it probably was a meteor but local viewers are not convinced about this definition. The sighting was described as a brilliant flash of light that lighted up the sky just like the coming of daylight. This phenomenon caused a number of inquiries from those who witnessed the flashing streak of light.

According to reports, the meteor was seen in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Minnesota. Some people in North Dakota described the object as saucerlike with a yellow light extending from the rear. They also said it did not resemble any meteor they had ever seen.

With the war in the Gulf, it is not hard for people to suspect the worst in an incident like this one.

Illinois aflutter over Unidentified Farm Object

By Wes Smith
Knight-Ridder Tribune News Service

MILAN, Ill. — The otherworldly nightmare began here along Turkey Hollow Creek, on the farm of Ed and Faye Lawson.

In mid-October, Ed was harvesting corn when he found a perfect circle of knocked-down cornstalks in his field.

He mentioned it to a local radio station reporter. And faster than Cher in pursuit of a new romance, word got out that a spaceship may have landed in Rock Island County.

Ever since, strange beings and assorted experts have been crawling all over the Lawson place.

It is the Invasion of the Corn Stompers, and its net result is conflicting theories, startling revelations, suspicions of a hoax — and a media circus that has totally disrupted orderly farm operations.

"Last night, the sheriff had to get a bunch of them out of the field. And they were from Peoria," says Ed, 70.

People call. They call and come. They come without calling. At all hours. In chartered buses, even.

Though skeptical of any extraterrestrials-in-the-corn-patch theories, the Lawsons really don't know what to make of the circle.

"Like one reporter said, we can't prove they are not out there, so until somebody does prove it, we have to assume they might be out there," Ed offers.

Ed discovered it Oct. 16, from the cab of his combine. He got out and inspected the circle.

He decided to call a local radio station and talk to its farm reporter, who quickly put him on tape and on the public airwaves of a

UFO-infatuated world.

And so, as Ed Lawson has since told countless radio, TV, newspaper, magazine and even *Unsolved Mysteries* TV series reporters, as well as college professors, amateur UFO experts and assorted bold trespassers:

"It's a perfect circle with a diameter of 46½ feet no matter how you measure it. Some stalks are broken lower than others, but all are bent in a clockwise direction. Some ears are embedded deep in the ground, so whatever was here was heavy, because the ground is hard."

In the center of the circle is a smaller, bare circle about 1 foot in diameter. Some suspect that a pole was stuck in the ground there and a long chain, or something, was stretched from it and pulled around to flatten the crops in a neat circle.

But assorted experts have dug around without finding any evidence to support that theory, Ed says.

"I examined it, and since there are no human footprints, and neither the wind nor a helicopter could have done it, the only thing you can't rule out is a UFO," says Grant Callison of Galesburg.

Callison, 77, a retired newspaper composing room staffer, is state director of Mutual UFO Network Inc., an international UFO-sighting reporting group.

The man from MUFON said he had never seen such a circle in his 15 years of investigating UFO reports, although he has handled dozens of sightings in central Illinois, as well as having made one personally.

Callison turned in the Milan circle as his fourth possible UFO incident of 1990. "Everybody has a

right to their own opinion," he says, "and I think this could have been a UFO."

In the opinion of meteorologists, who investigated crop circles found in Kansas in September, they are usually caused by either wind or pranksters.

Reports of crop circles were first recorded in England in 1678. More than 300 circles were reported in Europe last year, the largest number ever recorded, according to news reports.

A brouhaha over crop circles found in a wheatfield in Wiltshire, England, last summer ended with the discovery of Ouija boards and wooden crosses in their center. An international team of investigators declared it a hoax.

The circles have been found elsewhere in the world in sand, snow and rice paddies, and variously attributed to whirlwinds, witches, magnetic forces, animals, spaceships — and tricksters, experts say.

After examining the Milan circle, Robert Frank, head of the physics department at Augustana College in Rock Island, holds to the latter theory.

At the Lawsons' request, Frank took Geiger counter readings in the circle just one day after Ed discovered it. Frank says he found no abnormal radiation readings and no evidence of intense heat.

Footprints and other evidence of human activity might have been wiped away by wind and rain, because it is possible, from the condition of the downed crops, that the circle was formed a month before it was discovered, Frank explains.

So, after careful thought and discussion with his fellow professors, Frank offers this scientific

conclusion: "My view is that if this was caused by some kind of space vehicle, then there are lots of questions about how it was done."

"But, if it were a prank, then there are only a few questions about how it was done."

Rock Island County Sheriff Mike Grchan, whose detectives checked out the circle, says he believes some pranksters heard reports of the crop circles elsewhere in the world and decided to have a little pre-Halloween fun.

Still, Grchan concedes, "It is difficult to compress corn that hard when it is 8 or 9 feet tall, and if it was kids, they usually have to tell someone who tells someone else, and we haven't gotten any feedback like that at all..."

The most intriguing report the Lawsons have received came from Lucinda Puckett of New Boston, about 35 miles to the southwest.

Puckett recounted an incident that happened in late August to her daughter, Tonia, 17, and three teen-age friends — all of them honor students, the mother notes.

The double-daters had been to a Milan movie theater to see *Arachnophobia*.

Tonia spotted a strange light in the sky as they left the parking lot, but didn't mention it "because I didn't want the others to think I was stupid."

But then her date, Dave Zimmerman, 18, ("class valedictorian," her mother noted), spied it too and drove toward it.

"We thought it looked like a street light or a star, then a tower light, then a helicopter hovering. We kept getting close to it, and it didn't move," Tonia says.

The teens rolled down the car windows and shut off the radio, but the object made no sound.

"It was about treetop height and a big geometrical shape, with lights around it in all colors," Tonia says.

When they drove to a spot directly beneath it, the object took off. They then "blew all stop signs" trying to keep up, Tonia adds.

When they speeded up, the object did. When they slowed, it slowed, she says.

At one point, the object disappeared below the horizon and, just when they thought they'd lost it, popped back up.

"It took off again, but when we got to Turkey Hollow Road, it disappeared," Tonia reports.

The Lawsons are intrigued by Puckett's story, and they've had some interesting experiences in the past two weeks, but all in all they say, they'd just as soon get back down to good old Earth.

"I really don't want any more to do with it. I've got work to do," said Ed last week as he headed back to his uncut fields. "My wife told me if I find another one of those circles, I'm supposed to combine right through it and keep on going."

I was held captive by UFOs (no, honestly)

It started out as a typical Saturday. I did some skiing, caught the tail end of the UNLV-Duke game, listened to a group of people recount how they were abducted by aliens, drank a few beers, then went to bed.

I suppose it was the part about the alien abductions that made the day a tad bit different. It's not that I haven't glanced at my share of "ALIENS USED ME AS A MEDICAL GUINEA PIG" headlines in *The National Enquirer*. But last Saturday was the first time I ever attended a conference organized by a bunch of these guinea pigs.

It was a well-organized affair, organized by the UFO Contact Center International - located in Federal Way - and held in the basement of a University District church. By the time I wandered in, one hour after it started, nearly 30 people were there. Seated up front at a long table were the night's five panelists.

Four of them - Delores, Phyllis, Clay and Aileen - had all been kidnapped by beings from other planets and used for all sorts of annoying medical experiments. The fifth guy, Michael, explained that he actually was an alien. He had

deliberately crashed his space ship on Earth years ago to become a "marooned energy form."

The purpose of the conference was to help other people who had also been abducted by extraterrestrials, but hadn't told anyone about it yet. It seems life forms from other universes, galaxies and civilizations have road-tripped to our tiny planet for several millennia.

Aileen, who formed the UFO Contact Center 12 years ago, spoke about how lots of abductees are "implanted" by small tracking devices. The E.T.s supposedly stick these devices up people's nostrils, behind their eyes and at the base of their skulls to help them better monitor day-to-day life on this planet.

Based on information from hundreds of reports, Aileen is able to recognize two different types of aliens:

- The Pleiadians, from the star cluster Pleiades, all reportedly look very Nordic. Whether that means a race of Elkie Sommers and Britt Ekland look-alikes are piloting space ships, I'm not sure. Not surprisingly, many people abducted by Pleiadians claim to have had

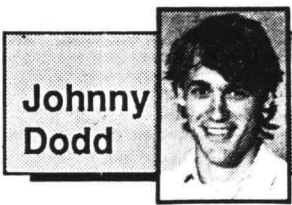
pleasant encounters.

- The Greys, from the planets Zeta Reticuli I and II. These guys are definitely bad news. If these 3- to 4-foot tall, large-headed life forms come knocking, don't answer the door. The Reticulans reportedly live in a universe dedicated to interstellar research and life form analysis. Encounters with these chaps have left many people traumatized. In exchange for technology, our government is supposedly collaborating with the Reticulans, who operate underground bases in New Mexico.

During the intermission, I wandered over to the souvenir table, piled high with UFO books, postcards, pendants and magazines. The books didn't have enough pictures in them, so I started thumbing through some magazines.

In a back issue of the "The Missing Link," published by Aileen's organization, I learned about the uncanny resemblance between alien eyes and the eye-like design on the belt buckle worn by Elvis. It seems The King - along with his mother, Gladys - was abducted by extraterrestrials.

In another issue, I read about Hank, an alien from Tau Ceti.



Actually, I really spent most of my time gawking at a photograph of Hank's corpse, taken after his space craft malfunctioned and crashed. Actually, it wasn't really a snapshot-kind of photograph, but an "artist's enhancement" of a Polaroid taken of Hank following his fatal crash. He looked a lot like Yul Brynner, only his ears were more pointed.

By the time I left the conference, I had a queasy-sort of feeling in the pit of my stomach. Three things were bothering me. First off, either I had to dismiss Aileen, Delores, Phyllis, Clay and Michael as lunatics - which isn't very polite, nor did it seem accurate. Or I had to acknowledge that maybe, just maybe, they were telling the truth.

And if they were, how can I get the telephone numbers for some of those Pleiadian babes?

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - April 7, 1991

UFO experts land at Eureka Springs

EUREKA SPRINGS (AP) — Abductions by aliens are not on the agenda for a lot of conventions, but they concern delegates at the third annual Ozark UFO Conference.

About 400 UFO experts from across the country are expected to attend this weekend. Some of the topics on the agenda are animal mutilations, crop circles and abductions by aliens.

"The majority of people we get at the conference have done some reading into the subject, and many are very well-versed... but we do get a few others who come out to see what kind of nuts we are," said the conference's co-chairman, Lucius Farish.

"It may be something exotic or fantastic to the general public, but to us, it's a very interesting and exciting field of science," said his fellow co-chairman, Edward Mazur.

Mazur said the Eureka Springs meeting is one of the three or four major UFO conferences nationwide.

HERALD, Grand Forks, ND - March 26, 1991 CR: J. Salter

UFO 'friendly encounter' beaming to TV

Salters' '88 extraterrestrial visit picked by CBS for re-enactment on pilot of series

By Steve Schmidt
Herald Staff Writer

In a proposed series pilot shot for CBS Television, a California film company will re-create a UFO encounter reported by UND professor John Salter and his son in March 1988.

Salter, who chairs the Indian studies department at UND and teaches a popular UFO

class, said he and his son, John Salter III, were interviewed on campus last month for the program.

The producer, Sharron Gayle of Victor and Glais Productions in Venice, Calif., said Monday the show is called "UFO Abductions" and will be ready for delivery to CBS by the end of April.

Gayle said CBS has bought the hour-long

film and she's certain it will be aired on national television later this year, even if the show doesn't pan out as a series.

She said interviews with the Salters will be accompanied by an actors' re-enactment of their reported visit with extraterrestrial beings in a spaceship.

The Salters were driving across southwestern Wisconsin and near Peoria, Ill., when, they later recalled, they met a group of extraterres-

trial visitors and their flying saucer-like craft

Gayle, who said she has done research in parapsychology for 20 years, said the show also will feature two other UFO encounters, one in Arizona, another in Manchester, England.

Professor Salter says he's observed 21 healthy changes in his body since the 1988 incident. If it was an abduction, as the film suggests, Salter is sure it was "a very friendly" one.

Observers Insist Heavenly Object Was No Meteorite

By SHAWNE K. WICKHAM
Sunday News Staff

"I've looked out that window every day for 30 years and I've never seen anything like that before," declared 90-year-old Minous Cannon of Webster.

Cannon does not know just what it was he saw out his kitchen window overlooking Mount Kearsarge on the morning of March 6, 6½ hours after a meteor streaked across northeastern skies, prompting numerous reports of UFOs. He just knows he saw something the likes of which he'd never before witnessed.

It's the same for a 36-year-old Strafford housewife and mother who was awakened at 2:35 a.m. — she looked at her digital clock — on March 6 by the frantic barking of her golden Labrador retriever. As she jumped up in bed, with her husband fumbling for his eyeglasses next to her, she saw what seemed to be a missile-shaped object slide by her bedroom window, the one that overlooks Parker Mountain.

She ran to another window in time to see the greenish object with a fanned tail pass along the edge of her field, below the tree line, and then disappear.

And now, more than three weeks later, she still wonders just what it was that she saw.

The strangest thing about it, she recalled, was the way her dog was acting, before and after. "He ran up and jumped in bed with us, and wouldn't leave. He never does that," she said. "It was like he was scared."

And his barking was not the same kind of alert he sets up when someone pulls into their

driveway. "He was really carrying on," she said.

It may have been light from the full moon reflecting off the approximately 35-foot-long moving object that gave it its strange greenish color, she said. But one thing that puzzles her is how the object appeared at the same time to be moving very fast while somehow staying in her line of vision for long seconds.

And even after reports the next day that the object many people saw was a meteor, she wasn't convinced. "I thought meteors fall from the sky. I've never seen one do that, go straight across and then disappear," she said.

Minous Cannon will tell you it was probably a meteorite that hit the side of the mountain that morning, but you get the feeling he's being cagey, this clear-eyed, retired physical education teacher who at 90 still does his own taxes.

He was in his back room about 9:40 a.m. on March 6, and his housekeeper was cleaning up in the kitchen when she called out to him to look outside. "I've never seen anything like it in the 30 years I've been here," he recalled. "It looked like almost a silver streak coming right straight down the mountain."

The mountain is about 10 miles from where Cannon was standing at his window, but the light he saw was astonishingly wide. Where the mountain dips into a valley, he saw the light veer a bit to the left and then hit. "It seemed to come down and turned off just as it got to the bottom of the hill," he said.

Then, "We thought we could see smoke and I looked through the field glasses and it looked like a cloud of smoke there," he said.

He called his neighbor, the Rev. Mary Caldwell, minister at the First Congregational Church of Webster, to come take a look, and then called the police. "We wanted to have someone verify we saw something," he said. "They'll tell us we're crazy," he told his housekeeper, who has shunned any publicity about the incident.

Rev. Caldwell said she didn't see the light that Cannon saw, but through her binoculars she did see "a silvery object on the side of the hill."

"It looked human made, it didn't look anything extra-terrestrial," she said. "My theory is it's probably space junk, I think it probably burned up almost

totally on the way down, buried itself in the mountain, and that was it."

Webster Police Chief Amie Roy responded to Cannon's report that day; he looked through binoculars and saw "a small drifting cloud of smoke."

He also talked to several people who reported seeing "what appeared to be flames with smoke coming from it."

He called for an air search, and both an airplane and helicopter flew over the mountain. They found nothing except a logging operation on the mountain; the official explanation for the smoke is that someone had started the diesel engine on a logging "skidder," used to drag logs down a hill.

Chief Roy doesn't buy that explanation. "From where we were standing, it must have been 8 or 9 miles away. If you can spot a diesel skidder from that distance, you've got to have eyes better than a hawk," he said.

"I really have tried to hope that it was what they said it was, but someday maybe we'll get a group of guys on off-road vehicles and go in and see what we can see," he said.

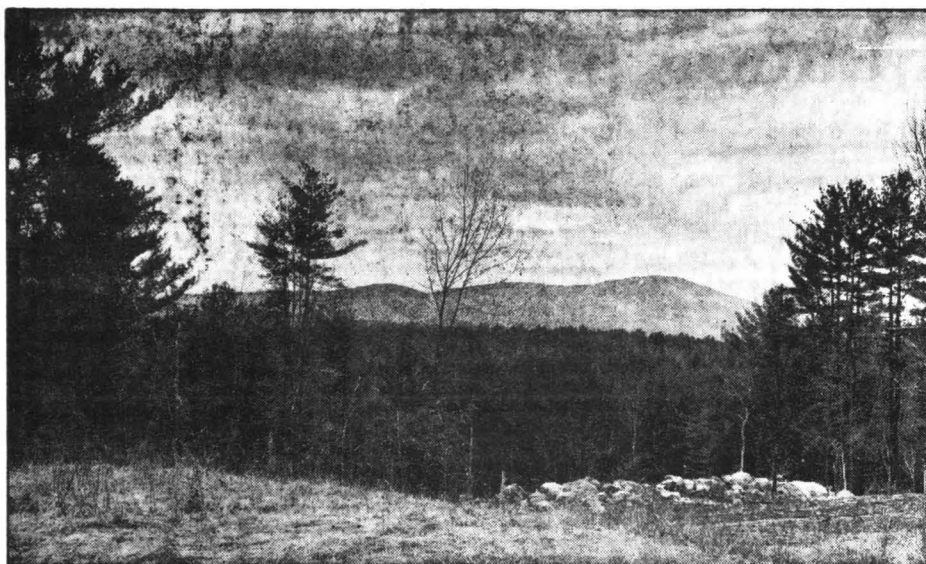
Walter Webb, director of planetarium operations at Hayden Planetarium at the Boston Museum of Science, thinks the Strafford woman saw the huge fireball that people witnessed from West Virginia to Maine just before 3 a.m. on March 6. He said he got numerous calls from people, including several from New Hampshire, who described the meteor as missile shaped, and as being lower and closer than it really was.

That's pretty common with this type of "illusory transitory phenomenon," he said, which can cause the brain to perceive things differently than the eyes actually see them.

Webb doesn't know what Minous Cannon saw on Mount Kearsarge later that morning, but surmised it may have been a meteorite that entered the atmosphere after the large fireball that had alarmed so many people that night. "It's possible the earth passed through a belt of asteroids," he said.

For others, these sightings, and many more like them, seem to be part of a deeper mystery that has intrigued mankind for all its history: UFOs.

John H. Reynolds of Dover, a former Lyman police chief, has devoted 30 years to investigating and studying UFO phenom-



SHAWNE K. WICKHAM/SUNDAY NEWS
STRANGER THAN FICTION — A silver streak of light fell off Mount Kearsarge on the morning of March 6, according to witnesses, and while scientists say it probably was a meteorite, UFO experts think it may not have been of this world.

"Before you can have new concepts and new beliefs, you've got to raise doubts about our existing paradigms, right? Where better to do this than in the toughest bunch in the whole United States?"

—John H. Reynolds
Former Lyman police chief



na. According to him, the events in Strafford and Webster, coming before and after the meteor passed through the sky, may represent a glimpse into something he calls an interdimensional "alternate reality."

No little green men here. Reynolds, a congenial 61-year-old father and grandfather, is a student of quantum physics, metaphysics, consciousness theory and paranormal phenomenon. He has investigated hundreds of reports of UFO sightings, most in New Hampshire, and he believes when people explain away UFOs, either by logic or as visiting extra-terrestrials, they are missing the deeper meaning.

Reynolds likens it to a billboard, edged with flashing lights to call our attention to it. When we focus on saucer-shaped objects and lights in the sky, he said, we're only seeing the flashing lights, not the billboard, paying attention to the messenger, not the message.

So what is the message? "You can't answer that question," he

said. "Anybody who does is being presumptuous."

Why are there so many UFO sightings in New Hampshire? Reynolds believes they occur to what he calls "nuts and bolts type of people" — like the Strafford mother and Minous Cannon — for a reason.

"Before you can have new concepts and new beliefs, you've got to raise doubts about our existing paradigms, right? Where better to do this than in the toughest bunch in the whole United States?" he asked. "If you can persuade them, you can persuade anybody."

Also interested in Minous Cannon's report is the national Mutual UFO Network. Peter Geremia of Rye, the state director for MUFON, led an expedition up the side of Mount Kearsarge a week after the incident, but found nothing.

He plans to go back to the mountain and search a different area, where several witnesses reported seeing a thin plume of black smoke rise into the air

right around the same time Cannon saw the flash of light and smoke.

Cheryl A. Powell of Derry, an investigator for MUFON, interviewed Minous Cannon about what he saw; she finds it hard to accept that it was a meteorite. "I think that it's extraordinary what he saw. It's the stuff that science fiction's made of, but a lot of times science fiction turns out to be true," she said.

Powell said the western part of the state is renowned for UFO sightings; she herself saw some type of object hover overhead last year in the town of Bosscawen.

And Rev. Caldwell said she's heard about a lot of UFO reports in her area, objects coming up behind cars on I-89, and "weird blinking patterns in the sky."

What she saw on Mount Kearsarge doesn't fit the pattern of other incidents, so she believes it was likely some kind of meteorite hitting the mountain. But she doesn't discount UFOs entirely, and her words echo the other-worldliness that Reynolds talks about.

"I think God could have made a lot more worlds than ours," she said. "I don't think there's any reason why the creating being would stop at one. It seems more probable that there's more than we know, there's no reason to doubt it."

And Powell said she's learned to remain open to any and all possibilities. "If you don't, you're in for big surprises and big shocks," she said. "It's much better to be a little open-minded and say I can accept that."

"After all," she said, "what if it's true?"

PLACER HERALD, Rocklin, CA - April 2, 1991 CR: E. Storm

UFO sighting still a mystery

By Xavier Briand
Gold Country News Service

The Placer County Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol and several fire departments spent part of Friday evening in a fruitless search for an unidentified flying object.

The UFO incident began shortly before 8 p.m., when the sheriff's department said it received two calls. One caller reported seeing a meteorite. The second caller said a plane might have crashed.

Both callers reported seeing the object above unincorporated Placer County near Highway 65 and Sunset Boulevard, according to Sgt. Jeff Jensen. Three deputies drove through the area for about a half hour and saw nothing unusual, he said.

A spokesman for the California Department of Forestry said firefighters were sent to the area following reports of bright lights to the southwest about a mile from Athens Avenue.

The California Highway Patrol in Sacramento sent up its heli-

copter after it received a couple of calls, said CHP Officer Dick Fridley. The crew found nothing.

Fridley said one caller described the UFO as a greenish-blue object with a trailing tail on it. "It sounds spectacular," Fridley said. "I'm sorry I missed it."

Fridley and Jensen said they have heard reports that the UFO was a malfunctioning missile originating from Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc.

CBS will televise Salter's UFO experience

by Jerilyn Kovalenko
Staff Writer

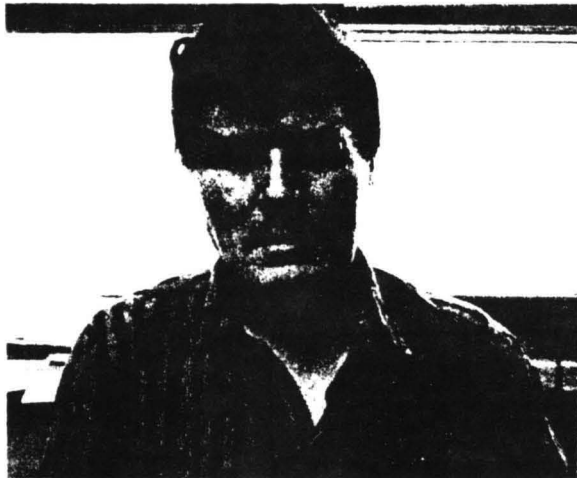
UND professor John Salter Sr. will be making a network television appearance along with his son, John Salter Jr. in an upcoming production about his UFO experience three years ago.

CBS will be airing an hour long special featuring three UFO abductions, including Salter's, in early May. The show will include interviews with the Salters and a reenactment of the experience by television actors.

Salter, UND's Indian Studies Chair, is in the North Dakota Mutual UFO Network and is a member of the Canadian UFO Research Network. He taught last fall's course "UFOs, ETs and Close Encounters" to 151 students for the first time at UND and plans to teach the course again in the fall of 1991. He has gained local and national attention with the account of his abduction.

Gina Minervini, associate producer for Abduction Productions, the production company hired by CBS to film the special, said filming in Grand Forks took place for two days in early February.

"It [the production] is three different stories, and John's is one of



CBS will air a dramatization of the UFO experience UND professor John Salter claims he had.

them," Minervini said. "It's a recreation of their story as they told it. The special is just to introduce you to these people, and they tell you their story. It is not to say that it happened or didn't happen."

Minervini said the interviews with the Salters will be intercut with the actors acting out the

story, however the scenes haven't been filmed yet.

Salter said he is very pleased with the integrity and sincerity of the production company, and feels sure that the company will do a good job. "They are certainly committed to the very friendly feeling that my son and I have in all this."

"It's (the special) a recreation of their story as they told it ... It is not to say that it happened or didn't happen."

— Gina Minervini, associate producer, Abduction Productions

Martin Bane, the actor playing Salter, has spent a lot of time watching the video of the interviews, he said, and has a wealth of information to rely on. "He's considered an excellent character actor and is said to look a lot like me," said Salter.

"They have also retained the best special effects firm in Hollywood to make the masks depicting the aliens," he said.

Since February, "They have called me a number of times with questions about fine details. It is clear that they are doing a commendably meticulous job and they've even questioned me extensively about my pickup's appearance," Salter said he and his son were traveling in a pickup in southwestern Wisconsin on the evening of March 20, 1988, when they were stopped by friendly UFO humanoid and experienced some missing time.

Minervini, who is an actress as

well as a producer, said that the company has total control over the production of the special with the network having the final say. "We can fight for what's right as far as the quality of the show."

The Salter's descriptions of their abduction were "down to the hour and the minute" and they were sincere and cooperative to work with, she said, and she believes that people will have a tough time not believing all of the stories.

"Surprisingly enough ... they all truly believe what has happened. Each person is sincere in their story. No one comes across like they're making this up."

Minervini said Salter sent her an Indian Sun piece "to help keep me on the right side of the track" with the production. Salter said it is "a round intricately beaded piece with the sun in the center. The presumption is that this will bring her light and warmth."

Are we alone in the universe?

UFO researcher says agencies not telling truth

By TRUDY STEWART
of the Journal

Dubbed the Cosmic Watergate, it's a cover-up that spans four decades, says Robert Hastings. And it involves government officials from air-traffic control towers to the White House.

"The public has not only a right, but a need to know the facts," Hastings said Tuesday during a 90-minute slide presentation and lecture, "UFOs: the Hidden History," at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"To some this may seem like an elaborate practical joke or paranoid delusions," Hastings said, "but I assure you it is not."

According to Hastings, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) initiated a policy of secrecy when it became involved with the investigations of sightings in the 1950s. The CIA policy includes a public information campaign to "debunk" sighting reports and convince people that they can be explained as natural phenomena or misidentification.

The policy was originated, he said, to "minimize public concern and possible panic."

But behind the scenes — "out of view" — it's a different story, Hastings said. "They not only accept the existence of these objects... high ranking officials are soberly concerned."

"It's not an exaggeration to say that the difference between the public stance and that behind the scenes, is as the difference between night and day," he said. "Clearly the government's interest in UFOs goes further and higher than the public has been led to believe."

Hastings supported his contentions with some copies of the more than 8,000 military and intelligence agency documents released through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

"These documents indicate beyond a reasonable doubt that so-called flying saucers exist," said Hastings, an electron microscopist in Albuquerque, N.M., who witnessed a sighting which was followed on Air Force radar when he was 16 years old.



(Journal photo by Tom Kulewski)

ROBERT HASTINGS, a UFO researcher, told an audience of about 150 people Tuesday at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point that the time has come to end a 40-year cover-up about UFOs carried on by the U.S. government.

The documents were obtained through lawsuits by organizations and people such as William Spaulding, director of Ground Saucer Watch, a UFO research group.

Hastings quoted Spaulding as saying, "The government has been totally untruthful and the cover-up is massive."

In most references in the documents to the secrecy policy, he said, the view is that if the government acknowledged the existence of flying saucers, then a panic would result such as that following the 1939 radio broadcast by Orson Welles of "The War of the Worlds."

However, in the 1990s, this view of the reaction is no longer supportable, Hastings said. A recent Gallop poll shows that 57 percent of American adults believe that UFOs exist. They do not believe the sightings are of "marsh gas," solar reflections on low-hanging clouds, small meteors breaking up or "flattened hailstones." Nor do these adults believe that the mass sightings reported in metropolitan areas such as Washington, D.C., and New York City are due to mass hysteria.

The first wave of documented sightings occurred in 1947, Hastings said. Movies and television shows have fictionalized that event. But, according

to a Federal Bureau of Investigation memo sent to then-director, J. Edgar Hoover, "three so-called flying saucers had been discovered in New Mexico... each one occupied by three bodies of human shape but only three feet tall."

There is no way to document this report with the information currently available, Hastings said, "but I believe the incident occurred."

Since 1947, there have been documented sightings from throughout the world. A jet pilot in Iran in the 1960s reported having what amounted to an aerial "dogfight" with a UFO that flew off at a speed estimated at more than 5,000 mph, Hastings said. A deputy sheriff in Montana reported being abducted and made to undergo medical examinations aboard a UFO.

Not all countries have instituted secrecy policies like the U.S. government, Hastings said. France and China both have held investigations and public hearings about reported sightings.

Nor do all countries make "laughing-stocks" of the people who report sighting UFOs. Many Americans are reluctant to report sightings because they fear being labeled "crackpots" or worse, however thousands of sightings are still reported yearly, he said, "by people of all ages and backgrounds."

It's time for the CIA and other government agencies to stop deceiving the public about its knowledge of the UFO phenomena, Hastings said. There may be a time coming in the near future when it will have no choice.

"They are simply postponing the inevitable," he said.

Another reason the government may be classifying reports is that many of the sightings are concentrated around military bases and installations, nuclear research laboratories and atomic energy facilities, he said.

"I sincerely believe the public will be better able to accept the future if, in the interim, they are given the fact that the government accepts UFOs as a reality and deals with it in a serious way," Hastings said.

"Whether or not the deception was justified is open to debate," he added. "No one has all the answers. I sure don't. But I guarantee you that what you've seen tonight is closer to the truth than what your government has told you."

Several local residents report UFO sightings

By ANTHONY PADOVANO
Derry News Staff

LONDONDERRY — It might not be War of the Worlds. And it might not be Invasion of the Body Snatchers.

But for those who have seen UFOs, it certainly might seem like the Twilight Zone.

With glaring lights and lightning speed, UFOs swept down on the local area Thursday evening, Jan. 10, and early Jan. 11. At least three separate sightings of unusual objects in the

sky were reported to the Derry News. In addition, several anonymous callers told of their experiences on the Derry News Hotline.

One sighting occurred at about 3:30 a.m. Friday.

Joni O'Blenes had fallen asleep on her couch earlier that evening. At about 3:30 a.m., the nurse woke her from her sleep and happened to look out her window. She noticed a bright white light over one of her neighbor's houses.

"It was bright and hovering

at about tree top level. Then it got larger and brighter as it moved over my neighbor's house and moved towards mine. I went out on my deck to get a better look," she said.

In her mind, it was definitely not a plane or helicopter. She has lived within 10 minutes of Manchester Airport for the past seven years and knows the look and sound of just about anything that moves through the air, she said.

A neighbor of hers said it might have been an Apache he-

licopter on a military training mission, but a controller at the Manchester Airport flight tower said no military exercises have taken place in the area in the recent past.

She said people react a little skeptically when she tells of the experience, but she said it wasn't anything she had seen before.

"It was a flying saucer," she said.

O'Blenes was not alone in her sighting.

Earlier that night, at about 9:30 p.m., 12-year-old Michelle Grenier was laying in her home on Warner Hill Road in East Derry. Her sighting was more dramatic.

"I was just laying there and I just looked out the window at what I thought was a star," she said. "I could see it in the moonlight and it was oval and it didn't look like a plane. It came in slow and then it came in real fast."

She said the object was flat and oval with a white light on the top of it. There were two green lights on either edge of the disc as well as red and blue lights.

She said the object came rather close to her house and looked to be slightly bigger than a car.

Still, earlier than that, at about 8:30 p.m., one area resi-

dent saw a strange configuration of lights flying at an inordinately slow speed near Londonderry High School.

"That was really strange," said a man who declined to identify himself. "It was a weird configuration of six small lights — three green, two red and one white. At first I thought it was a plane pulling into Manchester airport, but the configuration of the lights was all wrong."

"I stood there for about three minutes staring at the thing, trying to see through what I thought was an optical illusion with the lights. Then I realized I couldn't and hadn't heard any noise from an engine."

"I'm not saying it was a UFO, but I don't believe it was a plane or helicopter. It was flying too slow, too quiet and too flat to have been a plane, I think," he said.

Londonderry resident Cheryl Powell of the Mutual UFO Network said New Hampshire has become a "hotspot" for UFO sightings in the last two years. She said the network will look into the most recent sightings.

Of all reported UFO sightings, only about 20 percent remain unidentified. Most objects are later identified as planes, helicopters, balloons or other devices, said Powell.

Powell can be reached at 437-4661.

says he is convinced the government is operating "Project Redlight." According to Schultz, this is a secret facility at the perimeter of Papoose Lake, just south of the dry Groom Lake bed where he says testing is done to duplicate the technology of UFOs.

He says the government patrols the area in unmarked Bronco trucks, but on the last trip the only visible law-enforcement officials were Nevada Highway Patrol troopers and Lincoln County sheriff's deputies who chatted with group members and advised them not to park on the road.

"People are welcome to come to Lincoln County as long as nobody breaks the law," says Undersheriff Gary Davis, who says he has never seen any UFOs in his eight years with the department. He and other deputies say they don't mind if people come out to look.

Schultz, a chemical physicist with his own business in Los Angeles, first became a believer in UFOs about a year ago after he and his wife reportedly saw six flying saucers here.

"We were totally mystified and awed," Schultz, 45, said. "My summary was: 'This is outrageous. There's nobody up here. There should be hundreds and thousands of people up here watching flying saucers.'"

Since then, Schultz has encouraged others to make the trek, most often on Wednesdays because that is supposedly the heaviest day for saucer testing, he says.

Air Force officials will not offer explanations for Schultz's UFO sightings near Area 51, a 38,400-acre section of the Nellis Air Force Base bombing and gunnery range. It has been used for years for the development of sophisticated aircraft and was first withdrawn from public use more than 25 years ago by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and is now under the jurisdiction of the Air Force. Since the 1980s, the Air Force has had jurisdiction over the Groom Mountains as well, contending the range offered visibility of Area 51 below.

Recently, Schultz began organizing trips to a spot in the Antelope Valley, where he claims there is another secret saucer base. But the bulk of his trips have been to the Nevada site.

Last month's trip yielded mixed results with some people claiming they saw UFOs. But even the UFO crowd has its skeptics.

"Those could be headlights," said a man who asked to remain anonymous because he thought watching UFOs might hurt his career.

"Headlights don't bounce up and down and there's no road over there," Morton retorted.

The man looked puzzled.

Some of the regulars on this trip were convinced no saucer flights had occurred.

"Several people thought they saw things but I'm sure that they didn't," said Anthony Hilder, a radio talk show host from Anchorage, Alaska, who is researching what he says is a government cover-up of the saucer operation.

"As far as I'm concerned, no flights took place because of inclement weather and wind," said Norio F. Hayakawa, a Los Angeles funeral director who has made five trips to the area. Hayakawa claims the patterns of aircraft he has seen in the area—sudden acceleration, deceleration, zigzagging motions and 90-degree turns—indicate advanced technology with control over gravity.

But, calling himself a "doubting Thomas," he said he does not believe that visitors from other

planets are involved.

Robert Lazar and others, though, say extraterrestrial technology is involved. Lazar is a Las Vegas scientist who claims to have worked on the power sources and propulsion systems of extraterrestrial crafts at S-4.

It was Lazar's claims on a 1989 award-winning Las Vegas television documentary that first drew attention to the area.

Many have tried to discredit Lazar, who is on probation in Clark County, Nev. on a pandering charge. His educational and professional background cannot be verified—a fact he attributes to government deletion of records.

But George Knapp, the KLAS-TV reporter responsible for the initial television coverage, said he is convinced Lazar's claims are true.

During the evening, watchers shared information about UFO sightings and theories—their own and those of others. They peered at photographs of strange lights and sketches of aliens. And then they went back to the business of seeing things for themselves.

UFOs have been a lifelong interest for many of the watchers. But even they acknowledge that non-believing family and friends may think they are a little nutty. Several asked to remain anonymous because not everyone on Earth understands their extraterrestrial passion.

One man said he was fired from his job as an airline pilot because he was quoted in a newspaper article saying that he believed in UFOs.

Morton's dreams of extraterrestrial crafts began as a child living in a Texas community near the home of "Mission Control," where his father handled public relations for NASA. At the dinner table, he said, he listened to astronauts discuss the UFOs they had to keep silent about in public.

Morton, Slack and other UFO enthusiasts make a hobby of collecting audiotapes, videotapes, pictures and articles.

Bundled in parkas, hats and gloves, many observers huddled in cars with fogged-up windows and

saw no saucers.

But Morton, director of an upcoming TV documentary on UFOs, and Slack, a "Hooked on Phonics" salesman, drove about 6 miles from the mailbox landmark into the desert and trudged through scrub brush and cow dung to find the best vantage point.

Thick, dark clouds obscured the moon and pounding rain turned the parched desert sand into goopy mud as the pair stared skyward.

Morton and Slack say they saw more than a dozen saucers—their first sighting a trio of glowing, blinking crafts that erratically hovered, zipped and swooped above the horizon.

For Morton, the sighting was a dream come true.

Last summer, he spent three months traveling around the United States and Europe, compiling more than 500 hours of interviews with scientists, UFO researchers and those who claim to have been abducted or contacted by aliens.

"If somebody had a dog that had barked at a UFO, we talked to them," Morton says.

Whether or not the lights in the sky are saucers, they have been something of a boon for Rachel, a town that's not much more than a gas station, a few mobile homes and a diner.

When Joe Travis and his wife, Pat, took over Rachel's Bar and Grill in 1988, business was pretty slow. Eight or nine previous owners had gone belly up and often the only customers were a couple of cowboys downing brews at the bar. Joe Travis said.

But last year, the Traveses changed the name of their diner to the "Little A'Le'Inn" and had T-shirts, hats and pens printed with pictures of saucers and extraterrestrials for the tour buses and caravans of the curious that now roll into Rachel.

"I think you have to keep an open mind," Joe Travis says. "I think you'd have to be pretty naive to think that our planet is the only one in the universe that supports life as we know it."



JIM LAURIE / For The Times

Trevor Harvey of Los Angeles raises a sign near entry to Area 51, a top-secret military testing site in Nevada that draws UFO believers.

Believers Are Not Alone

■ **Outer space:** A Nevada military base lures the faithful seeking close encounters of any kind with the UFOs they believe frequent the area.

By SHANNON SANDS
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

TIKABOO VALLEY, Nev.—While gamblers in warm, dry Las Vegas casinos plunk coins into slot machines, two men stand vigil in the icy rain about 120 miles to the north, scanning the sky.

Jackpot.

"Look at that!" yells Sean David Morton, pointing to a tiny, distant light. "It's bobbing up and down, making figure eights and weaving motions. It's zipping through the sky at an amazing speed."

Sean David Morton has spotted an extraterrestrial craft. Yup, a flying saucer, he says.

Late last month, Morton and his friend, Jeff Slack, joined about 40 other Los Angeles-area people from all walks of life. They drove here to a valley near a top-secret military testing site known as "Area 51" or "Dreamland" in search of unidentified flying objects.

For the last two years, spectators, skeptics and believers have flocked to this remote spot near Nevada 375, between the tiny towns of Rachel and Alamo hoping to see flying saucers.

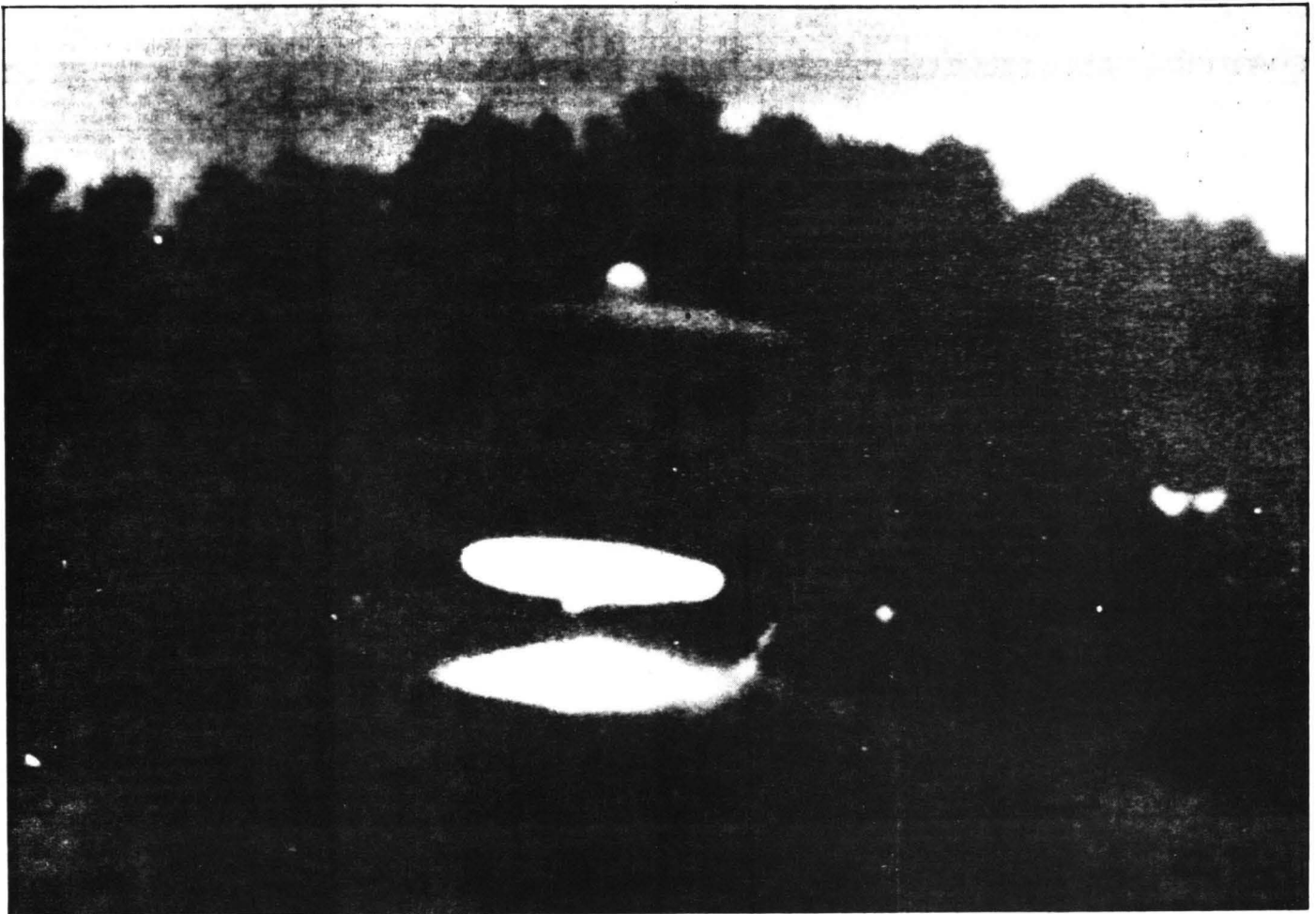
Morton, a 30-year-old screenwriter from Hermosa Beach, jokingly refers to the group as the "Johnny Quest Adventure Club."

Visitors to this area near the Nevada Test Site park their cars by the side of the road, plop lawn chairs near a lone mailbox that serves as a landmark, and stare up at lights popping over distant hills and traveling through the sky.

Many say the lights are coming from Area 51 or from an adjacent even more secret, military facility known as S-4. Air Force officials will not comment on current operations in the area, other than to say the land is used for training.

But Gary Schultz, founder of Los Angeles-area Secret Saucer Base Expeditions—a loosely knit group of people who document saucer sightings—

ACCENT



Edward Walters of Gulf Breeze, Fla., took photo through a car windshield of what appears to be a UFO shining a light downward as it hovers above a road.

Encounters: Odd visitors on your block?

By Andrew Petkofsky
News Leader staff writer

Someone in your neighborhood's been aboard a UFO. Would you believe that one in 40 Americans — a large enough number to include people from most neighborhoods — has been a "guest" in a space vehicle filled with aliens from distant worlds?

Donald M. Ware believes it. He's been investigating UFOs since retiring from the U.S. Air Force in 1983, and he says there's credible evidence that millions of Americans have experienced a little alien hospitality — "whether they know it or not."

Ware, the Eastern Regional Director of the Mutual UFO Network, an international organization dedicated to the scientific study of UFO phenomena, will offer some of that evidence tonight in a lecture titled "UFOs and Human-Alien Interaction."

Ware, 55, a retired lieutenant colonel, pilot and scientist who lives in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., attracted an overflow crowd when he gave a wide-ranging overview of UFOs here last March. In this lecture, he plans to focus on his belief that the presence of alien beings among us is part of a "larger reality" that also manifests itself through religion.

He speculates that insights about that reality may be a factor holding back U.S. government officials from telling the public what they know about UFOs. Ware, along with many UFO buffs, believes the government knows plenty. But he says the government may be fearful about involvement in something that could have religious implications.

"If you told what they (UFOs) are all about," he said, "it might start a new religion."

Although his ideas may strike some as extra-terrestrial, Ware is completely down to earth. His passion, aside from UFOs, is birdwatching. He's treasurer of



Lindy Keast Rodman/The Richmond News Leader

Donald M. Ware believes that one in 40 people have had an experience with a UFO.

his local Audubon Society chapter. In a telephone interview last week, he made it clear that skeptical reaction to what he says doesn't surprise him at all.

"I'm not trying to convince anybody of anything," he said. "I do feel that since I

have been fortunate enough to have a considerable amount of time to look into these weird things, I should, when asked, tell people what I have learned."

Ware's interest in things other-worldly began when he was a teen-ager living in Northern Virginia. On a summer night in 1952, he and many other people in the vicinity watched seven strange lights moving erratically through the sky.

He went on to graduate with a degree in mechanical engineering from Duke University in Durham, N.C. Then he served 26 years in the Air Force, flying F-100s and F-105s before earning a master's degree in nuclear engineering and moving into research and teaching.

When he retired at age 47, Ware began devoting himself to birding and the study of UFOs. He has served as a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network, run a program to train investigators in Florida and developed some speculative ideas about UFOs that, he admits, go somewhat beyond the strict scientific studies endorsed by his organization.

Some of his conjecture concerns the first UFOs he saw as a teen-ager. The UFOs appeared on two consecutive Saturday nights, and received lots of publicity, he said. Ware now believes that getting the publicity was intended. He figures the alien beings visiting our planet staged the show as part of a years-long program to get Earthlings used to the idea that extra-terrestrial life — and lots more outside the scope of what we know as reality — exists.

Cooperating in the educational program, according to Ware, is the federal government. He believes, based on the reports of two people who claim to be former government intelligence agents, that government officials have been in communication with aliens, that U.S. pilots have gone for rides behind the controls of UFOs and that the government even has some alien bodies in storage. The former agents, whom Ware

hasn't met, say that one in 40 Americans has been aboard a UFO.

Ware says that many science-fiction entertainments, such as the "Star Wars" movies and the "Alien Nation" television series, are at some level enlisted in the campaign to get us ready to accept the larger reality that involves aliens.

The government is working on this education program "covertly," Ware said, "because at this time, nobody in the government is willing to face the media on the issues."

He said it appears that aliens visiting Earth are generally friendly, although Earthlings' visits to UFOs often arouse the same uncomfortable feelings as visits to the doctor.

"You have to realize we're dealing with more than one group," he said. "There are a number of different kinds of beings that are interacting with us."

The idea that life is restricted to one or two planets — or to a form that resembles Earth life — is something Ware rejects.

"Life is abundant throughout the universe in various forms other than the form that we recognize," he said. "A lot of it we might look at as being in spirit form, but (it) is considered life by a higher intelligence."

Understanding the reality that encompasses these life forms requires a belief in reincarnation and "various telepathic processes," according to Ware.

He said he's been a serious student of that reality since the beginning of 1989.

"I know quite a bit," Ware said, "but you're going to have to come to the lecture to hear what I have to say."

Donald M. Ware will speak about "UFOs and Human-Alien Interaction" and show a videotape about UFOs at 7 p.m. at the Howard Johnson Midtown Hotel, 3207 N. Boulevard. The presentation is sponsored by Richmond's Metaphysical Research Group. Cost: \$5.

Could fault lines be connected to UFO sightings?

(Editor's note: Following is the second of a two-part series about dimensionalism.)
By Mark Wallace
Staff Writer

According to a Gallup Poll, about 60 percent of the population believes UFOs are real; about 40 percent are skeptics; and around 10 percent are indifferent.

Of the believers, most think UFOs come from other galaxies or solar systems.

An Indian Trail man, who lost a previous job by telling his stories of UFO encounters, believes the entities come from earth — just a different dimension of earth. We'll call him Robert to protect his identity.

Robert said UFOs are often seen to change shape, lose solidity or mass and sometimes suddenly vanish; all characteristics correlating to dimensionalism.

"What dimensionalism means, no one fully understands. There are some different theories," he said.

The body is composed of atoms moving at a certain vibratory rate. Robert said in quantum physics, the vibrating atoms create energy, and energy and matter are basically interchangeable.

"In other words, we're more or less solidified energy," he said. "We appear solid in this dimension, but we're solid only because the atoms are vibrating at a certain rate. There is a lot of empty space there."

Robert said dimensionalists believe alien entities come from higher energy levels, and they can modify their vibratory rate to move up and down through the various energy levels.

"The idea is that you got different worlds coexisting with us, but all co-existing at different vibratory rates," said Robert. He used the analogy of radio waves.

"You've got different radio waves coexisting. And the way you tune in, you've got a radio, and you can turn your dial, and you can tune in and pick up one radio station just by turning it. You go to a different radio frequency, then you can pick up another," he said. "The dimensions theory is you've got complete worlds. So you got maybe entities walking around us, but they're just not in our world. They may have structures and all that in their world, but you're dealing with an energy level probably faster."

While in this dimension, time only goes forward, Robert said in the six higher dimension levels, it is believed there is no time.

"This is hard for us to comprehend," he said. "It's like apparently, they have a certain sense of the future and the past. In other words, it's like they can move back and forth, whereas we're locked into moving on a certain course."

In order for the entities to modify their vibratory rate and travel inter-dimensionally, Robert believes they use energy sources, such as those naturally occurring at fault lines from seismic movements. Those seismic movements, however slight, create electric fields from stresses on crystalline rock, according to seismologists. Power stations and transmission lines produce similar energy.

Robert lives right next to the Gold Hill fault line in Indian Trail and has had 13 encounters. He had his first encounter late January 1978 when he was turning into his subdivision.

He saw a white light approaching low in the sky that suddenly changed to a golden-yellow. When he stepped out of his car, it was gone. Thirty minutes later, he was on his front sidewalk and came face to face with a large glaring ball of light hovering over a tree behind his house, near the fault line.

"Flaring crimson streamers radiated out from the orb's center," Robert said. It was silent and motionless. He felt almost hypnotized by it, but managed to break away to get his son. When he came back out, it was a deep translucent red. It then collapsed inward and vanished.

Around 11 p.m., Dec. 27, 1977, Robert said two conical-shaped UFOs tangled with Snoopy II, the Charlotte Police Department helicopter over downtown Charlotte. They were followed by radar at the airport as they split apart, one moving toward Indian Trail, the other toward the Southpark Shopping Center area, where Robert said there is a large substation.

Snoopy chased the one in the Southpark area. As it neared the area, a bright light in the sky came on for about 30 seconds then blinked out. At that time the target vanished from the radar scope. The other target faded out over Indian Trail, according to Robert.

Again, both incidents correlate with the dimensionalism and energy source theories.

Robert wrote of several other encounters, mostly in the late '70s, that all occurred near some kind of energy source. Other strange events that relate to dimensionalism include out of place animals; such as a strange baboon sited in downtown Matthews by many people one time and three or four black panthers that were seen

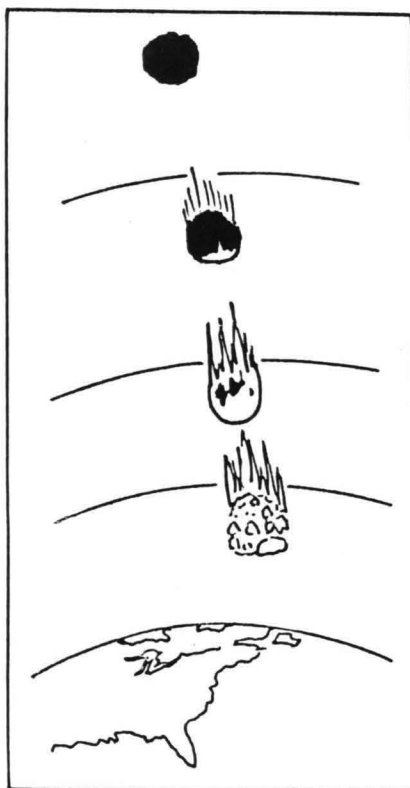
In all cases, after the sightings are reported the animals seem to vanish.

The Loch Ness monster could be another example of dimensionalism, as it appears over a fault line.

Robert cautions that the dimensionalism theory is just that — a theory.

"Nobody knows for sure. The only thing we can say about UFOs and entities is we're dealing with something non-human and very strange."

DAILY EVENING ITEM, Lynn, MA - March 7, 1991 CR: B. Greenwood



Look! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a ... UFO?

By TOM DALTON
Item Staff

Did you see the UFO?

OK, so it wasn't a UFO. Did you see whatever it was? Right up there in the night sky early Wednesday morning was a bluish, greenish, whitish — something or other.

"Yeah, a comet or something went by," said a spokesman for the Swampscott Police Department. "A couple of our guys saw something."

They weren't alone.

From Philadelphia to Maine, and from West Virginia to Massachusetts there were dozens of sightings around 3 a.m. Wednesday of a fireball streaking through the night sky. Although some claimed it was an unidentified flying object (UFO) — the dreaded visitors from outer space — the facts pointed in another direction.

"It sounds like a meteor," said Caroline Lupfer, a spokesman for the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Eyewitness reports received at the Cambridge-based observatory indicate it was a low-flying meteor, a chunk of rock that broke from a comet or asteroid, that burned brightly as it entered the Earth's atmosphere. It likely disintegrated or fell into the ocean, she said.

"The best description I had was from a guy in Wellesley looking south who saw this bright object moving across the horizon about 20 degrees up — which is fairly low," said Lupfer. "It was moving from west to east. It was very bright, whitish, with a big, bright head and it lasted for seven or eight seconds... This is a good description of what a fireball looks like."

But could it have been a UFO?
"Nobody here believes in UFOs," said Lupfer. "We're astronomers."

Surprisingly, even the UFO watchers don't think it was a UFO.

"It was a classic description of a bolide, or fireball," said Raymond Fowler of Wenham, director of investigations for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a national organization. "A large meteor like that can sometimes appear the size of a full moon."

"From what we've been told, it had a flat trajectory and the tail was breaking up. They start to burn up 50 to 100 miles up. But you get the impression they're very close and about to land in your back yard. It could have been something else, but from the descriptions we received it sounds like a fireball."

Fowler said he received reports on it from police in Ipswich, Boxford, and Hamilton.

The only local police department that reported any sightings or telephone calls was Swampscott. The Nahant police, who have the clearest view of the night sky from their peninsula perch, unfortunately were fighting crime.

"We were very busy with a couple of felonies so we weren't looking up in the sky," a Nahant officer said.

Saugus had a report of a sighting, but not on Wednesday. "Somebody called me a couple of days ago and reported seeing a big shooting star," said Patrolman Ralph Nasuti, radio communications officer.

Although most of the sightings were between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m., one Lynn man said he heard news of it earlier.

"I heard it over my scanner about 8:30 (Tuesday night)," said Charlie Christopoulos, owner of Charlie's Junction Deli in Central Square. "I heard a pilot say 'UFO.' I thought to myself, 'This must be a joke.'"

At Philadelphia International Airport, a pilot radioed the air traffic control tower shortly after 3 a.m. and said what he saw "appeared to be the mother of all meteors."

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman in Boston said a few pilots reported seeing "a blue-white light or possibly greenish-white light." Most of the reports they received were from New Hampshire.

Asked if they had many phone calls, the spokesman said "more press than anything else."

Although the evidence from the Wednesday morning phenomenon points clearly to a falling meteor, there have been UFO sightings on the North Shore in the past week, according to Fowler, former state director of MUFON.

"We had a UFO report in Boxford on Feb. 28 (last Thursday)," he said. "It was on Route 95 near the Topsfield-Boxford line. A motorist, he said, saw 'two disc-shaped objects with humps or domes glowing a very fluorescent green (travel) across the highway and into the woods.'"

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES, Fayetteville, AR - April 8, 1991 CR: K. Hall

Surprises of the unknown

I was surprised by a big lovable man at the UFO Conference in Eureka Springs this weekend. While Sergei Bulanov, a correspondent of the Tass News Agency, didn't offer any new or concrete evidence of UFOs or things unknown, he made several Christian-like statements of offered in friendship. His philosophy was "make peace not pollution. ... I'm sure when people meet each other they will never fight," he said.

He also said reports of UFO incidents, sightings, contacts or abductions were freely made in Russia. He said, thanks to Gorbachev, people who would otherwise be in "lunatic asylums" had been able to tell their stories freely whether they told of traveling from galaxy to galaxy in "out of the body" experiences or of "healing miracles" of heart surgery after such contacts with strange aircraft had been reported.

"It is beyond logic," he said, "But the unknown still surprises us on the

Kay
Hall
Times Staff Writer

road to scientific truth. It begins with collecting facts," he said, "a boring, hard work."

When laws of nature cannot explain reported phenomenon, he said, "It's because we don't know all the laws of nature."

He also said he didn't deny that dark forces could explain some events.

He reported a Soviet aviation general's UFO sighting, and he cautioned that sometimes "it is dangerous to observe UFOs."

He told of several people who watched a UFO, and the longer they observed it, the more eye problems the viewers had.

He did say that aliens visiting Russia are quite different than the "greys with the large eyes" United States witnesses report. He said the "visitors" are taller, perhaps, but very human-looking and if dressed as we were would not be noticed in a crowd. He called them "tourists."

Neither are there any abductions in the Soviet Union, not one, single documented case, he said. All the abductees were politely invited, he said, to accompany the aliens to the space ship.

Strangely, he said, many describe entering a small spacecraft of 4 to 5 meters, but once inside it, describe huge rooms. He said he believes often spacecraft are doorways to another dimension.

Nuclear tests in Russia and in the United States, he said, were a concern to all life whether on this planet or on others.

UND professor says alien encounter has changed his life for the better

UFO course is a hit among students

By Steve Schmidt
Herald Staff Writer

Three years since a close encounter of the fourth kind, UND professor John Salter is happily recruiting students with yellow day-glow posters that say "Back by Demand! Fall 1991: The Greatest UFO Course of All."

Savvy to the students of the '90s, Salter promises "soft seats — good audio" for the next version of a Merrifield Hall class that drew 151 students last fall, one of the highest turnouts for a non-required class.

Experience comes to TV

He says his first UFO course in the fall semester got 87 percent approval ratings from students, and he's received virtually no skepticism about his accounts of meeting humanoids from another star system in March 1988. Salter's own UFO experience is being featured — along with Arizona and Manchester, England, sightings — in a CBS-TV special now under production.

Salter, chair of the Indian studies department at UND, says his training as a behavioral scientist, his academic credentials and history as a civil rights cause advocate have helped his reception.

"I haven't fallen off my pinto pony," he says, grinning.

Thomas Rand, assistant dean at the UND College of Arts and Sciences, doesn't think so, either. He said, "I think John has credibility as a faculty member. I think

you probably have mixed faculty reaction to the subject matter, as you probably have with the rest of the public."

Rand went on to say, "His reporting has led me to read two or three related books he uses for texts, and I find some of the other reports, like his, are from people you tend to believe and say, 'This doesn't sound like either a manufactured or a crazy thing.'"

"But I don't have any good explanations."

Salter credits the extraterrestrials with no fewer than 21 health changes in his body — including more energy, being able to quit smoking, faster growth of hair and faster healing of cuts.

He emphasizes, though, that people who've been contacted by beings from space have the sense they shouldn't focus on what the encounters have done for them as individuals, but rather "how we can take what we've been given, what we are, and what we're becoming — and use all of that to make things better around us."

It's one of the reasons he's become one of the most active people in the Midwest recently on the UFO front — including investigations of reported "landing circles" on farms and ranches in central and western North Dakota the past year or so. One drew crowds to a farm near Turtle Lake, N.D. "I'm sworn to secrecy on the others, because the ranchers don't want to be inundated with visitors," says Salter.

He's also interested in checking out "circle designs"



Herald file photo

John Salter, professor of Indian Studies at UND, says he and his son encountered a humanoid being in 1988 near Richland Center, Wis. As a result of his experiences, Salter is now on the cutting edge of UFO research.

that UFO investigators believe to be alien handiwork in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. A variety of designs have been found on the ground, 30 to 100 feet in diameter, near Aberdeen, S.D., and Rock Island, Ill., among perhaps other places, Salter says.

His own encounter, while driving with his son, John Salter III, near Richland Center, Wis., is one of three UFO incidents being re-enacted for an hour-long CBS special this spring.

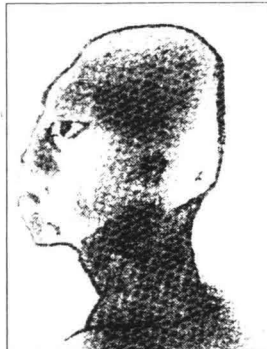
Recalling the incident

Salter ranks his experience a Close Encounter 4, a category that UFO investigators use to describe interaction with operators of the unidentified flying objects. His details of the visit with a small group of humanoids have come to him gradually through flashbacks.

Victor and Grais, the Southern California production company doing the show, "UFO Abductions," is headed by the writers and executive producers of the Steven Spielberg movie "Poltergeist."

Sharon Gayle, Venice, Calif., producer for the UFO film, says she heard of the UND professor through another UFO investigator, and hopes the show will turn out to be a pilot for a "Twilight Zone"-like series.

"I wanted to call it 'On the Edge,' but CBS wanted something else," Gayle said this week, still searching for a name.



This is the likeness of a humanoid that UND professor John Salter reported seeing in 1988.

He's not alone

Salter says that since he became active in the region's UFO reporting networks, he's learned of at least three others in the Grand Forks area who've had what appeared to be "Close Encounter 4" experiences — two of them in North Dakota or Minnesota. He says most reports indicate the visitors from space have friendly designs.

In fact, Salter's latest UFO update to friends and fellow investigators even suggests the aliens have enough physical and emotional similarities with humans to show signs of "mixed blood."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - March 1, 1991



Associated Press

Photo taken last July shows people walking through two circles that appeared in a cornfield in Wiltshire, England.

English circles — a mystery to love

Louisville woman who studied weird forms likes the notion of true enigma in high-tech age

By Kevin McCullen

Rocky Mountain News Boulder Bureau

BOULDER — One of the 20th century's great mysteries appears in English fields.

Tere Kristovich spent part of last fall studying crop circles, those strange concentric designs that some say could be caused by UFOs, magnetic fields, hedgehogs or whirlwinds.

But no one truly knows the origin of these circles, which often appear in the middle of the night. And Kristovich, a psychotherapist from Louisville, offers no theories of her own in lectures she's presented in the Denver area.

"They're mysterious, which is what's so fascinating about them," Kristovich said. "They are a real unknown. How many things are there in our technological age that we can say that about?"

Theories abound about the source of the circles that have confounded scientists and intimidated residents for years. Some also have been found in Australia, Brazil and North America, Kristovich said.

Varying in size, some English circles have been measured at 100 feet in diameter. Farmers and scientists investigating the phenomenon have found no evidence of tracks or disturbance in the rings, Kristovich said.

About 400 were observed last year in England.

A British engineer who wrote two books about the circles said they could be created by a rotating field of high energy, and suggested

they could represent a form of intelligence.

Others contend the circles are created by whirlwinds that appear mysteriously, while another theory holds that crazed hedgehogs stealthily slip into the fields and wear down grain in concentric patterns.

Still others believe the circles are formed by alien spacecraft or even by supernatural beings. While Kristovich doesn't agree with all the theories, she is convinced the circles aren't manmade hoaxes.

"It would take too much time, and you would have to be too precise and too painstaking to duplicate these," she said.

Kristovich and a friend, registered nurse Kit McCray, went to southern England last fall. They interviewed scientists, spiritualists, farmers and longtime residents. Kristovich even ventured

into some circles.

"I'm not into UFOs or space creatures. But there is an intelligent, interactive quality that goes into these things," she said.

Kristovich researched historical records and read accounts of such circles, including folklore dating to 1678. In the 1920s, English farmers seldom reported finding the circles because "it was believed it was not safe to talk about them. You don't talk about what you don't understand," she said.

Yet there is much to know about these perplexing formations. And Kristovich likes the idea that they remain a riddle.

"We only know that they're here, and that they happen," she said. "I'm not a scientist, but I am a curious person. If I have a vested interest in this, it's on the side of mystery, and these are mysterious."



Gerry Lewin/Statesman Journal

Skip Schultz holds a photograph of a supposed UFO that turned out to be a hoax when his group investigated it.

Woodburn man searches for signs that we're not alone in universe

By Dan Postrel
The Statesman Journal

WOODBURN — Skip Schultz suspects that there's something — or somebody — out there. And he's looking for other Oregonians to help him find out for sure.

Schultz, a Woodburn resident and a mechanic by trade, is the Oregon director of an international non-profit group called the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON.

UFO, of course, stands for unidentified flying object.

Schultz, 44, has been intrigued with

the subject since he was a boy. He contemplates the endless number of planets and other celestial bodies and offers this assessment:

"I don't think we're the only ones in the universe. The chances are we've been visited."

But he grants that suspicions and hunches aren't sufficient to prove the existence of alien beings or their spacecraft.

In hopes of producing credible evidence, Schultz says, the UFO network

maintains a panel of scientific advisers and a dedication to objective, hard-nosed investigation of UFO sightings.

The network checked out nine reported sightings in Oregon last year, passing the findings along to group headquarters in Seguin, Texas, for compilation and further study. The Oregon chapter has 38 members, three of whom have completed the organization's training program for UFO investigators.

Schultz says more investigators are needed, particularly in parts of the state away from the popula-

tion centers of the Willamette Valley.

When they contact people who have reported UFO sightings, the investigators come armed with detailed questions and a healthy skepticism, Schultz says.

"Ninety percent of the sightings turn out to be something natural, like somebody misidentifying the lights on an airplane" or mistaking a bright star or planet for a UFO, he says.

And some cases are brash hoaxes.

Last year, a weekly newspaper in The Dalles published a photo showing what appeared to be a blimp-like object hovering over the Eastern Oregon landscape.

An investigator with the UFO group obtained the negatives, enlarged them several times, and saw something that had not shown up in the newspaper photo. At the top of the frame, directly

Investigators seek help

Anyone interested in reporting a UFO sighting, applying for membership to the UFO organization or becoming a UFO investigator can call Skip Schultz at 981-2344. Membership costs \$25 a year.

over the object, was a block of wood with a hook at one end.

The man who took the pictures eventually acknowledged that his UFO was in fact two plastic salad bowls glued together and dangled in front of the camera.

However, Schultz says, other cases offer suggestions — but not hard proof — about alien visitors. Some examples from the annals of the UFO network's Oregon chapter:

■ At 8:30 p.m. last Oct. 16, Anna Mae Farrar reportedly looked out her kitchen window in Dallas to see a large, glowing disk hovering over a pasture. At the bottom was a large, bright, white opening.

Farrar's father also reported seeing the object, which eventually disappeared to the southeast.

■ On the evening of Sept. 28, 1989, several witnesses reported seeing an oval pattern of lights moving north along the coast near Oceanside.

The lights were reported at various times, apparently as they moved from Oceanside to Warrenton, a stretch of about 70 miles.

Because of the number of people who reported the sighting independently, the incident is considered one of the best recent Oregon indicators of possible UFO activity, Schultz says.

Those who investigate UFO sightings must scrutinize the source as well as the details of the report, he says.

For instance, the perpetrator of the hoax at The Dalles is said to have been evasive and avoided eye contact during an interview with an investigator.

But other witnesses appear sincere, Schultz says. He says he once talked to a mail carrier in Hermiston who was still shaken a month after she saw two objects — one cigar-shaped, one disk-shaped — in the clouds.

"When you have something like that, you wonder," he says. "It's got to be something."

Jim Dearthoff of Corvallis, a retired Oregon State University professor of atmospheric sciences and an adviser to the UFO network, says the group does not leap to conclusions about an alien presence.

In fact, he says, "They dismiss a lot of UFO events because something else might explain those events."

That may be, Schultz says, but a liberal dose of skepticism is critical to maintaining credibility in a field that sometimes is dismissed as the province of hoaxers or crackpots.

"You've got to sort everything out," he says. "You've got to stay right down the middle."

In E-burg, what went boom in the night?

ROBERT LENIHAN
Pocono Record Writer

EAST STROUDSBURG — Maybe they should call it Para-Normal Street.

The plane crash that didn't happen on the end of Normal Street Thursday night is causing a stir among observers of the unusual.

Police, firefighters, and ambulance crews raced out to the wooded location at about 8 p.m. after receiving a call of a downed plane.

The rescue workers searched the woods beneath a full moon for over an hour and found no sign of a plane crash. An airborne search turned up equally negative results. No local airport reported any missing aircraft. Yet, several residents said they saw flames, smelled smoke, and heard a crash.

So what happened?

Chip Decker would like to know. Decker, a freelance photographer by trade, is a local investigator for the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, a volunteer organization that researches unusual incidents. The group has ties to a nationwide organization known as the Mutual UFO Network.

Both Decker and Stan Gordon, the PASU's director, say the Normal Street incident has similarities with an unexplained phenomenon known as a fireball. Gordon said there have been several reported sightings of fireballs across the state recently and they are sometimes initially reported as crashing planes.

"Our purpose is to gather information," Decker said. "Basically, what we do is find out if (a sighting) was a weather balloon or a meteor ... or if it was something unexplained."

Gordon, who appeared on a recent episode of the television program "Unsolved Mysteries," which reported on a fireball incident in western Pennsylvania in 1965, said his organization investigates all reports of sightings.

"You have to investigate them one by one," Gordon said. "Many sightings turn out to be misidentifications of natural objects, pieces of space junk, lights on aircrafts, there are lots of explanations. But there are indeed sightings every year we cannot explain and that's what makes it intriguing."

Decker said he and Gordon are currently investigating a UFO sighting by a woman in Reeders on Feb. 4. Decker said the woman, who requests anonymity, reported seeing two barge-like objects moving soundlessly through the sky.

There has been no explanation for the sighting, Decker said.

Opinions vary on what happened on Normal Street Thursday night.

"It was a damn meteorite, that's all," said East Stroudsburg Police Chief Charles McDonald.

However, Decker and Gordon are interested in hearing about the events on Normal Street Thursday. Anyone who might have seen something should contact PASU at 412-838-7768.

Residents claim UFO buzzed area

By Ken Layne
Staff Writer

OCEANSIDE — Was it an alien spacecraft buzzing the Oceanside coast Friday night or just a clever advertising scheme for a London-based airline?

It depends on who you're talking to. Many local residents saw a large, bright, circular ship floating through the night skies Friday.

The glowing, brilliant craft cruised over the coastline and then ventured inland, where it frightened children playing outside, fascinated motorists on El Camino Real and interfered with the radio-sound system at the Valley Drive-In, witnesses claim.

And then, according to Oceanside UFO aficionado Gary Davidson, things got really weird.

After the ship shot a green light beam — which Davidson said may have briefly paralyzed a 12-year-old Oceanside boy — 10 helicopters surrounded the craft and led it back to the ocean, according to reports gathered by Davidson.

Airport officials offered a tamer version of the flight, saying it was a routine movement of an innovative new blimp run by Virgin Lightships.

"Our device is literally a UFO for most of our viewers," said Ray McIver, marketing director for Virgin Lightships of San Diego, part of the Virgin Records/Virgin Airways business in London. "But blimp operators do not qualify as an alternate life source."

The internally lit, white dirigible left Brown Field airport around

7 p.m. Friday, pilot Mike Nerandzic said. The pilot said he flew over San Diego and crossed over to the coastline near Del Mar, and then followed the coast to Orange County.

"It was pretty quiet," Nerandzic said Monday. "We would have been over Oceanside at about nine o'clock."

Federal Aviation Administration officials referred calls about the sightings to Virgin Lightships. A Palomar Airport official said records showed an blimp flying northbound from San Diego through North County late Friday — and said he witnessed what looked like a Goodyear Blimp while driving through Carlsbad Friday.

"It's the world's first internally lit blimp," McIver said. "Add to that that the four tailfins do not light up — so in the night sky it doesn't look like a blimp."

The Virgin blimp was on its way to the Marine air base in Tustin, where the Marines allow it to be hangared, McIver said.

Phil Rogul of Carlsbad was one of the witnesses of the ship's flight. Rogul said he was driving near Fire Mountain and El Camino Real at around 9 p.m. when he spotted a white glowing circle in the sky.

"It was very unusual, with twinkling lights on the inside," Rogul said. "Seven or eight cars had pulled over on El Camino Real. We all just basically watched it to see what it was going to do. It glowed so brightly, it was like a miniature sun, just spectacularly bright. Very, very bizarre."

Rogul said he watched the craft for 10 or 12 minutes before it drifted out of his line of sight. After hearing about the Virgin blimp, Rogul said what he saw matched the description.

"It's kind of disappointing, though," he said.

But Davidson, who is a member of the local UFO study group Orion, doesn't buy the blimp story. In fact, Davidson says a real UFO may have buzzed through Oceanside under cover of the Virgin blimp.

Because pilot Nerandzic said he didn't steer the blimp inland, Davidson says there must be another explanation for the sightings reported several miles inland in the San Luis Rey Valley, as far east as College Boulevard.

Davidson said he interviewed five Oceanside children who were playing outside their homes near College Boulevard and Mission Avenue. According to Davidson, one 12-year-old boy walked two blocks following the craft and was stunned and burned by a bright light beam emitting from the ship.

Those reporting sightings to Orion are promised anonymity, Davidson said.

The allegedly stunned boy, his mother, a 12-year-old girl, a 22-year-old woman and several moviegoers at the Valley Drive-In also called Orion with witness reports of a bright craft flying over the Oceanside valley, Davidson said.

"I still have some suspicions that we're dealing with a blimp and a 12-year-old with an active imagination," Davidson conceded. "But this whole story just seems to have aspects that are strange."

Oceanside Airport manager Joe Degendorf said there were several weekend messages left on the airport phone system of blimp or UFO sightings.

Degendorf and Camp Pendleton officials denied any knowledge of 10 helicopters swarming around the alleged UFO.



FOREIGN NEWS

Sheep won't have a baa of UFO

AUSTRALASIAN POST, Melbourne, Australia
March 30, 1991 CR: P. Norman

SHEEP shied away from three circular, water-filled trenches which appeared overnight on a New Zealand farm.

Locals later theorised that the indentations were made by a heavy craft, standing on tripod legs.

"It happened in 1988, when I was living with my elder brother and his wife on the South Island," recalls Dave Jackson, of Geebung (Q).

People were reporting very weird things in the sky at that time, including falling stars that suddenly reversed direction and swooped upward again.

"One morning, before school, my

brother invited me to ride with him to the adjoining farm, to see something unusual.

"When we got there, a lot of people were clustered around what looked like three big, circular puddles, with islands of earth in their centres.

"One of the farm workers had noticed the puddles the previous day, when some sheep had suddenly made a detour around them, bleating in fright.

"My brother had brought a steel tape measure. He probed the indentations and found each of them was about 20cm deep. From memory, the circles were equidistant from each other.

"Our theory, which not everyone shared, was that something very heavy must have landed in the grass, leaving trenches which had since filled with rain.

"But what fascinated me most was the fear the sheep had shown.

"I've heard a lot about animals being panicked by UFOs, but I've never known of them being scared by landing marks before."

● Fresh "landing circles" sometimes emit radiation which seemingly irritates animals' sensitive nervous systems. In some of these rings, the soil becomes very hard, preventing plant growth for up to 20 years.

JOHN PINKNEY



Investigating the incredible

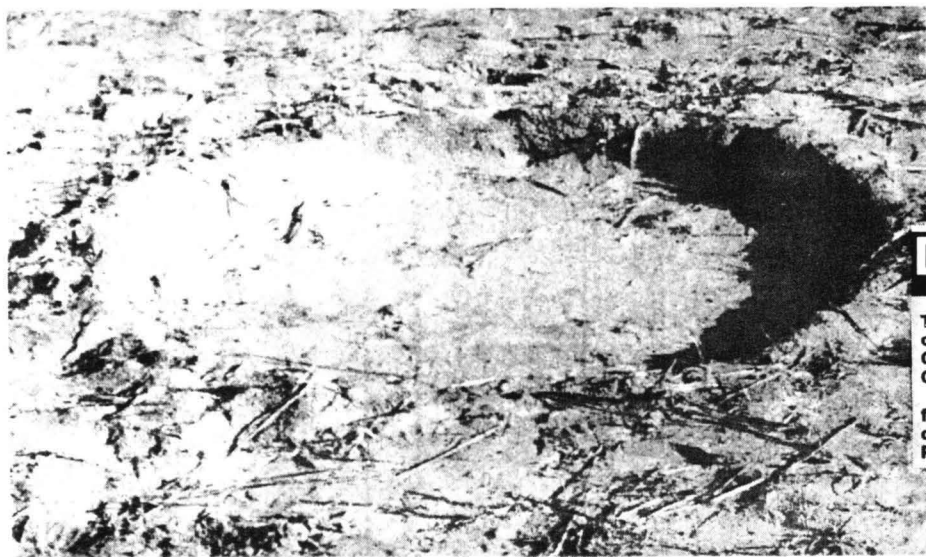
SHARE your experience — have you:

● Spotted or photographed a UFO?

● Dreamed the future?

● Seen or heard a ghost?

If you've had any kind of supernatural experience, John Pinkney wants to hear from you. Please enclose a photo of yourself where possible. Write to John at POST, GPO Box 501 H, Melbourne, 3001.



Did huge saucer land here?

THIS UFO landing ring (left) is one of four discovered on farmer George Parker's property in Oglvie (WA).

The previous night, neighboring farmer Kevin Chick saw a mysterious bright light descending into Parker's paddock. Scientists from

WA's Institute of Technology found that the four rings were 1.3m in diameter, 10cm deep and 8.7cm apart.

Whatever made the marks had crushed barley seeds deep into the soil, at a pressure between 75 and 200 tonnes.

EVENING EXPRESS, Aberdeen, Scotland
Dec. 28, 1990 CR: T. Good

Explosive moonlit mystery

UFO witness hunted

AN ABERDEEN man who claims he saw a "Hiroshima-scale" explosion of light in the sky as he drove along a North-east road is desperate to find someone else who witnessed the moonlit mystery.

Mr David Wood from West Cults Road, was driving with his fiancée Diane Milne, to a cottage in Rickarton along the South Deeside Road at about 6pm last Saturday when a massive beam of light flashed across the night sky.

He was so shocked he immediately stopped his car and switched on the radio — convinced he would hear of some terrible tragedy in the skies over the North-east.

But he heard nothing and after phone calls to a number of sky watching institutions is still mystified but is convinced others will back up his story.

He said: "I am sure someone

► **JAMIE MACASKILL**

else must have seen it. It was huge, like the Hiroshima explosion, and covered at least 50 miles of sky.

Mr Wood thinks the flash came from over Bahater.

The Astrology Centre in Edinburgh said it would have expected to have heard of such an event but said Mr Wood had been the only caller.

A spokeswoman did, however, give three possibilities of what Mr Wood had seen.

"We have heard of incidents like this and there are three trains of thought. One is it is a meteor burning up as it enters the earth's atmosphere. The second is a UFO."

But she added ominously: "Sometimes it is seen as a prophecy of war, which is chilling considering the Gulf situation."

SUNDAY MAIL, Glasgow, Scotland — Jan. 20, 1991 CR: T. Good

UFO joins in the rail party

WEIRD sightings of UFOs in Scottish skies have flooded into a research unit.

And they include a flying saucer joining in the Forth Rail Bridge centenary party.

The reports of sightings came following the Sunday Mail's story last week that Blairgowrie, Perthshire, had become Scotland's UFO capital.

Ron Halliday, of the Strange Phenomena Investigations group, said there had been an amazing response.

He said: "We got a phone call from someone who had seen a torch of light come from the sky and enter their car."

And UFO fever has spread to Lanarkshire where workers saw a flying saucer hover above their factory.

Mr Halliday said: "At the centenary celebrations for the Forth Rail Bridge, according to the woman who phoned me, a round-shaped spacecraft hovered above the bridge for over five minutes."

Night lights may be UFOs

Mysterious lights have been seen in the sky over Kendal.

Staveley joiner Mr Roger Hadley was travelling along the A591 Kendal bypass towards the M6 with two other people when he saw a "cigar shaped" light in the sky above Scout Scar at about 10pm last Sunday (October 14).

And another member of the public contacted Kendal police to report the same sighting.

Mr Hadley and his 21-year-old daughter Sharon both saw the object at the same time. A passenger in the back saw it when they stopped to get a better look.

"It was as if it was above the car and, silly as it sounds, it could have resembled a saucer shape," Mr Hadley told the Gazette.

He described the object as a fluffy light and estimated it to be about 30 feet across. He added that at the time it appeared to be inside a cloud, but on reflection this was more like steam or mist.

The object seemed to move about inside the "cloud", first from left to right and then up and down, while the "cloud" itself remained very still in the sky.

The shape of the object seemed to change, at one point being cigar shaped and then spherical.

The group was travelling towards Bentham and the light remained in the sky for about 30 minutes. When they reached their destination another person also saw it.

"We stopped for five minutes to really watch it and there's no way it was caused by car lights or anything from the ground. We were backed into a farm entrance and it was pitch black except for this thing," said Mr Hadley.

The more I think about it, the more I am convinced it was something.

Windermeres UFO buff Mike Oram told the Gazette: "Cigar shaped objects are not seen as frequently as the circular type but they are a common shape."

"They do vary in length, they can be as small as 30 feet long,

a report of something over one of our airfields we wouldn't bother about it."

Kendal police said they received a report about a light above Scout Scar at about 10pm on Sunday. "It might have been people out looking for foxes with a very powerful light," said a spokesman.

The sightings come seven years after the last report in the Gazette when ten people in Windermeres saw a group of cigar shaped objects with green, blue and red lights flashing in the sky over Orrest Head.

Before that there were a spate of sightings from 1977 to 1979 when the Gazette was filled with reports of UFOs being sighted all over South Lakeland.

WESTMORELAND GAZETTE, Kendal, England
Oct. 19, 1990 CR: T. Good

DAILY POST, Liverpool, England
Nov. 22, 1990 CR: T. Good

SIR, Yesterday I received a report of a silver circular craft, with central dome seen at 3.30pm over Penketh, Warrington, travelling N to S. I have also had a number of reports of UFO seen over Merseyside and Wirral, more especially the St Helens and Maghull areas.

All these witnesses obtained my phone number, but in order to continue investigating for our two national UFO organisations — Contact International UK and BUFORA, I have to publicise my number as widely as possible.

I have had many ties with Liverpool, now sadly lost, through losing touch with relatives and many school friends whose families were Liverpudlians. We were educated at Tara Hall, Simla, in the Himalayas. I'd dearly love some of them to contact me as well.

My number is Llangernyw, Clwyd (074-576 537).

M. E. Fry, Regional Investigator for Merseyside, Wirral and North Wales for BUFORA & Contact International UK.

Trilling and whirring has the experts in a spin

A DISCUSSION of last year's crop circle sightings seems somewhat dated now, with a possible solution to the mystery promised by this summer's circle watchers.

Nevertheless there are some very peculiar and sometimes unnerving reports in George Wingfield's chapter on Ever Increasing Circles in the recently published book *The*

UFO Report 1991, compiled by Britain's leading UFO authority, Timothy Good.

His book is a collection of reports of UFO sightings and other phenomena around the world last year. How you approach it will depend very much on whether you are a confirmed UFO sceptic or a keen enthusiast — certainly the writer assumes some prior knowledge

of the phenomena from his readers — and there is no denying that, whatever the cause, something very strange has been happening in the cornfields of Wiltshire of late.

The author does admit that some of the circle formations may have been the work of hoaxers, but other happenings are less easy to explain away.

Probably the most peculiar is the "high pitched trilling or whirring sound" heard by a group of researchers as they watched and waited on the site of a circle in the early hours of a Sunday morning in June, 1989.

George Wingfield comments: "It was quite unlike any noise I have heard be-

fore...it was not loud...but was totally pervasive and seemed to induce an hypnotic effect on the company." He then describes how the noise moved around the circle and how the group, which included a medium, tried to make contact with "it".

The noise receded when two other researchers ap-

proached the site, but the author estimates that the encounter lasted some 90 minutes and reports that the sound could still be heard faintly an hour later. Exactly a week later one of the group had just gone to bed when he heard the noise start again and somehow "found" himself back in the field for a few minutes.

There will be plenty of theories about that encounter and others since, but what about some answers? We'll just have to wait for the next instalment...

The *UFO Report 1991*, edited by Timothy Good, is published by Sidgwick and Jackson Ltd and costs £9.99 in paperback and £14.99 hardback.

Rise in sightings helps boost membership

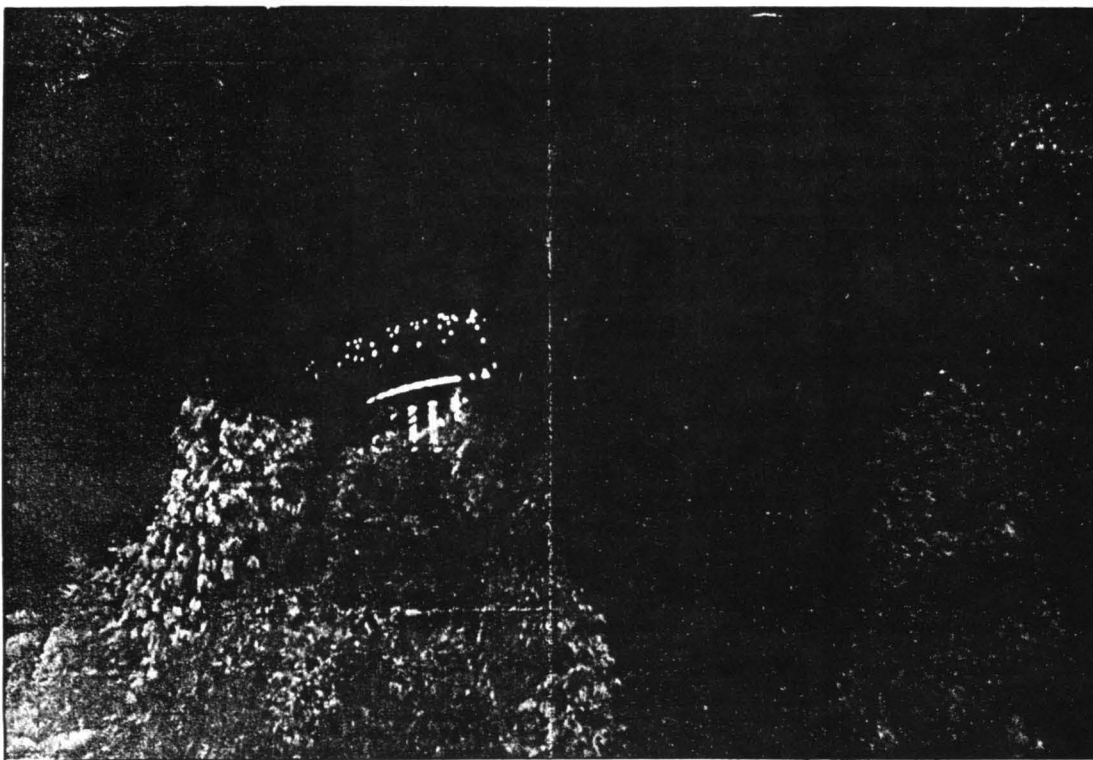


Photo of an alleged UFO taken by a Clacton teenager while on holiday in Devon in last August.

Group probes the mystery of UFOs

By Charles Elder

THE coastal areas of north-east Essex have become renowned for sightings of UFOs, claims an internationally respected Clacton sky-watcher.

Mr. Ron West, chairman of Essex UFO Research Group, says membership has almost doubled over the last three months as reported sightings of mysterious flying objects become more frequent.

From his office in Chelburn Road Mr. West investigates more than 5,000 UFO sightings a year, with many reported at Clacton and Colchester.

Unexplained corn circles discovered in Essex fields and first-hand accounts of "abductions" by alleged aliens have added weight to believers' theories that tourists are not the only visitors to the county resorts.

Mr. West told the EADT that mounting evidence was too strong to be dismissed as the "nonsense of cranks", and said the 75-strong group is deadly serious about its extra-terrestrial experiences.

Alleged meetings with "little green men from Mars" feature regularly in the bi-monthly newsletter alongside letters from members about their unearthly encounters.

Mr. West, 60, who reckons only 30 per cent of sightings remain truly unexplained, said he investigates more than five "sightings" every week from the area.

"We do all our own research to see whether the sightings are unexplained by contacting everyone from military airbases to the police and coastguards," he said.



Mr. Ron West, chairman of Essex UFO Research Group, examines a crop circle near Colchester.

"The majority of UFO sightings are by the general public who telephone us to describe what they have seen."

"Although some reports turn out to be aircraft, hot air balloons or satellites other remain mysteries."

"They could be visitations from extra terrestrial beings, craft from another dimension, or as the 'Hollow Earth' theory has it, they could be visitations from another race living within our planet."

The group was founded in 1988, but monthly sky watches have not yet been rewarded with a UFO sighting.

Two weeks ago a Brightlingsea resident reported seeing an unexplained diamond-shaped object covered with green and red lights over the sea, similar to a UFO spotted in Barnsley earlier in January.

In November 1990 a large white ball of light was spotted on a clear

night in Colchester, and photographed travelling downwards from the moon before petering out.

Other sightings of triangular flying objects with lights at each corner were also reported last autumn at West Mersea, Jaywick and St. Oysth.

"When people report to us that they have seen something they often begin by saying, 'I hope you don't think I'm mad...' but the amount of people who have witnessed UFOs indicates they are not part of a minority of nutters," said Mr. West, who compiles reports from members stretching from Canada to Denmark.

"We do get hoax photos of UFOs from people who have cut out pictures, stuck them on their window and taken a photograph but you can tell the fake pictures."

More unusual, and more doubtful, are the reports from people who claim to have been abducted by unearthly visitors.

A former Braintree resident, who lives in Scotland, this week revealed that she was visited by aliens when she was aged eight and claimed she now suffers from nightmares as telepathic "mental blocks" put on her during the extra terrestrial encounter begin to fade.

A Clacton couple recently report "losing" three hours in time after a white UFO stalled their car near Colchester while they were driving to visit relatives in Northampton. And a west Midlands woman, who was asked to appear on BBC TV's *Nationwide* programme, has told the Essex group of her conversation with aliens.

"I was standing by the sink and suddenly I heard three sounds come past me and three slim silvery-green beings with rainbow wings floated past me through the open door into the lounge," she claims.

After offering them a glass of water she reports them saying, "We come down here to talk to people but they don't seem to be interested."

Mr. West, who alleges he has seen more than 10 UFOs, said, "The main appearance of alien visitors described by people who have had first-hand experience seem to be that they are between 3 ft. 6in. tall with almond-shaped dark eyes and no hair, pupils, lips or teeth."

He also believes that unexplained corn circles discovered in fields near Colchester in August are signs made by unearthly visitors.

"The theory is that they are made by an unknown intelligence. They couldn't possibly have been made by hedgehogs running circles or by a vortex of wind because they are just too perfectly formed," he said.

He added, "If you have seen these circles or witnessed a UFO it is one of the most exciting things. The whole mystery is fantastic."

MYSTERY OBJECT STARTLED PLANE CREW

A BRITISH AIRWAYS pilot logged a UFO report after an in-flight encounter last month.

The pilot had the startling experience during a night flight from Rome to Gatwick.

Flying over Genoa he was stunned to see what he described as a large silver disc with three points of light in an arrow formation and a fourth light behind.

The bright, mystery object was travelling at phenomenal speed and was visible to the pilot, co-pilot and two cabin crew.

Reported

The pilot, who said he'd never seen anything like it and couldn't explain what it was, reported the incident to British UFO experts.

But after investigation over the past few weeks the mystery sighting has become one of the 95% of cases which can be explained.

"The sighting by the BA pilot was actually a piece of a Soviet satellite," said Jenny Randles of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association.

Excellent

"It was one of those little-known ones launched by the military and was coming back down in a blaze of glory. It was witnessed by a lot of people over northern Italy but the crew of the plane had the best view."

"The report was typical of those by pilots because they are trained observers who are excellent judges of speeds, distances and so on and are naturally very aware of what's out of the ordinary."

"Because of all the space junk that's starting to come back to earth we are getting a growing number of reports which turn out to be caused by this."

"But it's the majority which can be explained which make the other 5% all the more exciting."

Low-flying cigars and corn circles

Hoaxers fake them, vicars doubt them and experts put it all down on video. VINCENT MOSS gives you a guide to the mysterious world of UFOs and aliens...

Strange lights moving across the sky have been around since three wise men visited the world's most famous baby — but things are changing. The traditional flying saucer is losing out in the Star Wars stakes to cigar-shaped objects and great glowing balls of orange light. Talk to UFO-buffs and they'll tell you that the huge corn circles which appear every year in the West are about as interesting as cold porridge. Now everyone's talking about aliens taking day trips to Russia and mad cows short of a few stomachs. Tony Dodd, investigations director of Quest International, which examines reports of extra-terrestrials, explains: "In America 10,000 mutilated cows were reported last year. "They have been found in Britain and Japan too. A special laser technology we cannot reproduce leaves the veins intact but removes organs and blood." Among Quest's latest "finds" is a spacecraft found by two Russian mushroom pickers. It was so radioactive it poisoned both of them before they could say KGB.

Bristol's best

Quest reckon Bristol is one of the country's hotspots for UFOs, especially over Dundry Hill. Reasons include the closeness of the sea — this gives less brave visitors the chance to disappear at Warp Factor 6 if spotted. One theory for the visits of the galaxy-trippers is research into human intelligence. No-one knows why the Bristol area is proving such a popular choice. Recent sightings have included:

- A tastefully-designed pink sphere gliding over Keynsham.
- An illuminated ball with coloured lights around the base. It furthered its knowledge of the universe by following the car of a mother and her 10-year-old son along the road to Shepton Mallet.
- A king-size cigar floating without a health warning above Weston-super-Mare.

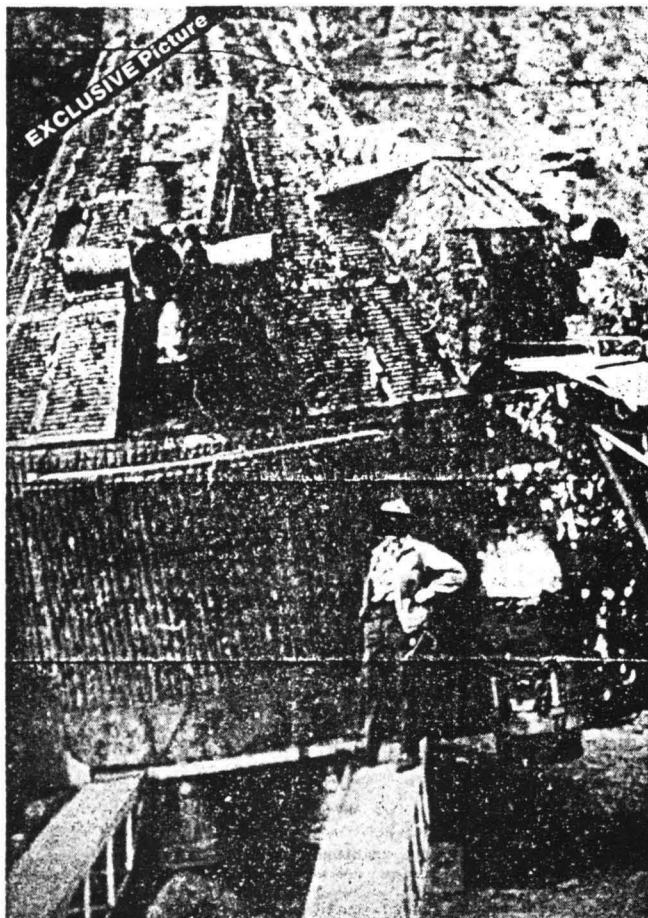
Let's talk aliens

Making small talk with an alien is tricky, especially when you don't know the Martian for: "Do you come here often?" On earth, the jargon goes something like this:

- UFO-flap — This is a spate of reported sightings. Aliens, carved-up cows, and jokers with flymos in cornfields start popping up.
- A C1 sighting — Most reported UFOs fall into this category. Not very close encounters of the weakest kind. Just a distant light seen far away.
- A C4 sighting — Jackpot! You've actually met one. Human abductions and a tour of the spacecraft flight deck with tea thrown in both fit the bill. C2 and C3 sightings are somewhere in between.

Getting the gear

Have a Geiger counter stashed in the boot of your car to measure radioactivity — or you could end up like the unlucky mushroom pickers.



Infra-red cameras, binoculars and high-tech recording equipment are pricey, but vital for proving to the neighbours that "we are not alone".

● Quest International has a 24-hour hotline for spotters to report their experiences: the number is 0756 752216. And the Bristol branch stages its conference on Saturday March 23 at Patchway High School, when the latest discoveries and photographs will be revealed to all.

● Above: An "alien spacecraft" discovered in Russia.

CORNISH TIMES, Liskeard, England - Jan. 18, 1991 CR: T. Good

Knitting needle shape in the sky

WAS I the only person in South East Cornwall who was sufficiently awake at approximately 8am on Sunday, January 6, to witness the strange object that proceeded across the sky in a southerly direction?

The sky was clear except for a few stationary clouds and at one stage, the object passed behind a cloud. The object was moving very slowly and I was able to find my binoculars and view it for about two minutes.

It was brilliant white with clearly defined lines, the shape was like a knitting needle which tapered at both ends. It did not have any markings nor was there any exhaust or vapour trail or noise. It must have been several miles away but from where I stood, it appeared to be about three inches long.

The object appeared to be solid and there were no wings or tailplanes attached. Also, it did not have the shape of an airship or a barrage balloon. There were no other aircraft in sight at the time.

I would add that I am **teetotal** and do not suffer from spots before the eyes. Also, like most people living in this part of the country, I am used to seeing both low flying aircraft and aircraft flying so high that one can only see the vapour trail.

Any rational comments from your readers on this object would be welcome.

A W HALL
29 Trevillis Park,
Liskeard

Pie in the sky?

INNER space may be the final frontier for UFO boffins who believe close encounters are all in the mind. The Fylde UFO Investigation Group has cast off its close encounter crackpot image and the flying saucer theories.

Aliens may not come not from outer space but from the deeper recesses of the human brain.

Joseph Dormer, president of the Fylde group, which has investigated everything from the unidentified object spotted on Blackpool Tower to the crop circles of Pilling, said: "I believe that many UFO sightings are similar to the ghost experience when people think they have seen an apparition although it was probably an hallucination."



The UFO group meeting (from left): Paulette Goldstone, Doreen Moon, John Nuttall, Michael Rowland, Grant Cameron, June Reynolds, Joseph Dormer and June Cameron.

But the cause of the hallucinations is what baffles the UFO boffins. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's the Meadon Vortex!

It may sound like a new brand of toilet cleaner but actually it is the basis of a theory, drummed up by Dr Terence Meadon.

The vortex is an electro-magnetically charged whirlwind which emits radiation strong enough to carve circles in corn fields, stop car engines running and alter your state of mind, said enthusiast June Cameron.

"It looks like close encounter experiences are really vortex experiences. People think they have seen things because their brain is stimulated by the vortex," she said.

It sounds like pie in the sky but the group, which includes an accountant, a builder, a gardener and a 60-year-old retired photographer, are all down-to-earth characters.

Miss Cameron, aged 34, of Torsway, Blackpool, added: "We are trying to lose the little green men tag that people associate with UFOs."

"They think we look for extra-terrestrials when really we are investigators who explore every possible cause for the phenomena."

Everyone in the group has their own pet theory — the only thing they share is their scepticism.

Care assistant Paulette Goldstone, aged 46, of Brook-

lyn Avenue, Layton, said she saw scientific and natural explanations to most of the UFO reports.

She is investigating the most recent sighting in Blackpool, on Whitegate Drive.

A report handed into the group describes the encounter: "On October 9, 1990, a large luminous globe, fuzzy at the edges, was slowly rolling and bowling in a track across the sky."

"It was burning white and appeared to be the size of a grapefruit."

Anyone who witnessed the same sight should call the group's hotline number, she said.

But Miss Goldstone is not blinded by science — part of her prefers to leave some of the cases unexplained.

She said: "Most people are interested in strange happenings. The paranormal takes their mind off everyday problems."

"Everybody has their inner space where they feel there is some untouchable thing which always remains mysterious. People like it to stay that way."

The group has asked for other aficionados to join the weekly meetings held on Thursdays, at the New Road Inn, Talbot Road, Blackpool, at 8.30pm. The Sightings Hotline number is Blackpool 5621.

By PETRA COVENEY

By Chris Wattie
of Canadian Press

REGINA — Mystery Crop Rings Grip Prairies in Circle of Fear. Farmers Ask, 'Whodunnit? Flying Saucers?'

For much of last summer, headlines similar to the above made small-town newspapers across the Prairies look a bit like supermarket tabloids.

News stories about extraterrestrials, rumors of upside-down helicopters and dark hints about frenzied cattle buzzed through sedate towns like Meath Park, Sask., and Niverville, Man.

There were no tracks in or out of the fields and no clues as to the cause — just speculation . . . everything from secret CIA experiments to herds of demented hedgehogs rotating in unison.

cliche goes, were baffled. But not Lindy Achen. The 88-year-old retired farmer and Regina businessman thinks he knows what caused the crop circles that have also popped up as far afield as England, Australia and Japan.

And it isn't little green Elvis impersonators. "I heard that one on the radio — they had some 'UFO expert' on," he says dourly, pausing to polish his thick, black-rimmed glasses. "Buncha damn foolishness."

"I said: Hell, that's caused by whirlwinds — I saw one do it years ago!"

Achen's interest in crop circles dates back to 1932, when he found a series of the puzzling rings near his parents' farm in Halbrite, Sask.

"Me and my brother came across this place about a mile and a half from home," he says. "And in the middle of a field there were these circles — three or four of them."

Achen couldn't figure out what caused them, until he saw a whirlwind twisting above a dusty field a few months later.

"The thing came down, kicked up the dust, y'know, went up again then came down a third time," he says waving his hands up and down to simulate the hovering whirlwind.

"Well, I said to my brother, now we've got the explanation for them three circles. . . . I just put two and two together — heck, it's common sense."

But Don Friesen, amateur astronomer and vice-president of the Saskatoon chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society, finds the outer-space explanation more compelling.

"I think they could be left by extraterrestrial spacecraft," Friesen said after examining circles that appeared in northern Saskatchewan.

"There's no way the wind can do something like that. They're too neat and symmetrical."

Herman Austenson, professor of crop science at the University of Saskatchewan, also doesn't buy Achen's whirlwind theory.

"I suppose it's possible," he says carefully. "But I've never seen or heard of a whirlwind doing that."

All because of enigmatic crop circles that materialized in at least a dozen fields across Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the midwestern United States. Farmers confronted strangely perfect circles of wheat, anywhere from three to 18 metres in diameter, the stalks bent over just above the ground.

There were no tracks in or out of the fields and no clues as to the cause — just speculation blaming the phenomenon on everything from secret CIA experiments to herds of demented hedgehogs rotating in unison.

Scientists, as the tabloid

On the other hand, Austenson doesn't think the crop circles are all the work of pranksters, "unless there're some real dedicated young men out there."

Nor is he partial to the idea of extraterrestrial visitors with a fascination for farmland. "You can use UFOs as an explanation for a whole host of things," Austenson says.

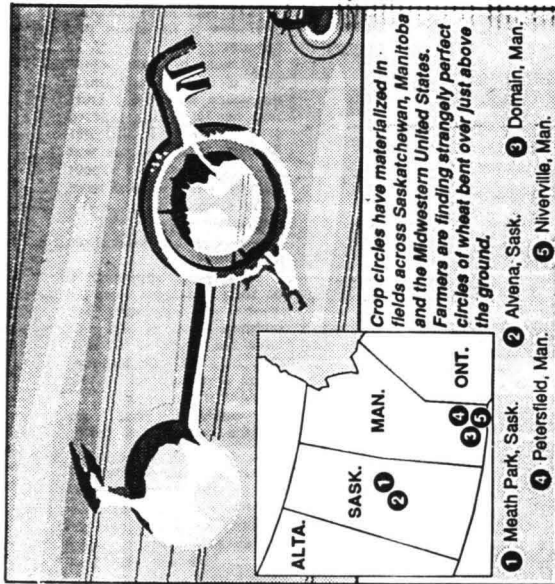
"But I wouldn't say I've ruled them out," he hurries to add. The minor tempest of opinions seems to be generally regarded as big-city hokum among farmers in Saskatchewan, for whom "down-to-earth" is the highest of compliments.

Many spend far more time thinking about GATT — international negotiations on, among other things, reducing agricultural subsidies — than crop circles.

Achen says crop circles appeared in fields during the 1930s, only people didn't call the National Enquirer with an exclusive from Oxbow when they found the rings. They just ran their threshers over them without a second thought.

"There were no UFOs in those days. It's only nowadays you hear all this talk about UFOs," he says with a twinkle. "At my age, when you've seen what I've seen, things today seem a bit loopy."

STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada — Jan. 5, 1991



Andree Luchapelle — (CP)

CAMBRIAN NEWS, Aberystwyth, Wales — Oct. 12, 1990 CR: T. Good

Strange sightings which remain a mystery

Back in August, I ran a series of articles about lights in the sky, mysterious objects flying over Wales and the lack of information about such things from official sources. As you would expect, there was a reaction from my readers.

Much comment was made about "cover-ups" by the aforementioned officialdom. I have to say, in fairness to our elected representatives, that I believe they are as mystified, amused and bamboozled as we ordinary mortals. There are, of course, a whole host of unelected authorities who seem to run this land for us, so I can't really pass any comment on their views on either UFOs or other unexplained phenomena . . .

Anyway, my friend Bernard has been a staunch follower of this column over the eons of time, and he phoned to tell me that he's sure that UFOs were here before the planet was. Subscribes to the line of thought which suggests that the creators of this world were from a different sphere, does Bernard. Again, food for thought. But I would certainly dispute the "facts" set out in that famous book "Was God An Astronaut".

My comments on the Egryn Lights, drummed up by a deeply religious chapel-going lady in the early years of this century during one of many religious revivals, prompted someone whose signature I can't decipher to ask how the lady controlled the coming and going of those North Walian illuminations. The short answer is: "I dunno". That she had a strong connection with their appearance was well authenticated and the press at the time carried many tales of her abilities. Good old *Cambrian News* was among the first papers to publish the story!

Whether people saw things after reading my pieces, or they came forward in the knowledge that I respect their anonymity, I don't know. But here's a series of sightings made in one small area or Wales recently.

A young man travelling by car near Ystrad Meurig on the afternoon of Thursday, September 13, saw a strange object hovering near a hillside. It was "bright orange and shaped like a windsock". The sighting lasted only seconds and then it disappeared slowly "from the narrower end first". Its presence cannot be explained in any ordinary way.

On the night of Tuesday, September 18, a lady living near Tregaron observed a white moving light in the sky. She was looking east, over the Cambrian range, and the light travelled almost due south to due north. It was about the size of the planet Venus, its distance was impossible to judge, and it moved in a straight line through approximately forty-five degrees of sky before fading into the slight mist. Its passing took "about ten seconds".

Over Borth at about half-past-nine on the night of Friday, September 21, lights resembling "tongues of silver fire" were seen. They appeared to fall onto Borth Bog. Next evening, over Capel Bangor, a driver was surprised to see a "sharply bright flashing light, something like a stationary beacon". It disappeared for a short while, only to reappear in the same place about twenty minutes later.

You know that we shall be seeing an increase in "shooting stars" over the next few weeks. These are the residue of the passing of Haley's Comet. *Perhaps* this explains some of these sightings. But certainly not the orange "windsock" (and, yes, I know it sounds comical).

The "tongues of fire" are not uncommon, and certainly not shooting stars or meteorites. I've seen such a phenomenon myself, though mine wasn't silver.

So here's that phrase again — it's all food for thought. Thanks for confiding your information. I'm always delighted to hear from you. See you next week.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO
April 8, 1991 CR: C. Carpenter

Meteors



Five fiery objects, leaving trails of smoke across the dawn sky, were seen by thousands of people around Maracaibo, Venezuela, on April 2. Air Force Gen. Castillo Losada said he had received reports of the unidentified flying objects from an airline pilot who spotted them near his plane shortly after takeoff. Venezuelan weather experts said the objects were probably a cluster of meteors.

BUCKS HERALD, Aylesbury, England — Feb. 21, 1991 CR: T. Good

Unidentified spots before the eyes

GRAPHIC designer Mark Bowman is still stunned after seeing spots before his eyes in an unusual UFO sighting.

He and his wife, Paula, both 24, thought they were going mad when they spotted the UFOs from their kitchen window in Station Road, Stoke Mandeville, on Sunday just before 6pm.

"You just don't get to see that sort of thing, it was just so wierd," said bemused Mark.

Afterwards they tried and failed to come up with a rational explanation so Mark called the police. But they were unable to shed any light on the mystery.

The couple saw three spherical black objects floating at about 3,000ft. stacked one on top of the other but not connected.

As they watched, two other balls appeared and Mark rushed to get his binoculars. He was amazed to see them

join the three and float vertically towards Oxford.

"We just could not believe it, there was no wind, no noise and no lights," he said.

Jenny Randells, director of investigation for the British UFO Research Association, was baffled by the sighting.

"This is very rare," she said. "Quite often there is an explanation but this sounds like one of those we can't explain."

"It sounds like a very rare and a generally strange atmospheric event," she said.

Of 20,000 cases examined over the past 30 years, only three fitted the couple's description but black globes had been sighted in Switzerland in the 1500s and France in the 1800s.

In 1973 an orange globe over Cuddington was filmed and seen by schoolchildren and their teachers at Long Crendon.



FORTEANA NEWS

Finding new tracks of Big Foot gives hunter fresh hope

□ A Walla Walla man is buoyed by the recent discovery of a seven-mile trail of footprints

By DICK COCKLE

Correspondent, The Oregonian

WALLA WALLA — Big Foot hunter Paul Freeman leaned against the pickup and squinted through the brittle winter sunshine at a line of huge footprints descending the hillside beyond.

Big Foot tracks, Freeman said; only these, he believes, didn't come from the imaginings of some supermarket tabloid writer.

"If he ain't 7½ or 8 feet tall and weighs 800 pounds, and breathes air and bleeds, well, I don't know what," said Freeman, 48, of Walla Walla.

The oversized tracks, thought to have been made the night of Jan. 11-12 and discovered a few days later by hunters, begin high in the snow of the Blue Mountains on the Oregon-Washington border. After winding more than seven miles through wheat fields, pastureland and an abandoned plum orchard, they vanish along the rocky shore of Mill Creek eight miles east of Walla Walla.

hear him breathin' real heavy.... That made a believer out of me."

But orthodox scientists neither rushed to hear Freeman's account nor took plaster casts of footprints. The incident was treated like a joke, and the Forest Service pronounced it a probable hoax.

Freeman resigned his watershed job, loaded a rifle and a camera, and headed into the mountains to clear his reputation.

■ **CONVINCED:** Grover Krantz, an anthropologist who has spent years trying to track down the legend of Big Foot, believes the tracks that wander down from Eastern Washington's Blue Mountains probably are authentic.

Farmer Mark Fullen, 34, says that whatever made them may be responsible for spooking the deer along Mill Creek the last week or two.

"And I can tell you, our dogs have been acting very strange," he said. "We've had to bring them in; they won't shut up."

June Hunter, 68, who lives a mile east of where the tracks give out, said she saw footprints like this several years ago while snowmobiling higher in the mountains.

"These are smaller than what we saw," Hunter said, describing the other tracks as 19 to 20 inches long and even wider than these. "But I don't think anyone's ever spotted anything down this low."

The huge footprints exhilarate

Since 1982, working off and on and going to the mountains whenever he could, Freeman claims to have seen thousands of footprints and had one more encounter, in 1988, when his son, Duane, 23, took three fuzzy photographs of a dark, apelike shape in retreat. Those are the pictures Freeman has at home.

But he has little else to show a disbelieving world.

"I'm getting crippled up, and it

Freeman, but they bring frustration, too. One or two people have already suggested he faked them.

"I didn't do it," he asserted. "I know what did it. I've got a picture of it at home."

For nine years, Freeman has found himself in the crosshairs of Big Foot sightings in the region. He says his experience with Big Foot began with an encounter in June 1982 on a logging road in the Blue Mountains above the Mill Creek Watershed.

Freeman was working then as a watershed patrolman for the U.S. Forest Service. Freeman, who weighs 325 pounds and stands 6 feet, 5 inches tall, said the creature he saw towered 18 inches above him and outweighed him by at least 500 pounds. And it stank, he said, like something spoiled.

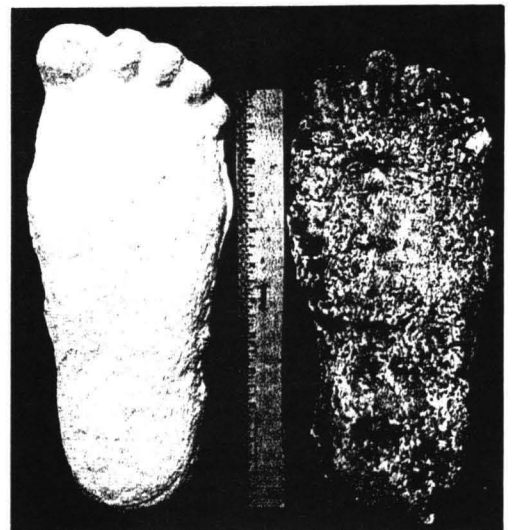
According to Freeman's vivid account, the creature was as affronted by the meeting as Freeman was frightened. The reddish hair on its head and neck "flipped forward" three times, he said, and "I could

feel like I've walked a million miles since 1982," said Freeman, who broke the arch of one foot five years ago and walks with the aid of a cane.

"I'm gonna spend this summer lookin', and if I don't get some good film or find some bones, or if someone doesn't kill one, I'm gonna give it up," he vowed.

Still, the new footprints are sharp enough to tantalize, he said.

Pressed an emphatic 2 or 3 inches



BARBARA REYNOLDS

A plaster cast (right) of tracks found near Walla Walla compares to a copied plaster cast made by Roger Patterson, who says he filmed the sasquatch in California.

into the frosty, thawing earth, the prints are nearly 13 inches long and 5 inches wide at the ball of the foot. The stride ranges from 30 to 44 inches between prints.

The feet that made the prints would appear to be heavily calloused. The toe prints are comparatively small and appear more prominent in some tracks than others, as if the solitary walker flexed and curled them from time to time.

Wes Sumerlin, 70, of Walla Walla said the sharpness of detail suggests the tracks were made when the ground was partially frozen.

A veteran woodsman, Sumerlin said if the soil had been moister, mud would have balled under the creature's feet and none of the detail would have been captured. But if the ground was indeed partly frozen, he added, the depth of the prints would indicate that whatever made them was as heavy as a horse, as much as 800 pounds.

Clearly, if the tracks weren't made by Big Foot, they were laid down by an exceptionally clever hoaxer.

Sumerlin said no other human-type footprints were found near the purported Big Foot prints.

Sumerlin claims to have bumped into Big Foot creatures three times, and he believes he actually encountered the one that made the new tracks almost 30 years ago.

"See that little tuft there?" he asked, pointing to a footprint. "It's like a callus on the right side of his foot. I've seen it before."

That encounter occurred in 1962, when Sumerlin was horsepacking for several elk hunters. He said he saw one of the hunters shoot a shaggy, bearlike animal that fled — but on its two hind legs. Two days later and less than 20 miles from the prints found this month, he spotted the creature from horseback, crouching beside a stream and stuffing leaves and pine needles into a bloody wound in its abdomen.

The animal screeched and bolted up a steep bluff to get away from him, Sumerlin said.

Sumerlin and Freeman believe the animals' usual habitat is the rugged, 177,460-acre Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness of the Umatilla National Forest and the adjoining 23,000-acre Mill Creek Watershed. Cold weather might have driven this one to a lower elevation, they said.

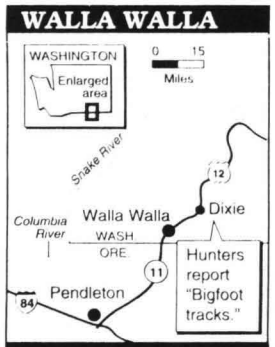
Sumerlin figures the creature that made these tracks is nearby, probably sleeping in a brush patch by day and dining at night on wild raspberries, plums, crabapples and whatever domestic animals and wildlife it can catch.

Freeman disagrees. "It's probably back in the snow again now," he said. "By now, it could be 50 or 60 miles from here."

Sumerlin spent much of Jan. 20, walking the south side of Mill Creek, trying to find where the creature emerged from the stream. He found no more tracks.

He conceded these footprints could be a hoax.

"Maybe the way to find out who made these tracks is to check the hospitals," he said. "Somebody who walked through that mud and snow for seven miles, he's danged sure got a case of pneumonia."



The Oregonian



BARBARA REYNOLDS

Big Foot hunters Paul Freeman and Wes Sumerlin look over tracks found near Walla Walla.

Experts baffled by mystery claw

COUSINS of the Abominable Snowman are reportedly roaming rural Australia.

And investigators believe this curious claw might have belonged to one of them.

Author Liz James found the extraordinary extremity near a cattle station in far north Queensland.

"I took it to several zoologists, but none could link it to any known animal," she told me.

Liz spent many years on the trail of mysterious monsters in Queensland's Outback.

"Several farmers showed me the inexplicably mutilated remains of cows and horses," she said. "Some had entire legs torn from their sockets."

"A lot of people believed some kind of bush monster was to blame, particularly one couple on a property near Rannes."

"One day they heard an animal screaming. When they raced out of the house they saw their cows were standing stock-still, as if hypnotised."

"In the paddock they found huge prints with the impressions of claws, six to seven centimetres long."

"Later, when they moved to another farm, the wife heard noises in the night."

"She went outside with a flashlight and was confronted by a huge, bear-like creature at least three metres tall. She screamed and it ran off."

A similar shaggy giant was described to me by lineman Bill Johnstone and his friend, contract cleaner Stella Donohue of Kew (V).

While camping at night near central Tasmania's Lake Dulverton, they heard a crashing in the reeds.

"Then we saw a gorilla-like beast, about two and a half metres tall, tramping through the water toward us," Stella said.

The couple ran to their car and drove at high speed to a police station.

"They said they'd had no other reports," said Stella. "But later a taxi-driver told us two boats had vanished on that lake and the wreckage was never found."

Around the world, UFO research societies have catalogued hundreds of descriptions of beast-like entities, seen where flying saucers have been reported.



★ The Queensland claw . . . could it be linked to a flying saucer ?

One of the most dramatic infestations occurred in Warrandyte (V) in 1957.

Scores of alarmed residents told police, newspapers and radio stations they had seen floating lights

and huge, semi-human figures on bush-shrouded Research Road.

I'd like to hear from POST readers who have had similar monster-sightings.

JOHN PINKNEY



Investigating the weird

SHARE your experience — have you:

● Spotted or photographed a UFO?

● Dreamed the future?

● Seen or heard a ghost?

If you've had any kind of supernatural experience, John Pinkney wants to hear from you. Please enclose a photo of yourself where possible. Write to John at POST, GPO Box 501 H, Melbourne, 3001.

OREGONIAN, Portland, OR - Feb. 11, 1991 CR: M. Dobbs

Scientist says Big Foot tracks authentic

By DICK COCKLE

Correspondent, The Oregonian

PULLMAN, Wash. — An anthropologist who has spent years trying to track down the legend of Big Foot

says the tracks that wander down from Eastern Washington's Blue Mountains probably are authentic.

After consulting with an experienced tracker and examining a plaster cast and photographs, Grover Krantz said the tracks "show . . . a moving, flexible, living foot."

The cast and photos were taken from tracks found recently by Big Foot hunter Paul Freeman near Walla Walla. Krantz viewed them a short time later.

Krantz, 59, an associate professor of physical anthropology at Washington State University, has tracked the stories of the creature

for more than 20 years without seeing one.

In the process, he has made hundreds of plaster casts of tracks and carved a niche for himself as the Northwest's leading authority on Big Foot — and perhaps the only specialist on the subject with scientific credentials.

A rumpled 200-pounder, the 6-foot-3 Krantz has grown comfortable swimming against the tide of academic wisdom on the subject of Big Foot.

"The only way the university supports this is by not firing me," he is wont to joke. Krantz has been at WSU for 22 years.

His colleagues often scoff at Big Foot stories, and Krantz says his interest in the shaggy creature has sometimes gotten in the way of promotions and pay raises. He was passed over for tenure after four years at the university because of his Big Foot studies, he says, though tenure was granted the following year.

"But I figured I was going to pay that price when I got into it," he said. "It doesn't surprise me."

The university is more open to

the unconventional than it once was, Krantz said. WSU President Samuel H. Smith is "interested" in his research, and Geoff Gamble, chairman of the anthropology department, is "supportive," he says.

"I've looked at what he has," said Gamble, 48, referring to Krantz's plaster casts, hair samples and other evidence of the creature's existence. "I think it's interesting. I'd certainly like to know where those things come from."

Krantz thinks the creature that made the tracks near Walla Walla probably was an adolescent, stood about 6-feet-5 and weighed 400 to 500 pounds. Adult males of the reclusive tribe sometimes stand 7 to 8 feet tall and leave 17-inch-long footprints, he says.

Periodically, Krantz ignites a fury of outrage among Big Foot believers by asserting that the only way to prove the creature's existence is for someone to shoot one.

"If this is an endangered species and if we don't prove they exist, we are not going to be able to help them," Krantz argues. "Anyone who is opposed to shooting one is in favor of risking their extinction."



KRANTZ

INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS, [City Unknown], England - Oct. 12, 1990 CR: R. Collins

Shy Nessie eludes hunters

by John Beattie

THEY came in search of fame and glory and a cheque for £250,000 to find the Loch Ness Monster, but their time quickly ran out.

Some were equipped with the last word in hi-tech equipment. Others were relying simply on haggis or the allure of Mrs Thatcher.

The omens were not good. In the mist and blinding rain there was little in evidence on Loch Ness — least of all shy Nessie.

But the dark stillness of the loch could not deter four boatloads of monster-hunters, lured by the offer of the £250,000 prize, setting out for proof positive of the creature's existence.

Behind it was an alliance as unlikely as Nessie herself — between the William Hill bookie empire and the august Natural History Museum. The latter demanded proof, the former



FACT OR FICTION? Donaldina Mackay, who claims she spotted Nessie in 1933

was prepared to shell out a small fortune for it.

The hunt, centred on the tiny village of Drumnadrochit, lasted ten days.

Two of the search teams were reasonably serious in their intent — an underwater survey team equipped with sonar and another employing a remote-controlled yellow submarine.

Two were firmly in the same realm as Nessie herself.

There was 25-year-old



David Isted, from Dulwich, London, who attempted to divine the monster's whereabouts by dangling mystic crystals above the loch.

Almost inevitably, there was also Screaming Lord Sutch, leader of the Monster Raving Loony Party.

He and a 6 ft 4 in red-haired henchman called Baron von Thunderclap tried to lure the monster by dangling first a haggis and then a British Rail sandwich over the side of their boat.

These enticements having

mysteriously failed, Lord Sutch brought out his ultimate weapon — a picture of Mrs Thatcher attached to an anchor bearing the message to Nessie: "Come out and pay your Poll Tax."

He confidently expected this to do the trick. He needed the prize, he said, to replace the £57,000 he has spent in lost deposits and lost causes.

William Hill would have been more than happy — having reaped a rich PR har-

vest — to pay him out. Their odds on the monster's existence are 100-1. 10 times shorter than the price they offer for proof of the Second Coming.

Although Nessie herself was not in evidence, there was a rare appearance by Mrs Donaldina Mackay, the woman whose sighting of the Loch Ness monster in 1933 started the legend.

Now aged 85, she lives 45 miles from the loch, and is still convinced something does exist deep in the dark, peat-stained waters.

She recalled: "I saw this great big black shiny beastie rise up out of the water, dripping wet. I remember it as if it were yesterday."

Last word to Screaming Lord Sutch, who announced to a bewildered Japanese TV crew: "Nessie would make a superb politician. She ducks and dives, likes deep muddy water, and when you want her she can't be found."

Fijian depths hold bones of contention

DIVERS from the Cousteau Society are likely next month to check out what are claimed to be skeletons of sea monsters discovered in deep water at a Fiji reef.

The site of the claimed find is near Taveuni, where European missionaries reported that boats were molested by huge sea monsters, about the turn of the century.

The finding of the apparently reptilian remains was reported last week by Sydney-based New Zealand diver Kevin Deacon after checking out a find by Nigel Douglas, whose family trust owns Matagi Island, just off Taveuni.

Rick Cammick, proprietor of Taveuni Dive, says the site of the claimed find has been closed off pending scientific investigation.

It seems likely that initial studies will be done by members of the Cousteau Society

Could bones lying in a cave near a Fijian reef be those of the shark-god Dakuwaqa? PAT HANNING reports that experts are waiting for proof that the skeleton is that of a sea monster.

who had already planned to make a visit to Fiji next month.

In the meantime, experts are waiting to be convinced that the find is the remains of some sort of sea monster.

The former curator of the Fiji Museum, Fergus Clunie, now the curator at Pompallier House at Russell, says:

"The only sea monsters I heard about in the region were large saltwater crocodiles, reported at Rotuma in the 1890s.

"It appears they had made their way there from the Solomons."

Rotuma is away to the west, beyond Vanua Levu, about 200 nautical miles from the site of the claimed skeletons find.

To the sceptical comment that such a find in the region would not do the Douglas family's island resort business any harm, Cammick says:

"It is difficult to see how the site could be exploited in any commercial way.

It involves a very deep dive, about 150 feet, and we don't allow divers to go any deeper than 100 feet.

"It is in a lagoon in a whole series of reefs which are riddled with caves, and the remains have been found deep inside one of those caves.

"There are not many people who would be capable of getting to them."

Deacon's report says the remains are up a winding passage which is difficult to negotiate even for advanced cave divers with specialised equipment.

"The place is... littered with bones, ribs and vertebrae," he says. "They are big creatures."

Adult skulls appeared to be about one metre long, with total body lengths of between eight and 10 metres.

"It is quite haunting and stunning to see one look up at you at you as you flash your light about."

Frieda McHugh, of Takapuna, links the claimed discovery with encounters by her grandfather, the Reverend A. J. Small, with a creature Fijians called Dakuwaqa.

Small, a Methodist missionary, reports, in his memoirs, the legend that Dakuwaqa was a huge shark-god who sometimes took on the shape of a man to come ashore, wearing a whale's tooth pendant and garters of ornamental vines below his knees.

"At other times," Small reports, "he took the form of a huge shark, and interviewed the Taveuni Chief, Tui Cakau, on his way to or from Somosomo or Wailevu.

"The shark, if he were hungry, would interview any canoe passing up and down the coast between Luciveva Point and Taveuni, say one to three miles off.

"When the chiefs saw him they used to throw him a pig, if pigs were plentiful.

"If they were in short supply they would throw him a slave. Dakuwaqa was not particular in that way."

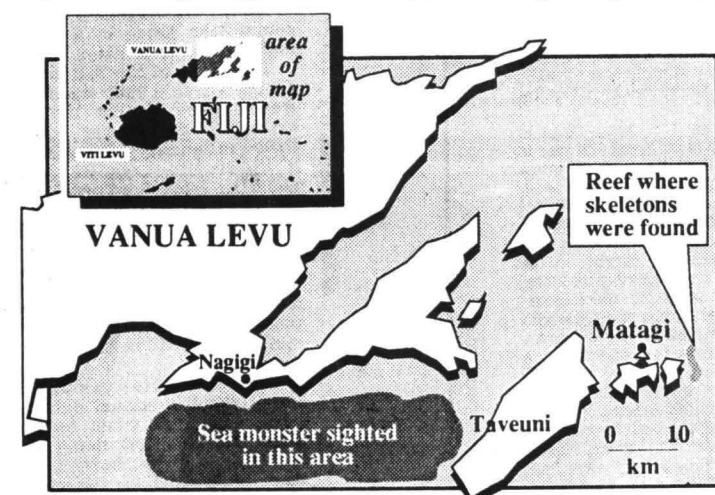
Small's memoirs recall a voyage in a small cutter from Vanua Levu to Taveuni in the early 1890s.

About 5 pm, in calm seas, he was looking for a break in the reef off Nagigi, intending to anchor for the night.

"I was on lookout when I heard the rudder rattle," he writes.

"I called out, 'What's that, we must have struck something'.

"The Cakaudrove man who was steering



said: 'That is Dakuwaqa, saka.'

"The Fijian was pale with fright, and the sheen had left his face. He said: 'It is him all right, sir, come and look.'

"Just as I started to go aft the cutter quivered like a boat does when she is lifted by a heavy sea.

"At first I thought it was a patch they had struck, and I could not see anything.

"I then looked over the stern and sure enough there was an immense blue-grey shark, its tail about three feet beyond the stern.

"I ran forward, and just projecting every now and then was the head of the brute.

"I inquired whether there was a harpoon or a pole on board, and the Fijian said: 'No, give him something to eat and he will go away.'

"I said, 'Yes, I will give him something.' I found a piece of hardwood, and started to sharpen it.

"Before I had finished the four-ton cutter rose again several inches out of the water and shook again.

"I had not long to wait before the shark came out again beyond the bow. I then tried to spear the right eye, but did not allow for the refraction. I hit it between the two eyes. He lowered his head several feet and his body hit the keel of the boat.

"I inquired of the captain where this 'god' generally cruised, and the man said up and down the coast for three miles, but no

further."

They decided not to anchor for the night, but instead to sail out into the Koro Sea.

"The beast gave us another little playful rub with his back and we saw him no more.

"He was fully 35 feet long. It was anything but a nice sensation to be lifted on his back.

"On another occasion," writes Small, "on board a six-ton cutter travelling to Taveuni it was dusk and the sea was calm.

"I sat on a deck-chair on deck. Later the crew lay on deck and went to sleep, also the captain, but he had tied the rope of the tiller around his big toe.

"Suddenly I noticed that the cutter was slowly being tugged down.

"I woke the captain, who exclaimed, 'It is Dakuwaqa,' and ordered the crew to throw over their brew of yaquona.

"Immediately the cutter came up with a jerk and the shark-god swam past.

"Being dark I could not see it very well, but it was longer than the cutter and had a peculiar-shaped head like that of a turtle."

Small gives accounts of other sightings in a report published in the Fiji Society booklet of 1918.

One was in 1912, on board an eight-ton cutter which had just sailed out of Namena South Passage. It was about 11 am and the wind was light.

"When half a mile past Namena and about

a mile from the island I saw what looked like a large coral patch.

"As I drew near I saw the patch was a huge blue-grey shark, a monster, or fish or animal.

"I did not dare to get too close, and kept half a point off, passing it 20 fathoms to leeward.

"Then to make it more bewildering it had an enormous dorsal fin like a shark.

"Whether it had side fins I could not see, as the monstrosity was basking on top of the water, and looked sideways like a devilfish or stingray.

"It seemed to me to be about 35 feet long and 20 feet wide, and I think it would weigh about 30 hundredweight.

"I am rather inclined to think it was spotted, with light spots all over its body, but would not be certain on that point.

"It had a short, thick neck, two feet in diameter, and a large, turtle-shaped head, and looked as if it could bite an 18-foot oar quite easily.

"It had a powerful tail, about four feet to the flukes, but instead of a shark's tail it was shaped like a whale's.

"From appearance I thought the animal would have no difficulty in enveloping the bottom of a six-ton cutter, and it would reach from rail to rail.

"My opinion is if it managed to get hold of one side of a 10-ton cutter the boat would turn over with the sheer weight of it.

"I have heard from other sources that a similar monster has been seen in the Wainunu Passage.

"We may take it his cruising ground is anywhere from Namena to Coconut Pt.

"In 1914 Captain Robbie of Levuka had a thrilling experience with this monster, under somewhat similar circumstances as the one we are about to describe as having occurred near Wainunu.

"Quite an exciting time was experienced by those on board the Elima, a five-ton cutter from Kubulau to Levuka.

"Shortly before 11 am, as the little vessel had cleared the inner reefs of that coast and was just opposite the island of Namena, the cutter took a sudden forced dive without the slightest warning.

"Her bow kept going deeper and deeper into the sea until her decks were awash with about a foot of water.

"The vessel was also shaking terribly all the time... breaking off the topmast.

"The master set to work to make preparations for the worst.

"The cause of the trouble was soon revealed in that a large sea monster had by some means or other gripped a hold of the jib-boom and thereby was gradually dragging the vessel under.

"It was a great relief when the monster released its grip and the vessel righted itself on the surface of the water.

"The Fijians, who have a traditional dread of this particular monster, affirm that it was Dakuwaqa, and consequently their fear at the time of the attack was indescribable.

"The captain and passenger both contend that it was a sea monster of some considerable proportions.

"To be capable of dragging the cutter down to such a depth by its own weight illustrated the size of the monster, and inspection of the bowsprit showed the great impressions left upon it by its teeth, which enlivens one as to the genuineness of the report, and fully reveals the seriousness of their trying ordeal which corresponds in many ways to the cutter Annie once upon a similar voyage four years previously.

"Various descriptions have been given of the dimensions of this huge monstrosity."



ILLUSTRATION: KEVIN HELAS

Just Who, or What, Makes Cars Roll Up A Slope in Florida?

Spook Hill Baffles Scientists,
Defies Laws of Gravity;
Ghost of Ponce de Leon

By ROBERT JOHNSON
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

LAKE WALES, Fla.—Sue Robertson motors her maroon Ford Tempo to the white line painted across Fifth Street, shifts into neutral and slowly rolls backward about 200 feet up Spook Hill.

"Eerie, weird, and definitely strange," she says, finally easing to a stop near the top of the rise.

Hers is the same amazed reaction expressed by most tourists who discover this piney pitstop of the paranormal, 50 miles south of Orlando. On a typical Saturday, up to 30 cars an hour line up at the top of the hill for their turn to drive down to the white line and drift back up.

A Skeptic Panics

They come to defy gravity in the ghostly presence of Spook Hill's legends. Many, like Mrs. Robertson's husband, Van, are skeptics. "It's just an optical illusion," says Mr. Robertson, a plumber from Smoaks, S.C., crunching a cigar.

Mr. Robertson demands to take the wheel himself. While his wife videotapes the incline encounter, he coasts uphill at about three miles per hour, panics and zigzags over the curb—sputtering to a stop in the weeds and switching on the car's emergency blinkers. "Honey, that optical illusion just ran you right off the road," Mrs. Robertson hoots.

This little citrus-farming community of 10,000 souls is an unlikely spot for such theatrics. But visitors have been coming to Spook Hill for cheap thrills since horse-and-buggy days; people used to test their mules here to see if they could pull down-hill.

Scientists Baffled

Spook Hill still makes children squeal and parents white-knuckle the door handles of rental cars. Scientists aren't sure what causes the phenomenon, and little short of tabloid logic satisfies most tourists.

The hill is haunted, of course, according to local legend. A sign at the top of the hill recounts the tale of a Seminole chief, Cuf-cowellax, who fought to the death with a demon-possessed alligator 200 years ago. This tale has it that the Indian's ghost still tries to save people from the swampy lowland, where evil spirits—and certifiable alligators—still lurk.

Then there are various theories that the ghosts of pirates are at work diverting, or attracting, attention from or to their buried treasure. But most people gave up digging around here years ago.

Ponce de Leon's ghost, still searching for the Fountain of Youth, is yet another superstition. But if so, he is looking in the wrong place. The area is in the midst of a drought, and the only flowing water is from the coolers of tourists who want to see it flow uphill. It sure seems to.

So does paint, but Lake Wales Police Chief John Busbee wishes people wouldn't try that messy experiment so often. Keeping the peace on Spook Hill is a nightmare. "People come here to act foolish," he says.

Farmers gave up planting in the area years ago because visitors repeatedly stripped oranges off trees to watch them roll upward from the white line. Near-accidents are routine on the narrow, one-way street, where skateboarders and bikers also throng to roll up. Many people lying on the white line to investigate have nearly glimpsed the hereafter, thanks to the impatience of other motorists.

Lake Wales city officials connive in the stunt-making. They painted the white line years ago, stretched a huge "Spook Hill" banner across it and published a brochure giving instructions on how to experience the mystery. Mr. Busbee frequently drives visitors doing business with city hall to Spook Hill in his gray Jeep squad car. "Not criminals, of course," he says.

A young couple watches in wonder as the lawman validates the hill's enigma by toasting uphill within a few feet of their rented LeBaron. "I can't explain what I don't understand," he says with a shrug.

The scariest thing about Spook Hill may be how little science really understands about it. Anthony Randazzo, chairman of the University of Florida geology department, speculates on possible causes: asteroids that might have deposited magnetic material millions of years ago (though no metal deposits worth mining have been detected in the area), or "gravitational ana-

malities" caused by varying densities of subsurface rock. Mr. Randazzo says he doesn't have time to solve the mystery.

Robert Kirkner, a Lake Wales geologist, points out that the "Devil's Triangle," an area in the Atlantic where 150 planes and boats have disappeared without a trace in the last century, is just a couple of hundred miles east. Is there a connection? He denies believing that "during working hours."

Devils at Large

Other, lesser-known spots around the country seem possessed of the same devils as Spook Hill. Kenneth Hamblin, a geology professor at Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah, says they are found in Salt Lake City, the wilderness of South Dakota and at a highway exit ramp near Franklin Lakes, N.J. He believes they are all optical illusions.

The most recent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers survey of the Spook Hill area in 1952 shows that the hill is a gentle grade rising to about 125 feet above sea level. Hills of any sort are rare in Florida, but many of the existing ones are located in a two-mile strip across the peninsula's mid-section—with Spook Hill roughly in the center of it all. A few mossy oak trees create a shady crest on the hill, which is surrounded by typical Florida scrubland with patchy grass spotted with sand spurs.

If an optical illusion is at work here, it's an odd one; a reporter applying a carpenter's level at about the hill's halfway point finds a slope up in the direction the cars are rolling. Joggers report they expend more energy running that way too. "Spook Hill is most definitely a hill," says Paulette Bond, a geologist at the Florida Department of Natural Resources.

The fascination with Spook Hill by its devotees "is part of growing public rejection of science," says Jack Kapchan, a psychologist at the University of Miami who studies unexplained phenomena. "Many people blame science for the nuclear age that put a sword over their heads. We're seeing a surge of interest in New Age mysticism and the unusual mingled with me-too feelings that make people want to be part of strange things," he says.

The stranger the better, so far as Lake Wales officials are concerned. The Spook Hill Beautification Committee recently helped persuade state legislators to budget \$22,000 for the hill, and Lake Wales is kicking in another \$10,000. Plans call for new signs, a tourist information center and a parking lot.

"We'd like some plastic buzzards, some dead trees with opossums hanging off them and maybe a few tombstones with the names of dead Indians. We think we'll really have something here," says Al Dunn, a financial planner and member of the beautification committee.

Officials at nearby Spook Hill Elementary School say Mr. Dunn's plans go too far and could frighten its 490 students. But the school has gone pretty far already, adopting Casper the Friendly Ghost as a mascot. Honor students are noted in the school magazine—"The Ghost Gazette." And "Spooks Are Special" is the school's song: It goes, in part:

"Spooks are special. Boo! Boo! Boo!
That's how we say hello to you, you, you."

For Grady Sanders, a New York electrician who recently took three trips on Spook Hill in his rented Ford Escort, the best thing about the hill is that admission is free. "Now that really is bizarre," he says. But tourists beware. Some Lake Wales officials are conjuring up a bloodsucking specter to haunt Spook Hill forevermore: a toll booth.

By SHARON GRINDSTAFF
CCN Staff Writer

"It was like a bomb going off," explained Linda Moulton Howe, production company founder. She was describing response to her 1979 film, "Strange Harvest," shown on CBS Television Network in Colorado.

"Strange Harvest" catalogued unusual phenomena concerning what appeared to be the horrendous number of mutilated animals in Canada and the United States.

A professional journalist, Howe had found herself covering many animal mutilation stories and had created her film, based on her investigations.

Ten years later, she published a book entitled, "An Alien Harvest," linking animal and human mutilation and disappearances with beings from other worlds.

"We are not dealing with satanic cults, we are not dealing

with natural predators," she insisted, disagreeing with findings made by Berryville veterinarian Alan Hunnicutt and Carroll County sheriff's deputies following an incident at James Thorne's farm.

The mutilation described to her matched almost exactly those shown in her film and book photos.

Explaining the carcasses studied in her investigations by pathologist, doctors and scientists, the journalist said, "There is evidence of high heat at the edge of the incisions."

While this indicated laser surgery to the experts studying the animals, one thing was missing. "There was no carbonized edge so no lasers were used."

This has led Howe and a vast number of other professionals and investigators to conclude that the surgery was performed with alien equipment, far advanced to any

15 Arkansans call 'Bigfoot Hotline'

BY ANDY GOTLIEB
Democrat State Desk

Fifteen people from Southwest Arkansas and neighboring states have called a new "Bigfoot Hotline," a California Bigfoot Organization member said Wednesday.

Southwest Arkansas is, of course, the home of the legendary "Fouke Monster."

Tim Olson of the Bigfoot organization said that since the free nationwide hot line - (800) 800-1950 - was established in January, 15 reports of a Bigfoot-like creature have come in from Southwest Arkansas, Northeast Texas, Northwest Louisiana and Southeast Oklahoma.

"All the calls we've seen from Arkansas have seemed sincere," Olson said in a telephone interview from Minneapolis, where he is conducting research.

Fouke (Miller County) received international publicity in May 1971 when Bobby Ford, 25, reported being attacked by a "large, hairy creature." A film about the monster, "Legend of Boggy Creek," was made a year later.

Since then, monster sightings have occurred from time to time. The most recent report came in October 1990 when Jim Walls of Clinton, Okla., said he saw the monster near Fouke.

Phillips County sheriff's office employees said they have not received any recent reports of sightings. One officer laughed and said he was skeptical about the sightings.

"There's liable to be something out there, but it's liable to be human and drunk," Sgt. Don Nix said.

Olson admitted that Bigfoot spotters are usually treated with scorn. He said the hotline was specifically established so people would not have to be humiliated.

"There is no ridicule involved," he said, noting that he has experienced doubting law enforcement officials himself. "They just blow it off like you're totally wacko."

"More than half the people who called in said they never believed it until they saw it," he said.

Olson said the Los Angeles area-based California Bigfoot Organization is a loose-knit group of 15 to 20 people interested in learning more about Bigfoot.

"Most of us have degrees in some areas, but not doctoral degrees," said Olson, 28, a psychology graduate from Humboldt State University in California.

Olson said the group is convinced that a Bigfoot creature exists in all 50 states.

Floyd pens third book of mysteries

"Great American Mysteries" by E. Randall Floyd, August House, \$18.95 hardcover and \$9.95 paperback, 182 pp.

★ Review
Democrat Staff

"Who would want to live in a world without mysteries," E. Randall Floyd asks in the introduction to his newest collection of tall tales, "Great American Mysteries."

"Our romantic fascination for them persists in spite of ridiculous supermarket tabloids, regurgitated 'docudramas' and an academic community reluctant to consider that

somewhere behind all the hysteria must lurk a bit of truth," Floyd writes.

Floyd retells 38 stories in the 182-page book. He also includes a bibliography for readers who want to more about the selected mysteries.

The book's sections include notorious acts, standing stones and lost civilizations, unnatural worlds, secrets from beyond, "and every creeping thing," in the midst of life, into the unknown, in the realm of spirits and unearthly incursions.

Floyd recounts some of the better-known mysteries such as the Lizzie Borden story and the Salem witchcraft trials as well as the more far-fetched Bigfoot and ape-man stories, firewalkers, raining snakes and ghostly happenings.

The book offers the tales in a simple, non-judgemental style that proves a quick read.

Floyd has written two other books on mysteries: "Great Southern Mysteries" and "More Great Southern Mysteries" both published by August House.

Animal slaughter ascribed to UFO's

By SHARON GRINDSTAFF
CCN Staff Writer

"It was like a bomb going off," explained Linda Moulton Howe, production company founder. She was describing response to her 1979 film, "Strange Harvest," shown on CBS Television Network in Colorado.

"Strange Harvest" catalogued unusual phenomena concerning what appeared to be the horrendous number of mutilated animals in Canada and the United States.

A professional journalist, Howe had found herself covering many animal mutilation stories and had created her film, based on her investigations.

Ten years later, she published a book entitled, "An Alien Harvest," linking animal and human mutilation and disappearances with beings from other worlds.

"We are not dealing with satanic cults, we are not dealing

with natural predators," she insisted, disagreeing with findings made by Berryville veterinarian Alan Hunnicutt and Carroll County sheriff's deputies following an incident at James Thorne's farm.

The mutilation described to her matched almost exactly those shown in her film and book photos.

Explaining the carcasses studied in her investigations by pathologist, doctors and scientists, the journalist said, "There is evidence of high heat at the edge of the incisions."

While this indicated laser surgery to the experts studying the animals, one thing was missing. "There was no carbonized edge so no lasers were used."

This has led Howe and a vast number of other professionals and investigators to conclude that the surgery was performed with alien equipment, far advanced to any

similar equipment used on Earth.

When told of a Washington County study wherein two carcasses were photographed (time-lapse) over a 72-hour period - resulting in the "parasites and birds of prey" conclusion - Howe said, "That study was done in 1975. No one trusts that data."

"Look, predators do not have teeth with high heat!" She said that tests (on other animals) show incisions were made with extreme heat - approximately 350-degrees.

"There is not a 'normal' explanation for this. It is a worldwide phenomenon."

She said that sheriffs in several states were being called to two or three animal deaths a day during 1975 and 1976.

"The bodies were still warm, all the usual parts were missing (ear, eye, tongue, jaw, reproductive organs, anus and blood). The animals were still warm. The blood had not clotted, it wasn't there."

Howe said that during the spring and fall of the year, reports of mutilated animals increase.

She is absolutely positive that the two events at James Thorne's farm in November of last year and just recently, are the result of alien visits.

Howe repeated that these were not normal events in spite of what law enforcement and medical investigators in the area say.

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